

Basis of Design

The purpose of this section is to provide the guidelines for the development of specifications for spill planning and prevention.

Overview

Failure to adequately prevent, prepare for, or respond to a spill or discharge may result in serious injuries, environmental damage and long-term liability to the University of Washington. Spills can also cause costly cleanups and project delays and be subject to fines. The University retains a spill response contractor to contain and clean up larger spills and spills to water. EH&S is also responsible for all spill reporting on behalf of the University.

Spill planning and prevention

Develop spill prevention and containment plans when engaged in projects that represent a high potential for spills or releases of pollutants. Have materials available to control and contain a spill. Examples of high-risk activities include:

- Fueling
- Vehicle, equipment or building cleaning
- Outside storage of non-containerized materials
- Outside storage of liquids in portable containers
- Any near-water or overwater work

Emergency notification

If a spill presents an immediate physical or health risk, immediately call 911 to alert the local fire department. If it will cause environmental contamination (release of petroleum or other hazardous substances to the ground, air or water bodies,) immediately call 206.543.0467 to alert the EH&S Environmental Programs Office (EPO). EPO can assist with obtaining cleanup response.

Regulatory notification

If you have a spill or release to air, water or soil, call EPO at 206.543.0467 immediately. EPO notifies regulatory agencies as needed depending on the type and quantity of a released material. Some types of notification must occur immediately.

Spill containment and cleanup

The source of an incidental spill or discharge should be controlled if safe and feasible by individuals knowledgeable of the hazards, using appropriate protective gear and cleanup supplies (e.g. closing an open valve, diking, absorbing, blocking a storm drain.) Immediate containment and cleanup of discharges to storm drains, sanitary sewer, soil, air, and water is required.

If assistance is needed, call EPO at 206.543.0467 to request help from the hazardous materials cleanup contractor. The cost of cleanup is billed to the project or party responsible for the spill.