

Spill Prevention

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2008

Spill Prevention by K. Lefebvre

“Spill Response”; *that* old song. You probably hear it daily. Maybe you’ve had the training. If not, get it.

But how does a spill impact you and your job? Frankly, it takes time away from your regular duties. It requires paperwork, use of resources, disposal procedures, reporting and, occasionally, disciplinary action. So how can we prevent having to deal with all that? Prevent the spill from happening.



In reality, spill prevention should be at the forefront of our job duties. Each of us, laborers about the City to the City Manager herself, is empowered to make suggestions on how we can do our jobs better to minimize the potential for a spill to occur. And if one should occur, each of us has

the means and tools to act on a spill. Does it mean you have the knowledge or the personal protective equipment to be a first responder? Not necessarily. But you do have the means to report it and get assistance so someone else can.



Think. You wear your seatbelt in your car. You drive smart, watching out for those unexpected obstacles. You keep your car in good condition. All these are proactive steps to keep you safe.

Preventing a spill is also a proactive measure to avoid pollution and keep our environment safe. Inspect all storage drums regularly, daily if the contents are hazardous, and log those inspections. Ensure secondary containment is ready and sound and of sufficient size to handle a spill should one occur. Use the

proper equipment for the job... do not alter a drum or store incompatible materials in unapproved containers. Keep bungs and nozzles closed when not accessing drums. Watch how items are stacked and stored to minimize their chance of being punctured or toppled. If possible try to keep drums under some type of cover so rainwater does not accumulate or take spilled liquid to a stormdrain or waterway. Cover all floor drains while moving containers and boom storm inlets if moving containers outside. There is more to spill response than just cleaning it up. Take advantage of training any time you can.



If you see something that looks like it could result in a spill or a spill escaping into the environment, do something! You have the power to make a difference. And if you feel your warnings went unheard or you notice a spill, contact the Office of Environmental Quality, OEQ, for assistance at 214-670-1200.

How to Respond by S. Kitchen

What do I do first?

Determine if the spill is hazardous and if it is safe to respond.

Call your supervisor and follow their instructions.

Call 311 if.....

- Citizen's property is affected.
- The flow of traffic on a large street is affected.
- You have any doubts.

Call 911 if....

- A fire could start.
- Hazardous or suspected hazardous material.
- Immediate danger to life or property.

An extremely large spill or hazard to public.

Call OEQ if....

- The spill is larger than 1 gallon.
- You need assistance.

What to Report....

What material has spilled?

- Hydraulic Oil, Motor Oil
- Antifreeze, Gasoline,
- Diesel, Paint Products,
- Unknown Fluids or Materials

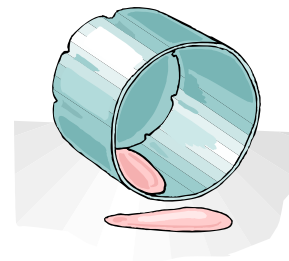
Where is it?

- Street Address (Mapsco page number).
- Involving City Equipment and Equipment Number

On City Property
Into Stormdrain or Waterway (causing sheen)

Who is calling, contact phone number, and department?

When in doubt, call 311 or 911 for assistance.



March Training Schedule

Introduction to RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) (RCRA101, Regulatory)

Date: March 4, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm
Location: LI Conference Room C

Waste Storage and Handling (RCRA202, Regulatory)

Date: March 6, 2008
Time: 3-4 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room C

Right to Know (RTK 101, Regulatory)

Date: March 18, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm
Location: LIFN Auditorium

Sustainability Class on Composting (Stewardship)

Speaker: Nickerson, Arthur [Arthur.L.Nickerson@usdoj.gov]
Date: March 20, 2008
Time: 12.00-1.30 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room B

Please RSVP!!!

For more information about training classes or to RSVP please contact Meghna Tare at (214)-670-1200 or at meghna.tare@dallascityhall.com.

Objective and Target (EMS 203, EMS)

Date: March 25, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room A

Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) (TK102, Regulatory)

Date: March 25, 2008
Time: 3-4 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room A

Used Oil (OIL101, Regulatory)

Date: March 27, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room B

Storm Water Checklist (CWA102, Regulatory)

Date: March 27, 2008
Time: 3-4 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room B

Green Ride and AirCheckTexas Seminar (Air Quality)

Date: March 6, 11, and 13, 2008
Time: 2-3 pm
Location: LIFN Conference Room C

Class descriptions are also located on the OEQ Intranet site.



Quarterly Environmental Award Winners

Individual



Officer Greg Vanhook

Team



DFR Maintenance Core Team

Green Tip!

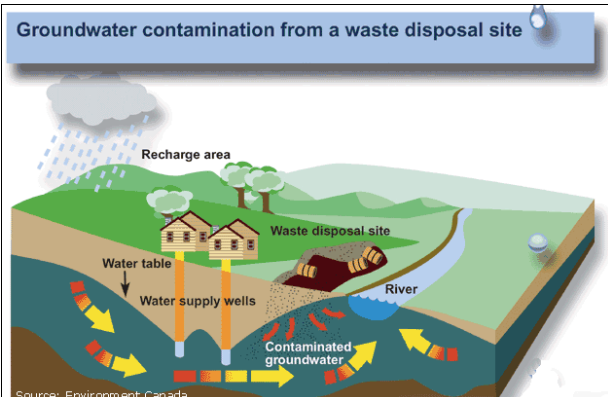
The Southeast garage reuses spill pads when cleaning up spills within the garage. They have a drum containing used pads which were used to clean up a prior spill. These pads are allowed to drain into the drum, then the pads are gone thru to see which ones can be used again and put on top of the stack inside the drum. When there is another spill these pads are once again used to clean up a spill, thereby saving on resources and costs.



Spills at Home by S. Kitchen

It is easy to dispose of spill wastes at work but what about at home?

Oil related wastes should never be put on the ground. Once oil waste enters the soil it becomes an environmental hazard. Oil can seep into our water table and contaminate our water. It can also become runoff and make its way to the nearest creek.



If you have oil waste please take it to your local household hazardous waste collection facility. Dallas residents can take their waste to the Home Chemical Collection Center, located at 11234 Plano Rd. in Dallas, Texas 75243. You can call them at 214-553-1765 to determine acceptable items.



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OEQ NEWS

Earth Day Every Day

OEQ

The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) was formed by the City Council in February 2004 to serve as an internal resource to City of Dallas staff on environmental issues. These issues range from compliance with regulatory requirements to conduct public outreach events and raising awareness related to our environment.

OEQ currently supports the Key Focus Areas of “Staff Accountability” and “Economic Development” in the City of Dallas structure with three services: Environmental Management System, Inspections and Spills, and Outreach and Training.

Follow the Spill

