# Overview

Code Brown is activated if one or more of the following criteria are met:

* Staff are not trained in spills clean-up
* The spill is of an unknown substance(s)
* The spill involves any amount of mercury or pepper/bear spray
* There is a release/leak of a hazardous gas
* The spill has seeped into inaccessible areas (e.g. elevator shaft or hoist way)
* Appropriate PPE and cleanup supplies are not available

Note: Contact appropriate Chemical Spill Response Team, as applicable

**As in all emergencies, consider your safety first.**

# Response Procedures

### All Staff

* Ensure your own safety and that of others – avoid skin, eye, and respiratory exposure to the substance
* Remove persons from immediate danger
* Obtain first aid, as needed
* Notify *[Manager/Director of Care/Designate]*
* Do not assist in the actual clean-up of the spill

### *[Manager/Director of Care/Designate]*

* Ensure your own safety and that of others – avoid skin, eye, and respiratory exposure to the substance
  + Ensure area is secured using a barrier/caution tape
* Designate a runner/designate someone to announce overhead three times:
  + “Code Brown [name of substance if known] in [exact location – building, floor, room]”
* If there is a risk of fire or explosion, or if the safety of occupants is threatened,   
  call Fire Department at **911**
* If you smell rotten eggs and believe there may be a natural gas leak call **911**
* Meet appropriate Chemical Spill Response Team and/or Fire Department to affected area, if necessary
* If safe, consider the following:
  + Close doors
  + Open external windows to ventilate the area
  + Attempt to control the source of the spill/gas leak
  + Extinguish all ignition sources if the spill material is flammable
* Notify:
  + *[Maintenance]*
  + *[Insert departments/agencies/organizations to be notified]*
* Provide guidance, such as activating Code Green – Evacuation, and support as needed
* Do not assist in the actual clean-up of the spill
* When appropriate, designate a runner/designate someone to announce overhead three times:
  + “Code Brown – All Clear”

### *[Maintenance] – If no Maintenance available, remove this section and complete actions as provided by 911/Chemical Response Team/Fortis BC*

* Ensure your own safety and that of others – avoid skin, eye, and respiratory exposure to the substance
* If a natural gas leak is suspected contact FortisBC
* Respond to the area to determine any facility system impacts, assess fire risk, etc.
* Consider whether changes to the area’s ventilation system are needed in consultation with *[Manager/Director of Care/Designate]* and other subject matter experts (for example: Fire Department)
* Do not assist in the actual clean-up of the spill

# post incident actions

* Ensure proper documentation is completed, as applicable:
  + *[Insert title of documentation that should be completed after a code brown]*
* Debrief and ensure psychosocial support is provided, as needed

# supports

* If you experience any type of distress from an incident, you are encouraged to seek incident debriefing or emotional support [*insert information on who to speak with and any resources available*]