

## Parts of Ashe Memorial Evacuated After Haz-Mat Spill

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Wednesday, 28 September 2011 12:13

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A portion of Ashe Memorial Hospital had to be evacuated this morning and haz-mat teams were called to the hospital after a chemical spill. Ashe Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill said that formaldehyde spilled—3 to 5 gallons of the toxic, volatile substance—in a storage area of the operating room. Gambill said that, due to the fumes, much of the first floor of Ashe Memorial had to be evacuated, including most of the clerical staff. Haz-mat trained firemen from various departments across Ashe converged on the hospital and began the process of isolating the chemical, then a firm from Charlotte was called in to complete the clean up. No injuries were reported from the spill, but hospital operations were impacted in the area effected by the spill.