



# Spill Response

This document defines different types of spills and provides a brief overview of how to identify, prepare for and respond to spills. This document is provided for informational purposes only.

## **What types of spills can occur at commercial and industrial facilities?**

### *Non-Emergency (Incidental)*

A spill is considered a non-emergency or incidental spill if it involves:

- ◆ Non-hazardous materials
- ◆ A hazardous substance that can be controlled and cleaned up by appropriately trained personnel in the immediate area and does not pose a safety or health hazard
- ◆ Small quantities of other hazardous materials that can be identified and controlled by personnel in the area
- ◆ Vehicle fluids such as oil, fuel or anti-freeze in small and manageable quantities
- ◆ There is no release to storm systems or waterways

### *Emergency*

A spill is considered an emergency if it:

- ◆ Requires a coordinated response from a fire department and/or environmental department and it presents a potential safety or health hazard
- ◆ Involves hazardous or non-hazardous materials which significantly impact operations or roadways
- ◆ Involves hazardous materials that present a safety or health hazard such as a fire, explosion or chemical exposure
- ◆ Impacts stormwater systems or waterways

At Portland International Airport, call the PDX Communication Center immediately at 503.460.4747 or 911 for **ANY** of these spills. At all other facilities, call 911 immediately for emergency spills.

### **What common types of materials are involved in spills?**

Jet Fuel	Aviation Gasoline (Avgas)	Transmission Fluid
Motor Oil	Antifreeze	Gasoline
Diesel	Hydraulic Oil	Sewage

### **What other, less common, materials or activities could be involved in spills?**

Drug Lab Cleanup	Acids or Caustic Materials	Mercury
Dead Animals	Unknown Solids/Liquids	Radioactive Substances
Car Fire		

### **When should a spill be reported?**

Generally, a spill should be reported if it:

- ◆ Involves a hazardous material or substance
- ◆ Poses a threat to human health or the environment
- ◆ Impacts, or has the potential to impact, a waterway, even if it is only a sheen
- ◆ Is a specific reportable quantity as indicated by a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), or applicable local, state or federal regulation

For more information on reportable quantities and notification procedures required by state and federal law for petroleum and hazardous materials can be found in *Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, Division 108, Oil and Hazardous Material Spills and Releases*. Oil discharges that reach navigable waters (e.g. rivers, creeks, ditches) must be reported to the National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802 or 1-202-426-2675 and to the Oregon Emergency Response System at 1-800-452-0311.

### **What top priorities need to be addressed when responding to a spill?**

- ◆ *Life and Safety* – does the spill involve a hazardous material and/or pose a threat to human safety? Could it potentially cause a fire?
- ◆ *Environment* – does the spill pose a threat to the environment?
- ◆ *Property* – will the spill cause damage to infrastructure?
- ◆ *Operations* – will the spill impact facility operations or adjacent traffic?

### **What general steps should be taken when responding to a spill?**

1. Clear the area to protect employees and the public. Determine if the spill poses a threat to the health of people nearby such as employees or the public. Report the spill to the appropriate authorities.
2. Eliminate the source of the spill if it is safe to do so. Use emergency shut-off valves or turn equipment off.
3. Contain the spill to the smallest area possible and prevent the spill from entering nearby storm drains or surface waters.
4. Clean up the spill by placing absorbent material on it. Pick up the material as soon as it has absorbed the spill and place it in a container marked “used absorbent,” seal tightly and mark with the date of the spill.
5. Complete a spill report.

### **What facilities need a spill kit?**

Any facility that transfers or handles any type of fuel, oil or material that has the potential to be spilled and impact surface water should have a spill kit. Spill kits are required at the following locations:

- ◆ Facilities with 1200-Z or 1200-COLS permits
- ◆ Fuel dispensing facilities
- ◆ Facilities with a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan in place

### **What should be in a spill kit?**

- ◆ Cleanup supplies designed for the material that is likely to be spilled, such as:
  - ▶ Granular absorbents
  - ▶ Pads and boom
  - ▶ Personal protective equipment (PPE) – e.g. safety glasses, gloves, high visibility clothing
- ◆ Spill report used to track spills and determine if the spill needs to be reported. The following information should be documented in a spill report:
  - ▶ Date, time, and duration of incident
  - ▶ Type of material spilled
  - ▶ Quantity of material spilled
  - ▶ How the spill occurred
  - ▶ Spill response and cleanup measures
  - ▶ Notification of regulatory officials (i.e. OERS, NRC, Port)

### **Additional Resources**

[How to Determine if Your Waste is Hazardous](#), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

[What to Do When You've Had a Spill](#), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

[Accidental Spill Prevention/Slug Control Plan Guidelines](#), City of Troutdale