

Spotlight On Safety

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Monitoring your Lab for Radioactive Contamination



As a condition in the Radiation Use Authorization (RUA), a radiation monitoring program for all radionuclide work areas must be maintained. Follow the guidelines below for radioactive contamination monitoring and radiation field measurement.

Frequency

- Perform monitoring immediately after using radioactive materials. If work has been performed with anything except H-3 (tritium), a GM survey meter (pancake probe) can be used.
- Survey results must be documented a minimum of once every month if routinely used and after each use if work with radioactive materials is infrequent.

Monitoring Procedures

- A survey map and survey location sheet of all the areas and equipment where radioactive materials are used can be found in the RUA application for the laboratory. A meter survey along with a wipe test are done based on the isotopes used.
- Wipe tests should cover approximately 100 cm² (4" x 4") and should include a background sample.
- Attach the survey results to the survey map and survey sheet.
- If the count is twice background, the area(s) must be decontaminated. Clean the area(s) until level is less than twice background.
- If you are unable to decontaminate to twice background, call EH&S Radiation Safety at 951-827-5528
- Don't attempt decontamination in the case of personnel contamination or if the spill is outside of the work area—call EH&S at 951-827-5528 from 8am-5pm weekdays or UCPD at 951-827-5222 after 5 or on weekends and holidays
- Please refer to the section in the Radiation Safety Manual for more information. The manual can be found on the EHS website <http://ehs.ucr.edu/radiation/>

For more information visit www.ehs.ucr.edu or call 951-827-5528 if you have questions.