How to Clean-Up a Formaldehyde Spill

Formaldehyde is common and used in a variety of products. It can cause respiratory irritation if inhaled, such as coughing, wheezing, and chest pains, and can affect people with asthma, allergies, or other breathing issues more acutely. If formaldehyde comes in contact with the skin, it can cause irritations like dermatitis or even burns. People with frequent exposure to formaldehyde, like some lab techs, become more sensitive to these negative effects.

When a formaldehyde spill occurs, first check to see if any has gotten onto you or anyone else around you. Thoroughly wash any formaldehyde off skin with soapy water. Evacuate the area and rope off as needed to prevent further exposure to liquids or vapors. Then proceed to clean up the spill using the following directions.

Step 1: PPE Supplies

Put on PPE prior to spill containment & cleanup

- Mask (wet mask)
- Goggles
- Gloves
- Broom or scraper
- Plastic Dustpan
- FluidLoc Encapsulating Sorbent

If not properly trained to clean up hazardous material spills, it may be better to call in a team to avoid exposure. This depends on your level of training and volume of the spill.
Step 2: Clean Up

FluidLoc works instantly, immediately reducing the toxic vapors. The quicker you cover the spilled formalin the faster the vaporization will be eliminated.

1. Contain the spill by pouring fluidloc around the spill to contain like a dam. You may also use sorbent socks, paper towels, sorbent pads or other inert materials to contain the Formalin as needed. However, these will not encapsulate the formalin solution and may still result in continued vaporization.

2. Quickly cover the spill area with FluidLoc to reduce vapors and encapsulate the formalin solution.

3. Ventilate the area by opening any windows and doors or using a fan if required.

4. Continue to slowly add FluidLoc until it completely absorbs the spill and eliminates the harmful vapors and smell in the area. It will form a mostly solid rubber like compound that is easily cleaned up.
Step 3: Disposal

The formaldehyde spill is now ready to be disposed of in accordance to local, state and state regulations in effect at your location. Use a broom/scaper and plastic dust pan to sweep up the fluidloc and dispose of in a temporary disposal bag.

After removal apply another light coating of FluidLoc worked into the spill surface. This will insure all the formalin is removed and a dry safe surface is left behind. Sweep Up and place in temporary disposal bag and seal.

CAUTION: FluidLoc absorbent is very slippery when in use and should never be left on the floor due to slip hazards. Make sure all the FluidLoc is removed after cleanup.