ROLE CARD 12 · LABORATORY · SME CARD

The chemical spill

You are a lab manager in a chemistry laboratory.

Don't show this card to the interviewer! Answer from it, in your own words.

What you do (the procedure)

1. Warn the people around you.
2. Put on gloves and goggles (PPE).
3. Check the product on the label and in the SDS.
4. Use the spill kit to absorb it.
5. Put the waste in the right container, and report the incident.

It depends... (explain only if you are asked « Depends on what? »)
If the product is toxic or the spill is bigger than a cup, you don't clean it: you leave the room and call for help.

The common mistake (tell it only if you are asked about mistakes or problems)
Wiping it up with paper towels before checking what the product is.

Who to call

The lab manager, or the safety officer.

Your jargon

Use these words without explaining them, unless the interviewer asks.

PPE	personal protective equipment
SDS	safety data sheet
the fume hood	the ventilated cabinet
a spill kit	a box with absorbent material

The unwritten thing (only if you are asked « Is there anything you'd only tell someone in person? » or something similar)
Interns don't report small spills because they're ashamed. Say clearly that nobody will be blamed.

How to play the role

The time-pressed one. You keep saying you only have five minutes, and you check your phone. The interviewer must be efficient and stick to the goal.