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## Updating the Metallic Mercury Resource Manual for Local and Regional Offices of DOH

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Elemental mercury spills should be cleaned up promptly. Breathing mercury vapor can cause health effects on the central nervous and other systems and the developing fetus if exposures are high and/or of long duration. Elemental mercury is a silvery, odorless liquid that readily evaporates.

The Elemental Mercury Resource Manual (Manual) is a comprehensive resource for local health units and other NYS DOH staff to use when responding to mercury spills and/or answering questions about elemental mercury from the public. The Spill Response section of the Manual includes detailed recommendations for containing, assessing and cleaning up a spill; measuring and interpreting levels of mercury in air or other environmental samples; disposing of mercury containing waste including fluorescent lamps; and, lists of NYS DOH Regional Toxics Coordinators and ELAP approved laboratories. The Health Effects section contains current, detailed background information on mercury vapor exposure and potential health effects, including a fact sheet, Mercury Exposure and You; background information on assessment of biomarkers of mercury exposure; health-based concentrations for mercury vapor; and other health-related information and resources. The Manual also includes information on NYS laws regarding use and disposal of mercury and mercury-containing products, and on reducing mercury in schools.