

TOOLBOX TALK

No1

SPILL CONTROL

WHAT?

Accidental releases of oils and chemicals from construction sites make up a large number of pollution incidents that occur each year.

Many spillages can be prevented. It is important that everyone on site knows how to control a spill to minimise its impact. Would you know what to do?



WHY?

- ❑ **Minimise potential harm:** Spills spread very quickly and lead to environmental harm.
- ❑ **Avoid Prosecution:** Fines and clean up costs can be expensive
- ❑ **Public Relations:** Avoid negative publicity for the company and our clients and maintain our workload.

DO's

- ✓ STOP WORK immediately
- ✓ If spillage is flammable, extinguish all possible ignitions.
- ✓ IDENTIFY the source of pollution and rectify the problem
- ✓ CONTAIN the spillage – on land use earth/sand to construct a bund around the spill to stop it spreading. Use booms to contain oil spills that have already entered a watercourse
- ✓ CONTACT your Line Manager
- ✓ DO put on appropriate PPE – typically rubber gloves
- ✓ DO PROTECT sensitive areas (e.g. watercourses or surface water drains – use drain covers or use earth/sand to construct a bund)
- ✓ CLEAN UP the spill. Use absorbent granules/pads to mop up spills. Large pools of oil or spills which cannot be absorbed should be removed by gulper
- ✓ DISPOSE of all contaminated materials (soil/absorbent materials) correctly – those containing substances such as oil, diesel or paint will be hazardous waste. Ensure any contaminated water is taken to an appropriately licensed disposal site.
- ✓ DO NOTIFY your line manager of actions taken.

DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T ignore it! STOP WORK and ACT immediately.
- ✗ DON'T hide the incident – ensure you report it and implement controls.
- ✗ DON'T ever hose a spill into the drainage system. Always use absorbent materials.

