

CHEMICAL RELEASES

CERCLA requires that all releases of hazardous substances (including radionuclides) exceeding reportable quantities be reported by the responsible party to the NRC. EPCRA requires that all extremely hazardous substances exceeding reportable quantities be reported to the NRC as well as to the SERC and the LEPC.

COUNTER-TERRORISM PLANNING AND RESPONSE

The National Response System is the federal mechanism for preparing for and responding to a release or threat of a release of oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants into the environment, that may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare (regardless of cause). As a result, this system has key assets, interests, responsibilities, and capabilities that support other federal agencies, states, and local responders to mitigate the danger to public health/welfare from terrorism.

***For additional information
contact the Region 6
Environmental Protection
Agency Response and
Prevention Branch at
(214) 665-2270***



**United States
Environmental
Protection Agency**

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**NATIONAL
RESPONSE
SYSTEM
NOTIFICATION
PROCESS**

NRC

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER

The National Response Center (NRC) is the federal government's national communications center. Its primary function is to serve as the sole national point of contact for reporting all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the United States and its territories. In addition to gathering and distributing spill data for Federal On-Scene Coordinators and serving as the communications and operations center, the NRC maintains agreements with a variety of federal entities to make additional notifications regarding incidents meeting established trigger criteria.

The NRC is staffed by Coast Guard personnel who maintain a 24 hour per day, 365 day per year telephone watch.

Once contacted, the NRC Duty Officer will guide the caller through a detailed series of questions based on the Standard Report Form to gather as much information as possible concerning the spill or release. Each report will be immediately relayed to the predesignated Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC).

The NRC also provides emergency response support to the FOSCs. The NRC has the ability to quickly place the FOSC in direct contact with expert technical support centers (ATSDR, CDC, CHEMTREC) and poison control centers if needed.

When any of the following incidents occur, the NRC should immediately be contacted by the responsible party via the toll free number. If you see or discover an oil spill or release of chemicals and are not the responsible party, you should contact the NRC with whatever information you have.

OIL SPILLS NOTIFICATION

The Clean Water Act and OPA 90 require that the responsible party notify the NRC upon learning of an oil spill or discharge from a vessel or facility operating:

- In or along U.S. navigable waters;
- On the Outer Continental Shelf; or
- In a deepwater port.

GAS PIPELINE RELEASES

Releases of any toxic, corrosive, or flammable gas; liquefied natural gas (LNG); or gas from an LNG facility must be reported to the NRC by the responsible party when:

- A death or injury involving patient hospitalization occurs;
- More than \$50,000 damage occurs (including cost of lost gas); or
- The release results in the emergency shutdown of an LNG facility.

Further details can be found in CFR 191.5



LIQUID PIPELINE RELEASES

The responsible party must call the NRC when a pipeline system failure releases a hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide that causes any of the following:

- An explosion or fire;
- An escape to the atmosphere of more than 5 barrels a day;
- A death or injury requiring hospitalization;
- Property damage (including cost of cleanup and recovery and value of lost product) exceeding \$50,000;
- Loss of 50 or more barrels of hazardous substance; or
- Pollution of any navigable body of water

Further details can be found in 49 CFR 195.52

TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS

Transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, including radioactive substances, must be reported to the NRC immediately by the carrier when one of the following occurs:

- A person is killed;
- A person receives injuries requiring hospitalization;
- Property damage exceeds \$50,000;
- Fire, breakage, spillage, or suspected contamination occurs involving an etiologic agent or radioactive material;
- An evacuation of the general public lasting one hour or more;
- A shut down of a major transportation artery or facility for one hour or more;
- A release of a marine pollutant in a quantity exceeding 119 gallons for liquids or 882 pounds for solids; or
- The operational flight pattern or routine of an aircraft is altered.

Further details can be found in 49 CFR 171.15 and 171.16