# SPILLS ON LOGGING OPERATIONS



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### WHAT IS A SPILL?

A spill is a hazardous substance that is discharged into the environment (including air, land, and water).



### AM I RESPONSIBLE WHEN A SPILL OCCURS?

See Statute s.292.11(3) on page 6.

- Reporting requirements for petroleum-related products vary from one to five gallons depending on the specific product that was spilled. This applies to any permeable surface.
- Whoever causes the spill to occur is responsible for that spill as well as anyone who possesses or controls a hazardous substance. (Example: Joe works for Company X. Joe causes a spill of a hazardous substance that is owned by Company X. Both Joe and Company X are responsible for the spill.) This is a requirement in Statute s.292.11(3).
- Once the spill has occurred the responsible party/ parties must restore the environment regardless of the spill amount.
- To save time and money, contain and clean up a spill immediately.
- Disposal of any contaminated soil must be by a DNRapproved method.

#### NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- See Statute s.292.11(2) on page 6.
- If your spill meets the criteria for notification, immediately notify the DNR and/or the federal government. Call the 24-hour toll-free reporting hotline at 1-800-943-0003.
- Reporting protects you because accurate documented information will protect you from future false accusations.
- If you have contained and cleaned up the spill, you should still report it. If the DNR receives any calls on that particular spill, they will have it documented and can easily resolve any problems that might arise.

#### CLEANUP REQUIREMENTS

 Contact the appropriate DNR Regional Spill Coordinator for your specific situation.

#### HOW DO I GET INTO TROUBLE?

- See Statute s.292.11(7) on page 6.
- An accidental spill is not illegal; failure to report it IS!
- & If someone else finds and reports the spill and the

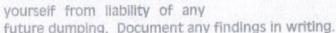


substance cannot be readily identified, the worst case substance will be assumed. That will make the cleanup more time consuming and expensive.

- If you are identified as the spiller, you may be subject to a fine and are responsible for all cleanup and disposal costs which could be thousands of dollars.
- Failure to clean up a spill may cause the DNR to hire a private contractor to do the job. You will be billed for cleanup costs which will most certainly be more expensive in the long run.
- Never intentionally dump any hazardous materials such as oil from an oil change.

#### I DIDN'T DO IT!!

- Desolate roads invite people to dump garbage, appliances, and hazardous
  - appliances, and hazardous wastes. If you see any of these activities, report them to the landowner or local authorities immediately.
- When you complete a logging job, walk through the area with the landowner to protect yourself from liability of any





Keeping the following items on your site can save you time, effort, and expense in the long run:

- Clamps and plugs that fit your various hoses
- o Oil dry
- Drums, barrels, or buckets (depending on potential size of spill)
- Tarp(s)
- Shovel(s)

#### IT HAPPENS-WHAT DO I DO NOW??

#### STOP IT FROM GETTING BIGGER BY:

- · Clamping the hose.
- Plugging the leak.
- Placing a bucket under the leak.

#### STOP THE SPREAD BY:

- . Building a dike around the spill area.
- Using absorbent materials (works especially well on a hard or frozen surface).

#### ISOLATE THE CONTAMINATED SOIL BY:

- Digging up the contaminated soil.
- Placing it in a container or on a tarp.

#### PROTECT THE CONTAMINATED AREA BY:

- · Covering the area with a tarp.
- Diverting runoff from that area.
- Calling for help if the spill is too big to handle with existing equipment and manpower.

#### PROPER DISPOSAL METHODS

#### DISPOSE OF PROPERLY

 When transporting, keep the hazardous substance covered so you don't lose any of it en route.



- Bring it to a licensed landfill. A copy of the receipt from the landfill is required by the DNR and is a good idea to keep for self-protection.
- Bring it to an asphalt plant if it is petroleum contaminated soil.
- . Call the DNR for other options.

#### PREVENTION IS THE KEY!

#### STOP IT BEFORE IT HAPPENS BY:

- · Inspecting lines and hoses regularly.
- Using safety containers to transport and store fuel and other hazardous materials.

#### **FACE THE PROBLEM**

DON'T THINK THAT IT IS CHEAPER TO RUN THAN TO PAY FOR CLEANUP.

- if immediate action is taken, expense is usually minimal.
- Many times your insurance may cover this type of situation.
- If you try to walk away and you get caught, IT IS NEVER CHEAPER!

#### LET THE DNR HELP

• DNR employees in the solid waste department don't have quotas, write tickets, or give out fines. They are simply trying to protect the environment. They have dealt with these situations in the past and can give you information and advice that will make containment and cleanup easier and faster.

#### WISCONSIN'S SPILL LAW

#### 2.1 SPILLER'S RESPONSIBILITY

s.292.11(3) Wis. Stats.: A person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance shall take the actions necessary to restore the environment to the extent practicable and minimize the harmful effects from the discharge to the air, lands, or waters of this state.

#### 2.2 YOUR NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

s.292.11(2)(a) Wis. Stats.: A person who possesses or controls a hazardous substance or who causes the discharge of a hazardous substance, shall notify the Department immediately of any discharge.

#### 2.3 WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T TAKE ACTION

s.292.11(7)(s) Wis. Stats.: (a) In any case where action required under s.292.11(3) Stats. is not being adequately taken or the identity of the person responsible for the discharge is unknown, the Department or its authorized representative may identify, locate, monitor, contain, remove, or dispose of the hazardous substance or take any other emergency action it deems appropriate under the circumstances.



#### DNR REGIONAL SPILL COORDINATORS

Northeast Region: Green E Southeast Region: Milwau

Green Bay ~ 920-492-5592 Milwaukee ~ 414-263-8685

West Central Region: Northern Region: Eau Claire ~ 715-839-3775 Superior ~ 715-392-0802

Rhinelander ~ 715-365-8963

South Central Region:

Fitchburg ~ 608-275-3332

## 24-Hour Emergency Number: 1-800-943-0003



# IMPORTANT NOTE:

All spills of hazardous substances that adversely impact or threaten to adversely impact public health, welfare, or the environment must be (1) immediately reported to the DNR and (2) cleaned up. In some instances, small quantities of petroleum products and agrichemicals do not require reporting to the DNR. Reporting a spill is not necessary for a gasoline spill under one gallon, or for a diesel or hydraulic fluid spill under five gallons, as long as there is no threat to the environment. However, the spill still needs to be cleaned up.