

3.3 SPILL PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The objective of this section is to describe measures to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to drainage systems or watercourses from leaks and spills by reducing the chance for spills, stopping the source of spills, containing and cleaning up spills, properly disposing of spill materials, and training employees.

The following steps will help reduce the stormwater impacts of leaks and spills:

EDUCATION

1. Be aware that different materials pollute in different amounts. Make sure that each employee knows what a “significant spill” is for each material they use, and what is the appropriate response for “significant” and “insignificant” spills. Employees should also be aware of when spills must be reported to the TCEQ. Information available in 30 TAC 327.4 and 40 CFR 302.4.
2. Educate employees and subcontractors on potential dangers to humans and the environment from spills and leaks.
3. Hold regular meetings to discuss and reinforce appropriate disposal procedures (these may be incorporated into regular safety meetings).
4. Establish a continuing education program to instruct new employees.
5. Have contractor’s superintendent or representative oversee and enforce proper spill prevention and control measures.

GENERAL MEASURES

1. To the extent that the work can be accomplished safely, spills of oil, petroleum products, substances listed under 40 CFR parts 110,117, and 302, and sanitary and septic wastes should be contained and cleaned up immediately.
2. Store hazardous materials and wastes in covered containers and protect from vandalism.
3. Place a stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily accessible.
4. Train employees in spill prevention and cleanup.
5. Designate responsible individuals to oversee and enforce control measures.
6. Spills should be covered and protected from stormwater run-on during rainfall to the extent that it does not compromise clean-up activities.
7. Do not bury or wash spills with water.
8. Store and dispose of used clean up materials, contaminated materials, and recovered spill material that is no longer suitable for the intended purpose in conformance with the provisions in applicable BMPs.
9. Do not allow water used for cleaning and decontamination to enter storm drains or watercourses. Collect and dispose of contaminated water in accordance with applicable regulations.
10. Contain water overflow or minor water spillage and do not allow it to discharge into drainage facilities or watercourses.
11. Place Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), as well as proper storage, cleanup, and spill reporting instructions for hazardous materials stored or used on the project site in an open, conspicuous, and accessible location.
12. Keep waste storage areas clean, well-organized, and equipped with ample cleanup supplies as appropriate for the materials being stored. Perimeter controls, containment structures, covers, and liners should be repaired or replaced as needed to maintain proper function.

CLEANUP

1. Clean up leaks and spills immediately.
2. Use a rag for small spills on paved surfaces, a damp mop for general cleanup, and absorbent material for larger spills. If the spilled material is hazardous, then the used cleanup materials are also hazardous and must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
3. Never hose down or bury dry material spills. Clean up as much of the material as possible and dispose of properly. See the waste management BMPs in this section for specific information.

MINOR SPILLS

1. Minor spills typically involve small quantities of oil, gasoline, paint, etc. which can be controlled by the first responder at the discovery of the spill.
2. Use absorbent materials on small spills rather than hosing down or burying the spill.
3. Absorbent materials should be promptly removed and disposed of properly.
4. Follow the practice below for a minor spill:
 - Contain the spread of the spill.
 - Recover spilled materials.
 - Clean the contaminated area and properly dispose of contaminated materials.

SEMI-SIGNIFICANT SPILLS

Semi-significant spills can be controlled by the first responder along with the aid of other personnel such as laborers and the foreman, etc. This response may require the cessation of all other activities.

Spills should be cleaned up immediately:

1. Contain spread of the spill.
2. Notify the project foreman immediately.
3. If the spill occurs on paved or impermeable surfaces, clean up using “dry” methods (absorbent materials, cat litter and/or rags). Contain the spill by encircling with absorbent materials and do not let the spill spread widely.
4. If the spill occurs in dirt areas, immediately contain the spill by constructing an earthen dike. Dig up and properly dispose of contaminated soil.
5. If the spill occurs during rain, cover spill with tarps or other material to prevent contaminating runoff.

SIGNIFICANT/HAZARDOUS SPILLS

For significant or hazardous spills that are in reportable quantities:

1. Notify the TCEQ by telephone as soon as possible and within 24 hours. It is the contractor’s responsibility to have all emergency phone numbers at the construction site.
2. For spills of federal reportable quantities, in conformance with the requirements in 40 CFR parts 110,119, and 302, the contractor should notify the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.
3. Notification should first be made by telephone and followed up with a written report.
4. The services of a spill management contractor or a Haz-Mat team should be obtained immediately.

Construction personnel should not attempt to clean up until the appropriate and qualified staffs have arrived at the job site.

5. Other agencies which may need to be notified/consulted include, but are not limited to, the City Police Department, County Sheriff Office, Fire Departments, etc.

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

1. If maintenance must occur onsite, use a designated area and a secondary containment, located away from drainage courses, to prevent the run-on of stormwater and the runoff of spills.
2. Regularly inspect onsite vehicles and equipment for leaks and repair immediately
3. Check incoming vehicles and equipment (including delivery trucks, as well as employee and subcontractor vehicles) for leaking oil and fluids. Do not allow leaking vehicles or equipment onsite.
4. Always use secondary containment, such as a drain pan or drop cloth, to catch spills or leaks when removing or changing fluids.
5. Place drip pans or absorbent materials under paving equipment when not in use.
6. Use absorbent materials on small spills rather than hosing down or burying the spill. Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
7. Promptly transfer used fluids to the proper waste or recycling drums. Don't leave full drip pans or other open containers lying around.
8. Oil filters disposed of in trashcans or dumpsters can leak oil and pollute stormwater. Place the oil filter in a funnel over a waste oil-recycling drum to drain excess oil before disposal. Oil filters can also be recycled. Ask the oil supplier or recycler about recycling oil filters.
9. Store cracked batteries in a non-leaking secondary container. Do this with all cracked batteries even if you think all the acid has drained out. If you drop a battery, treat it as if it is cracked. Put it into the containment area until you are sure it is not leaking.

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT FUELING

1. If fueling must occur on site, use designated areas, located away from drainage courses, to prevent the run-on of stormwater and the runoff of spills.
2. Discourage "topping off" of fuel tanks.
3. Always use secondary containment, such as a drain pan, when fueling to catch spills/ leaks.