

E3 IN MONTANA AGRICULTURE

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Fact Sheet: Small Spill Response Procedures

Federal regulations require owners or operators of non-transportation-related bulk petroleum storage facilities, having an aggregate aboveground storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons or a buried storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons, to prepare and maintain a site-specific Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan for their facility. The SPCC Plan will include procedures for managing spills. Farmers that have spills that are small or that are not addressed in a formal SPCC Plan should manage those materials to prevent pollution to their property and the general environment. Common practices to respond to these situations include:

Step 1: Stop the spill.

The leak or spill should be stopped by properly qualified and equipped personnel — if this can be done safely. Turn off nozzles or valves from the leaking container, if it can be done safely. Use a wooden plug, bolt, band or putty on a puncture-type hole.

Step 2: Contain and recover the spill.

If the spill or leak cannot be stopped, catch the flowing liquid using a pan, pail, hubcap, shovel or whatever is available. Spreading sorbent material, such as kitty litter, sand, ground corncobs, straw, sawdust, wood chips, peat, synthetic sorbent pads, or dirt from the roadside can stop the flow and soak up the petroleum on pavement. Sorbents do not make petroleum nonflammable.

Step 3: Collect the contaminated sorbent.

Brooms can be used to sweep up the sorbent material and put it into buckets, garbage cans or barrels or on top of plastic sheeting. Remember to control ignition sources.

Step 4: Secure the waste.

Disposal of the contaminated sorbent is the owner or operator's responsibility. Disposal options vary depending on the material and quantity. The local health department, fire department, waste hauler or Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) should be contacted to determine the proper management options. A good online resource is the DEQ "Cleanup Report Guidance Document for Spills or Releases that Impact Soils" that can be found at <http://deq.mt.gov/enf/spillcleanupguidance.mcp>.

The following types of spills should be reported to DEQ:

- Spills that enter or may enter state water or a drainage that leads directly to surface water;
- Spills that cause sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water, streambanks or shorelines;
- Spills that cause a film, "sheen," or change the color of the water, streambanks or shorelines; or
- Spills of twenty-five (25) gallons or more of any petroleum product such as: crude oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, asphalt, road oil, kerosene, fuel oil; produced water, injection water, or combination thereof; and derivatives of mineral, animal, or vegetable oils.

Releases and spills should be reported immediately to the state's Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) 24-hour phone number (406) 324-4777. If no one can be reached at that number, the release or spill may be reported to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) duty officer at (406) 431-0014.



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