Incident Summary:
A worker was transporting 4 x 4L glass bottles of liquid chemicals on a cart. The worker was pulling the cart behind them with a single hand as they turned and the cart tipped over resulting in a 16L chemical spill. The spill occurred in a publicly accessible hallway. Among the chemicals were flammables and highly volatile respiratory irritants.

Investigation Findings:
• Worker was not in full control of the cart.
• Spill response was inappropriate and should have been classified as a Major Spill due to the public location and the toxic properties of the chemicals.
• Appropriate PPE was not worn for spill response.

Actions Taken:
• Worksite-specific instruction to include appropriate cart use. Examples include using two hands and pushing instead of pulling.
• Review of Spill Response requirements, including Major vs. Minor Spills and PPE.

Key Takeaways:
• Always be attentive and in full control while moving hazardous materials.
• Know the properties of your hazardous materials and how to respond to a spill.
• Know when to evacuate.
• Always wear PPE when attending a spill.

Resources:
• Lab Safety Program Spill Response Procedure & Spill Response Training
• Lab Safety Program Movement of Hazardous Materials Within Buildings