

ENVIRONMENTAL TOOL BOX TALKS

NO. E02 SPILLAGE RESPONSE PROCEDURE

Construction sites are often criticised for the damage they cause to the surrounding environment. This damage can take many forms, for example excessive noise, dust etc, however spillage's statistically account for the greatest harm to the environment. There are many precautions that can be taken to avoid spillages. These include the use of bunds around oil storage tanks and the use of drip trays around mobile plant. Advance planning can avoid the need for emergency response if things do go wrong. For example sandbags, or even sand, can be used as a barrier to protect sensitive areas, or block off drains, during refuelling.

SPILLAGE TYPES

MAJOR = Cannot be controlled; pollution has entered, or could enter a drain or watercourse. Report to foreman/supervisor immediately, who in turn should report the incident to the Environment Agency and complete an Environmental Incident report.

MINOR = Can be controlled; pollution has not entered, and cannot enter a drain or watercourse. Spillage should be cleaned up immediately using the appropriate materials e.g. spill kits etc.

SPILLAGE RESPONSE PROCEDURE

STOP - CONTAIN - NOTIFY

Personnel on discovering a spillage should:

STOP = Work immediately and prevent any more material spilling e.g. right an oil drum, close a valve. Eliminate any sources of ignition, e.g. switch of engines, extinguish cigarettes.

CONTAIN = the spillage using bunds of earth, sand, drip trays etc immediately. Check that the spillage has not reached any nearby drains/manholes, watercourses, ponds and other sensitive areas. Bund the drains/manholes to stop the spillage entering the drainage system.

NOTIFY = your foreman/ supervisor immediately giving the following information:

- Whether the spillage has entered the drain/watercourse or is affecting the environment.
- Material/substance involved
- Location
- Reason for the incident
- Quantity involved

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Spill kits should be available on site at locations where spills are more likely to occur e.g. refueling points, storage areas etc The correct medium for the spillage should be used. Careful measures must be implemented for hazardous materials and COSHH safety data sheets must be available and read before attempting to deal with hazardous materials/substances.

Disposal of spillage waste e.g. oil granules or pads should be bagged up and placed in the designated special waste skip.

Any questions.

This is to confirm that I have given this Talk to the attendees listed below:-			
NAME	BRANCH	SITE	DATE
LIST OF ATTENDEES			
PRINT NAME	SIGN	PRINT NAME	SIGN