



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Minnesota Spill Bill

Cleanup/Emergency Response 1-03 • September 2007

To report a spill at any time, day or night, call the Minnesota Duty Officer at (651) 649-5451 or (800) 422-0798.

Minnesota Statute chapter 115E, the Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharge Preparedness Law, which is commonly referred to as the “Spill Bill,” requires all handlers of oil and hazardous substances to prevent and prepare for spills of these substances. Handlers shall be prepared at all times to rapidly and thoroughly recover discharges. In addition, the law has specific requirements for some handlers.

The following handlers must prepare written prevention and response plans and maintain a level of preparedness that ensures an effective reliable response to a worst-case discharge:

- cargo water vessels,
- trucks or cargo trailers transporting more than 10,000 gallons per month,
- above-ground storage tank facilities storing 10,000 or more gallons,
- railroad rolling stock transporting more than 100,000 gallons per month,
- pipelines transporting more than 100,000 gallons per month, and
- facilities that transfer more than 1,000,000 gallons per month.

In 1994, these handlers were required to notify the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (MDPS) that their plans were completed. All prevention and response plans must be updated at a minimum of every three years. Plans

must be updated before three years following a significant discharge, a change in facility operation or ownership, changes in the national or area plans, or changes in the capabilities or role of a person named in the plan.

Other provisions of the Spill Bill include:

- The bill provides for the opportunity to establish a citizens advisory group after an incident to facilitate exchange of information and concerns related to the discharge.
- Commissioners of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Agriculture can request a copy of a company’s prevention and response plan, require changes to the plan or additional preventative measures, or request a demonstration of the adequacy of the plan.
- The commissioners can order a spiller to provide financial assurance that the spiller can complete a cleanup in progress.
- The Spill Bill contains Good Samaritan and responder immunity provisions to protect good-faith responders and citizens from liability of response costs or damages.
- The Spill Bill allows governmental agencies to provide resources to

persons so that they may be adequately prepared per section 115E.03, subdivision 4.

- It requires the MDPS to assess and coordinate the state agencies' preparedness, develop an incident command system for use by state agency responders, report to the legislature on the readiness of the state, and establish a one-call reporting system.

For more information

For more information on spill reporting, 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/ert.html on the Internet.