

TOOLBOX TALK NO.25

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.

Questions:

What are the spill control procedures on areas of the site?

Where is the nearest spill kit located?

Where and to who are spills reported on site?

Always wear the required PPE and clean up spillages according to your COSHH and Safety Data Sheet.

