ETHIDIUM BROMIDE / SYBR SAFE

Hazard Description

Ethidium bromide is a mutagen and possible carcinogen. It is also toxic. It fluoresces a red-orange color under ultraviolet (UV) light, and with increased fluorescence when bound to double-stranded DNA. Ethidium bromide is more hazardous in powder form and laboratories are encouraged to purchase it in gel form.

Prior to Use of Ethidium Bromide

- Complete a research-specific laboratory risk assessment.
- Ensure that all required materials are available in case of a spill, emergency, and waste collection.

Handling

- Work with ethidium bromide in a designated area.
- Equipment used with ethidium bromide should be designated as such and not used for other work unless decontaminated.
- A UV light may be used to detect the presents of ethidium bromide, remember to use appropriate protective equipment when using UV lights.
- **For small spills,** follow as per spill procedures. If in powder form and if using a vacuum, the vacuum must be fitted with a HEPA filter. If sweeping, dampen with water to prevent dust before sweeping.

Emergency Procedures

Always review the SDS of the purchased product for manufacture-specific recommendations. Look at SDS for other modes of exposure.

Contacts **Emergency: 911** UW Special Constables: 519-888-4911 or ext. 22222 Poison Control: 1-800-268-9017 Whenever 911 is called, if possible, UW Special Constables should also be informed to make them aware of the emergency on campus and allow them to support as needed. Ask them to meet the paramedics and direct them to the incident location.	
Inhalation	▪ Remove individual from contaminated area ▪ Call 911 for transport to hospital ▪ Perform CPR and artificial respiration if necessary
Skin Contact	▪ Call 911 for transport to hospital ▪ Remove contaminated clothing and quickly but gently wipe material off skin ▪ Flush with water
Eye Contact	▪ Call 911 for transport to hospital ▪ Flush eyes using eyewash station for a minimum of 15 minutes

Storage

Storage Group G

Hazardous Waste

- Ethidium bromide will be brought down to the waste facility in a suitable container. Container suitability is based on the remainder of the chemicals involved in the reaction, for example, solvents mixed with ethidium bromide would be in a glass container.