Basic Principles of Safety – Chemicals — Splashes

Your Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, you should be able to pinpoint in the (M)SDS the sections for regulations on leakages, spills and splashes so as to follow the instructions therein.

It goes without saying that utmost care must be taken to avoid such things as material leaks. Nevertheless, accidents might, in rare instances, still occur. Apart from leaks and other accidents, splashes may occur, causing chemical substances to come into contact with employees and/or equipment and thus disseminate into the environment.

Corresponding security measures and behaviour exist in the (M)SDS in the event that such contingencies as splashes should occur. Although one might contend that there is little point in familiarising oneself with them until the moment of an accident, it is indeed very important to know these, since it is most likely too late once the accident has happened to go browsing the (M)SDS for the corresponding intervention to the problem.

What follows is a sample of the regulations regarding accidental release of ethanol for spectroscopy:

SAFETY DATA SHEET
according to Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006

Catalogue No.	100980
Product name	Ethanol for spectroscopy Uvasol®

SECTION 6. Accidental release measures

6.1 Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures
Advice for non-emergency personnel: Do not breathe vapours, aerosols. Avoid substance contact. Ensure adequate ventilation. Keep away from heat and sources of ignition. Evacuate the danger area, observe emergency procedures, consult an expert.

Advice for emergency responders:

Protective equipment see section 8.

6.2 Environmental precautions
Do not let product enter drains. Risk of explosion.

6.3 Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up
Cover drains. Collect, bind, and pump off spills. Observe possible material restrictions (see sections 7 and 10). Take up with liquid-absorbent material (e.g. Chemizorb®). Dispose of properly. Clean up affected area.

6.4 Reference to other sections
Indications about waste treatment see section 13.

An **uncontrolled release** includes chemical, biological and radioisotope spills and leakages that may become a hazard to occupants and to the work area itself. In all cases of an uncontrolled release, EHS should be contacted immediately so that outside emergency assistance can be summoned.

Extra resource: https://www.enhesa.com/resources/article/what-is-ehs-and-why-is-it-important/