



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.





TOOLBOX TALK

No 2

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (FUEL & OIL)

WHAT?

A large number of oil related water pollution incidents occur each year.

Discharging fuel, oil or water containing fuel or oil into drains or watercourses is illegal.

Many are from unbunded tanks and can easily be avoided by following simple guidelines.

WHY?

- ❑ **Avoid prosecution:** Your employer or you as an individual can be prosecuted for causing water pollution.
- ❑ **Cost:** The costs of clean up far exceed those to put control measures in place
- ❑ **Damage to wildlife:** Long-term damage to watercourses including fish kills. Oil spreads rapidly - one gallon of oil can completely cover a lake the size of two football pitches

DOs

General

- ✓ Store oils away from drains or watercourses.
- ✓ Return oil and fuels to storage areas after use.
- ✓ Locate oil stores away from areas of high vehicular movement to prevent accidental damage.
- ✓ Bund individual 205 litre drums to 25%
- ✓ Supervise all fuel deliveries
- ✓ Lock oil stores when not in use.
- ✓ Use drip trays under all static plant and during refuelling from mobile plant.

Bulk Storage

- ✓ Bund tanks and bowzers to 110%
- ✓ Ensure bunds are free from cracks and leaks.
- ✓ Regularly empty bunds and drip trays of rainwater.
- ✓ Keep all hoses & pipe work within bunded area after use.
- ✓ Keep a spill kit near to refuelling areas.
- ✓ DO report any irregularities or incidents.

DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T refuel or store oil within 10m of watercourses or surface water drains
- ✗ DON'T leave bunds and drip trays to overflow
- ✗ DON'T leave refuelling hoses outside of bunds after use
- ✗ DON'T use high pressure delivery systems when filling small containers
- ✗ DON'T hose down spills.
- ✗ DON'T ignore spillages.



See also: No 1 - Spill Control Tool Box Talk