

# PART 3. RESPONSE



## SPILL PREPARATION

You know that despite the best prevention you may run into difficulties and an accident may occur when you least expect it. To minimize contamination, hazards to people, and environmental damage you must REACT immediately. To help you prepare, this section will tell you:

- how to PLAN and be ready to respond to a problem;
- how to REACT to a minor, intermediate or major spill;
- what to do after a spill occurs.



---

Every base should have a Spill Control Plan which tells you how to REACT to spills. As part of your plan, you should conduct drills on a periodic basis to prepare for a spill. You need to train so that you can respond to:

**MINOR SPILLS**

(25 gallons or less)

**INTERMEDIATE SPILLS**

(from 26 to 55 gallons)

**MAJOR SPILLS**

(more than 55 gallons OR any spill into water, where injuries occurred or where spills occurred off U.S. controlled property.)

This handbook can serve as a reminder for you in these situations, but it is not a substitute for training!

**ATTENTION:** Commanders may change these criteria for your station.



**Planning for:**

**MINOR SPILLS**

- When on the move, keep some plastic bags in your vehicle and have your assigned On-Vehicle Equipment (OVE) ready for use.
- Maintain supplies, rags, absorbent pads, or other kinds of materials that will soak up spills on hard surfaces (like dry sweep) or know where you can easily get them, that will help.
- Keep Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) accessible (gloves, goggles, etc.).

**INTERMEDIATE & MAJOR SPILLS**

In addition to the procedures above:

- Know where to go for help.
- Know where spill kits are kept and learn how to use them (see following section).

**SPILL KITS**



Spill Kits should be maintained in and around all locations where HM/HW are stored, handled or disposed of. Various types of kits can be ordered through the Army Supply System (see [Appendix B](#)) and should include: rubber gloves, safety goggles, putty, rubber mallet, wooden plugs, absorbent booms, absorbent pads, plastic bags, and in some cases a disposal barrel.

## THE SPILL DRILL

The hazards faced in a spill, minor to major, could be significant and ruin your whole day. You should

have already been trained to always:

1. Protect yourself by using your PPE including: gloves, goggles and suits; and extinguish all cigarettes--SAFETY FIRST!
2. Do the Spill Drill -- REACT! A helpful reminder of what you should do is:

**R**EMOVE THE SOURCE

**E**NVELOP THE SPILL

**A**BSORB/ACCUMULATE

**C**ONTAINERIZE THE HW

**T**RANSMIT A REPORT



## **REACTING TO A MINOR SPILL**

After you have protected yourself from exposure:

## **R**EMOVE THE SOURCE

- If it is dripping: stop the drip with a wooden plug or putty.
- If it is from a leaky connection: tighten the connection or replace the broken parts.

## **E**NVELOP THE SPILL

- If it is flowing, put an absorbent sock or pad down to catch the flow.
- Use your shovel to build a small dam or berm.

## **A**BSORB/ACCUMULATE

- On a hard surface put down dry sweep.
- On a gravel or mud surface, lay an absorbent sock or pad on the spill.

## **C**ONTAINERIZE IT

- Place used absorbent material in a plastic bag or container.
- Use your OVE shovel or entrenching tool to dig up the contaminated soil and place it in a container or plastic bag. Be sure to bring the container or bag to a proper HW collection point.

## **T**RANSMIT A REPORT

- Tell your boss or supervisor what you spilled and what you did about it.

**By REACTing quickly, you eliminate hazards that could cause injury. You also give the spill less of a chance to seep into the ground, which makes cleanup easier and helps protect water resources.**

# **REACTING TO AN INTERMEDIATE SPILL**

## REMOVE THE SOURCE

- Attempt to stop the flow from the container.
- Place the leaking container into another container or try to catch the leak with another container
- Secure the area.

## ENVELOP THE SPILL

- Break out the nearest spill response kit.
- Put the booms at the bottom of the flow or
- Dig a dike/berm to stop the flow into streams.

