



Spill prevention and planning

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In Minnesota, handlers of oil and hazardous substances are required to be prepared and prevent spills from occurring to protect land, waters or air of the state and to protect the public's safety or health. Check Minnesota Statute 115E (often called the "Spill Bill") for details on required spill prevention and planning.

Knowing your facility and training company personnel are basic planning strategies to prepare a company for a response. Below are some areas each company should concentrate on improving.

Maps

Have current maps for the facility available for reference. Locate on the map building locations, oil and chemical storage locations, process or transfer areas, drainage of the land, storm and sanitary sewer inlets, lines, outlets, and surface waters.

Planning

Have current and useful emergency plans. Is your facility required to have a spill prevention, control and countermeasures plan (SPCC plan); a prevention and response plan to fulfill the Minnesota Spill Bill; or a response plan to fulfill the federal Oil Pollution Act? Consolidate your emergency plans into an all-hazard plan. Plan your

responses to potential environmental emergencies. Plan how to utilize your staff and hired contractors effectively and efficiently. Assess the resources of your company needs and make the necessary provisions and agreements beforehand, not at the time of an incident.

Material management and storage

Review how your company stores and handles its chemicals. Inspect the dispensing equipment and containment construction. Make improvements as problem areas are identified. Understand the characteristics, behaviors and safety precautions associated with material stored at your facility. If a spill of one or more of these materials occurs, know the best containment and cleanup strategies to use.

Train and conduct exercises

Train your company staff on hazard recognition, response plan implementation, safety, cleanup procedures, and reporting. Once staff are trained, conduct exercises to practice their training. Conduct table-top exercises and field exercises. Invite local and state responders to practice with your staff. After an exercise, evaluate your company's response and make improvements. This will result in

a more effective and efficient response when the next one occurs — real or staged.

If a spill occurs...

If a spill occurs, follow these basic steps:

- 1. Observe** the safety precautions associated with the spilled material.
Stop the source of the spill, if you can do so safely.
- 2. Call** 911 if fire or public safety hazards are created.
- 3. Contain** the spilled material. Dirt, sand, or any semi-impermeable material may be used to create a containment structure to prevent the material from flowing.
- 4. Report** the spill to the Minnesota Duty Officer at (651) 649-5451 or (800) 422-0798 any time, day or night.
- 5. Clean up** the spilled material and dispose of the wastes properly. With the exception of used oil, waste generated from petroleum spills that have been reported and cleaned up immediately are exempt from Minnesota's Hazardous Waste Rules. Waste generated from used oil spills must be sent to a facility for energy recovery.

For more information

For more information on spill prevention, cleanup and disposal, call the MPCA at (651) 296-6300 or (800) 657-3864 and ask for a member of the Emergency Response Team or go to www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/pubs/ertpubs.html on the Internet.