



Accidental releases of oils and chemicals from construction sites make up a large number of pollution incidents that occur each year, polluting water courses and contaminating land and groundwater.

Substances we use that could cause harm if spilled include: fuel, oils, paints, solvents, antifreeze, and concrete.

Spills spread very quickly and lead to environmental harm.

Fines and clean up costs can be expensive and even individuals can be held responsible.

DO

- ✓ STOP WORK immediately.
- ✓ If spillage is flammable, extinguish all possible sources of ignition.
- ✓ Identify the source of pollution and rectify the problem.
- ✓ Contain the spillage – on land use socks, earth or 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.
- ✓ Put on appropriate PPE – typically rubber gloves.
- ✓ 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 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.
- ✓ Notify your line manager of actions taken.

DON'T

- ✗ 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.

