

Toolbox Talk

Spillage



What?

- Spillage of oil and other potentially polluting substances to the environment can normally be prevented by ensuring the product is stored and transported secure
- However in the event of an uncontrolled spill, personnel on site need to act quickly using their training and spill kit materials to avoid a spill becoming a major environmental incident
- Spills usually occur whilst the substance is being transferred from one container to another such as a tanker delivery or when the product is moved around and is damaged during pick up or set down

Why?

- Oil and chemical spills are a significant source of pollution
- An oil spill can cause extensive soil, groundwater and watercourse contamination resulting in expensive clean-up costs and the likelihood of criminal prosecution by the Environment Agency
- A simple plan of what to do in the event of a spill will help ensure a coordinated response in the event of an incident occurring
- The aim of the response is to try and prevent the contamination spreading to drains or open ground where the resulting pollution can rapidly spread
- Once spread to open ground (earth) or drains, specialist clean-up is normally required

Do



- ✓ First, establish if it is safe to approach the spill and if so wear suitable PPE
- ✓ Cordoned off the area to prevent the public or curious staff from walking through the spilled substance
- ✓ Try and stop any leak from source before tackling spill, this may be as simple as turning off a tap
- ✓ Try to contain the spill with either a spill kit or other materials at hand such as sand or soil
- ✓ Report the spill to the appropriate authority if it has entered a drain or open ground (soil)
- ✓ When cleaning up shovel sand/soil into leak proof containers and dispose of as Hazardous Waste
- ✓ Always report the spill to the site manager who will carry out any necessary investigation and report the incident to the relevant regulatory body if required
- ✓ Follow all relevant site procedures for dealing with the emergency
- ✓ Report any potential unsafe conditions which you think could lead to a spillage
- ✓ Practice using the spill kit

Don't



- ✗ Ignore a spill, always report to a supervisor or manager
- ✗ Tackle a spill involving highly flammable substances. Leave it to the Fire Brigade
- ✗ Enter drains, watercourses or any confined spaces when dealing with the spill
- ✗ Leave deliveries of oil or other environmentally hazardous liquids unsupervised
- ✗ Allow spill kits to become depleted, this includes the necessary PPE to deal with spill
- ✗ Tackle a spill without the appropriate PPE, Hazard Data Sheets will state what needs to be worn, for most spills this would include Chemical Resistant:
 - Boots;
 - Overalls;
 - Gloves;
 - Goggles;
 - Mask.
- ✗ Forget to fill out a report