

## Emergencies

Emergencies are incidents that need to be dealt with immediately to minimise damage occurring. In all emergency situations, alert the responsible adult immediately (usually the teacher). They will assess, respond to and manage the situation. This will include using Immediate Response Measures (IRMs). Being aware of how emergencies are dealt with can help to reduce the risk of your practical activities, and support the responsible adult in dealing with emergencies.

### 1. Make sure that you are prepared in case an emergency arises

- Know what might go wrong, and ensure your risk assessment has reduced the risks.
- Know how to call for help if something goes wrong (alert the teacher).
- Know how to recognise danger and how to keep safe.
- Know who can deal with emergencies (the teacher or technician).

### 2. Dealing with an incident (general strategy)

Alert the teacher and they will carry out the following steps:

- Assess – is it safe to proceed? If not, evacuate.
- Prioritise – is anyone injured? Can further damage be avoided?
- Act quickly – make sure casualties are taken care of, and do what you can to reduce further damage. Clear up any spills.
- Continue to monitor and assess – watch out in case the situation changes.
- If unsafe at any time, evacuate and call for help.
- Report the incident – say what happened, what was done, and what you would do to avoid a repeat in future.

### 3. Immediate response measures (IRMs)

In the event of emergencies, teachers/technicians will use immediate response measures. The individual Students Safety Sheets include specific IRMs. General IRMs include:

- Irrigation – flooding the affected area with **gently-running** water. Using plenty of water will minimise any damaging effects.
- Hair and/or clothes on fire – get the person to stop, drop and roll.
- Burns – cool burn for at least 20 minutes with gently-running water and until pain is relieved and heat is no longer felt.
- Severe cuts – control bleeding with pressure and by raising the wound.
- Asthma attack / anaphylactic shock – support and protect the person and follow school's agreed procedures.
- Fainting/epileptic fit/loss of consciousness – support and protect the person.
- Electric shock – isolate the person from the supply and call 999.

### 4. Fires

- Alert the teacher who will assess the situation.
- If unsafe, evacuate and isolate the area.
- If safe to do so, switch off ignition/fuel sources, and extinguish the flames.

### 5. Spills

- Alert the teacher who will assess the situation.
- If unsafe, isolate and secure the area.
- If safe to do so, the teacher/technician will assess, contain, collect, treat and dispose of the spill.