

Spill Response Guide

1. Take action
2. In case of hazardous spills, make sure to wear protective clothing!
3. Minimize damage & stop further contamination
4. Seal drains, contain the situation
5. Begin clean up
6. Contact authorities
7. Dispose of used clean up materials according to local regulations
8. Re-stock clean up materials
9. Review contingency plans and procedures

1. Take action

When a spill occurs - it is imperative to take immediate action. Make sure that the area is immediately secured and that only authorized people are at the scene of the accident.

Determine what has happened- what liquid has leaked out, approximately how much and call for help if required.

2. In case of hazardous spills, make sure to wear protective clothing!

The most important thing during a spill or any accident is to make sure that one is protected in a way so that one does not cause harm to one self or others. Start by wearing protective clothing in ways of gloves, goggles, body suits, and eventual breathing apparatus if so required.

3. Minimize damage & stop further contamination

After finding out where the origin of the spill is - try to prevent further contamination. In other words - if a drum has tipped over or a tank has a rupture - take preventative methods to minimize further spillage. One can either plug the hole or move the leaking container in a way so that it no longer leaks or at least minimizes the problem.

4. Seal drains, contain the situation

In order to achieve this, one must first make sure that sufficient effective materials are available to do this. Mini-booms (SOC's) and drain-covers and Drain Plugs are very effective to contain a spill. If the spill is in the water - containment booms combined with sorbent booms are an effective way of preventing further spreading of the liquid at hand.

5. Begin clean up

Using materials at hand, the clean up job can begin. Materials used could include sorbents in forms of pads, rolls, mini-booms, pillows, booms and sweeps. For further information on this, please see earlier pages on products (chapter 3). Other materials frequently used include skimmers when the spill is on water. For some spills, a loose weight absorbent could also be considered as useable.

6. Contact authorities

Especially when dealing with environmentally hazardous liquids such as chemicals, acids and petroleum-based liquids, authorities have to be contacted. This way, any resources that the authorities may have - such as Fire Brigades, Ambulances etc. can be deployed. The authorities will also be able to give good advice as to how to deal with the spill. It might also be a good idea to contact insurance companies if such policies are in place.

7. Dispose of used clean up materials according to local regulations.

When using absorbent materials to clean up a spill - make sure that the local regulations are followed when it comes to disposing of materials. Note that the sorbents take on the characteristics of the absorbed material and should be disposed thereafter.

8. Re-stock clean up materials.

It may not seem important at the time, but it will become very important if another spill occurs and there is insufficient stock off materials for containment and clean up. It is comparable to having a fire and not having a fire extinguisher at hand. After reviewing point 9, it is suggested to return here and make sure all preparations are done and all materials are in place.

9. Review contingency plans and procedures

If one does not already have a contingency plan in place, one should seriously consider preparing one. It is very important to be prepared for "the worst". If one is prepared and has the proper procedures it is much easier to handle this type of situation. With proper preparation and adequate procedures it is much easier to handle this type of a situation. Consultants can assist in developing procedures and selecting materials. Most likely, your local distributor has good contacts for you.

What happened during the spill has to be reviewed and several question have to be asked:

1. Do we have a plan to handle this kind of a situation?
2. Is this plan complete?
3. Do we have sufficient equipment and materials to handle the situation?
4. What corrective methods have to be taken?

www.AbeJan.com

A B E JANITORIAL
SUPPLY
COMPANY

888-244-2489 • (916) 381-2222