# PURPOSE

To ensure the safety of personnel and mitigate risks associated with water cleanup, with special attention to electrical hazards. For water cleanup containing sewage, see sewage response plan. Safety must always remain our top priority during water cleanup operations.

# PERSONNEL AFFECTED

Facilities employees of SUNY Geneseo.

# RESPONSIBILITIES

## Management

SUNY Geneseo shall recognize its responsibility for the safety of their employees by implementing this plan and holding employees accountable to follow the plan.

## Supervisors

The supervisor(s) of any employee that aids in the emergency response of a major water leak shall ensure employees are trained in water response and understand hazards that may be present during a major water leak.

## Operations Staff

The person(s) cleaning up the spill shall:

1. Assess the extent of water damage and potential electrical hazards, including submerged electrical outlets, appliances, energized mechanical devices and wiring.
2. Identify sources of water damage, such as leaks, floods, or plumbing issues and try to stop the leak if possible if it is safe. Sandbagging may be necessary until water is shut off. Diversion of water, with a hose, to a drain may be possible.

# PROCEDURES

## Assess

Prioritize safety by turning off electrical power to affected areas before initiating cleanup efforts. If the electrical source is in the flooded room, it may be necessary to shut down the power prior to addressing the leak. This may include the need to shut down the whole building power or from the main switch gear room in Clark B.

1. Zones/Core: Locate and switch off the circuit breaker or fuse box controlling the affected area.
2. If unsure about electrical safety, consult with an electrician before proceeding.
3. If unsure about asbestos safety, consult with a Facilities supervisor or EHS. If asbestos is present and affected by the flood, DO NOT proceed.

## Water removal and cleanup

1. Gather needed equipment and don PPE at site.
2. Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter when using electrical equipment (Kaivak, etc.) near water.
3. Only use vacuums, pumps, etc. specifically designed for water cleanup and rated for wet conditions.
4. Never touch electrical appliances or outlets with wet hands or while standing on wet surfaces.
5. Vacuum water.
6. Remove damaged debris.

## Drying and Dehumidification

1. Use fans, dehumidifiers, and other drying equipment to expedite the drying process.
2. Ensure all electrical equipment used for drying is properly grounded and rated for wet conditions.
3. Monitor humidity levels to prevent mold growth and further damage.

## Electrical Equipment Inspection

1. After water removal, inspect all electrical equipment and wiring for signs of damage, such as corrosion, moisture, or exposed wires.
2. Do not attempt to use any electrical equipment that has been submerged or damaged by water. Tag and isolate such equipment for professional inspection or replacement.
3. If the fire alarm system or any components (panel, smoke head, etc.) may be affected, contact a Facilities supervisor.
4. If chemicals have been mixed with flood waters, pickup water mixture and contain. Then contact EHS for disposal considerations as it may be considered hazardous waste.

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

All personnel shall use appropriate PPE for involved in the cleanup, including:

* rubber gloves
* electrically insulated rubber boots
* safety glasses (optional)
* protective clothing (as needed based on impacted area)

Inspect all PPE prior to use. It is especially important to ensure there are no holes in gloves or boots to ensure their insulative and protective value.

# TRAINING and AWARENESS

Regular training sessions will be conducted to educate personnel on water cleanup procedures and electrical safety practices.

The importance of promptly reporting any electrical hazards or unsafe conditions will be emphasized.

# REVIEW and CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Periodic reviews of the water cleanup safety response plan will be conducted to identify areas for improvement. Lessons learned from past incidents will be incorporated to enhance safety protocols and minimize risks.

# REFERENCES

OSHA pamphlet: Keeping Workers Safe during Flood Cleanup

NIOSH website: Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing for Flood Cleanup Workers <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emres/ppe-flood.html>

# REVISION HISTORY

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Revision No. | Description |
|  |  |  |