

Instructions for decontamination after fire incident where hazardous chemicals or other hazards have been involved

Ref. no. 1-1108/2022

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**Karolinska
Institutet**



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Revision regarding: Rev. 1 Reference to “Special chemist” removed from point 1. Changed contact details for decontamination company under point 3. Rev. 2 Name of decontamination company under point 3 changed.			

Purpose

These instructions aim to prevent injuries resulting from exposure to post-fire hazards by providing a consistent approach to the management of post-fire decontamination.

Area of application

This instruction applies to everyone (employees, affiliates, students and contractors hired by KI) when a fire has occurred in KI premises within the campus.

Definitions

A chemical classified as hazardous under the CLP Regulation has certain harmful properties such as being toxic, flammable, corrosive or hazardous to health. Hazardous chemicals can be recognized by the white/black/red pictograms that the packaging or containers are always marked with.

Other sources of risk include e.g. fire fumes, medicines, adhesives, plastics, certain electronics or equipment/materials with unknown contents, which are not considered chemicals but which may have hazardous properties in the event of fire.

Instructions

In the event of a fire involving hazardous chemicals or other hazards, it is important that the area or equipment is thoroughly decontaminated before cleaning staff or other individuals enter the area.

A decontamination company with specialist knowledge and proper equipment must always be contacted to perform decontamination.

1. Once the emergency is over and the fire is extinguished, a risk assessment shall be conducted immediately by the group leader or equivalent responsible manager together with, where appropriate, a building-wide resource (FM organization, service group, etc.), assessing whether or not the fire involved chemicals or other hazards and whether the premises are safe to enter. Local risk assessments and safety data sheets (SDS) for the chemicals involved should be used in the assessment.
2. If the premises are not deemed safe to enter, they must be given time to be ventilated via the building ventilation system.
3. In the event of contamination by chemicals or other sources of risk, the decontamination company contracted by KI must be contacted: **Belfor Sverige (formerly SSG Nordic AB): Mon-Fri 07:00–16:00: 08-999 924, outside of office hours/on weekends: 020-100 140.** Give the decontamination company as much information as possible about the chemicals involved and other potential chemical hazards.

Note! In the event of a fire in which the sprinklers have been triggered, the property owner will want to immediately begin demolition and moisture removal to reduce damage by means of a separate decontamination company. If there is a risk of chemical contamination, it is therefore essential that this is immediately communicated to the property owner (via the responsible operations technician/operations on-call service) who must wait until the premises are safe to enter before proceeding with decontamination.

4. If the area or equipment is not deemed to be contaminated by hazardous chemicals or other sources of risk, the property owner's decontamination company can be used for clean-up, e.g. in the case of water damage.
5. In cases where the organization itself wishes to clean up after an incident, the responsible manager together with, if applicable, a building-wide resource (FM organization, service group, etc.), the property owner's responsible operations technician/operations on-call service, and the building manager of KI's Property and Facilities Office must approve the decontamination/clean-up being performed by persons other than a decontamination company.
6. Once the premises are safe to enter, a salvage officer (RVR ledare) will perform a chloride measurement to assess any damage that may have occurred as a result of the fire. The report is needed for insurance purposes, where applicable. The salvage officer (RVR ledare) is called in by the fire brigade.

Note:

- If there is any uncertainty as to the chemicals involved in a fire, a decontamination company must always be contacted.
- The use of a filter mask to enter a contaminated area is NOT recommended. A filter mask may only be used to enter a contaminated area if the filter in the mask is guaranteed to protect against any chemicals involved or other hazards present there. Only personnel who are familiar with the hazards of the contaminated area may use an appropriate filter mask.

Insurance information

Karolinska Institutet has its public entity insurance (verksamhetsförsäkring) through the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (Kammarkollegiet). Public entity insurance and liability insurance (in case of negligence) cover property and equipment within Sweden.

A damage claim must be drawn up and sent to the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency within one month of KI becoming aware of the damage, if possible. The safety officer at KI serves as the contact person.

For more information on property insurance:

<https://medarbetare.ki.se/verksamhetsforsakring>

Incident/accident reporting

Incidents and accidents must always be reported in KI's [incident reporting system](#).