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| SOU Logo Broken Fluorescent Bulb or Tube Cleanup |

**Office: EHS**

**Procedure Contact: Russell Deen**

**Related Policy or Policies: Hazardous Waste FAD.032**

# Revision History

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| **Revision Number:** | **Change:** | **Date:** |
|  | Initial Release | 03/25/2019 |
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## A. Purpose

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| To ensure the safe disposal and cleanup of broken fluorescent bulbs that contain mercury vapor. |

## B. Definitions

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| EHS (Environmental Health and Safety) |

## C. Procedures

### How to clean up a broken compact fluorescent light bulb or tube from hard surfaces such as a tile floor or countertop

1. Have people and pets leave the room. DO NOT let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
2. Open windows and shut off central forced-air heating/cooling system if you have one then leave the room to vent vapors for at least 15 minutes.
3. Remove jewelry and put on rubber gloves.
4. Use stiff paper or cardboard to pick up large pieces.
5. Place them in a secure closed container, preferably a glass jar with a metal screw top lid and seal like a canning jar. This type of container works best to contain the mercury vapors.
6. Use index cards or playing cards to pick up small pieces and powder.
7. Use sticky tape, such as duct tape or masking tape to pick up fine particles.
8. Wipe the area clean with a damp paper towel or wet wipe.
9. Place all materials used to clean-up into a sealed container, preferably glass.
10. Continue ventilating the room for several hours.
11. If clothing, bedding or other soft materials have come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury powder, they should be disposed of hazardous waste. DO NOT wash in washing machine, sink or by other methods. Place soft materials in a sealed plastic bag.
12. If shoes come into direct contact with broken glass or mercury powder, DO NOT spread mercury over a larger area. Wipe shoes with a damp paper towel or wet wipe and place towel or wipe into a sealed container, preferably glass.
13. Immediately place all clean-up materials in a protected area away from children and pets.
14. Wash your hands.
15. Dispose of cleaning supplies, broken bulbs and tubes and clothing, bedding or other soft materials to EHS for disposal.

**Clean up broken fluorescent light bulb or tube from carpet.**

1. Consider removing and disposing of throw rugs or the area of carpet where the breakage occurred as a precaution, particularly if the rug is in an area frequented by infants, small children or pregnant women.
2. If the carpet is not removed, shut off central forced air heating/cooling system and open the window to the room during the next several times you vacuum the carpet to provide good ventilation. Remove the vacuum bag and put the bag in a sealed plastic bag outside of the house. Take the sealed plastic bag to EHS for disposal.

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| This procedure may be revised at any time without notice. All revisions supersede prior procedures and are effective immediately upon approval. |