

Spill Reporting in Iowa

The When and How of Spill Reporting



Federal Reporting

Spill reporting is covered under several regulations. Those fall into three basic areas:

- Clean Air Act – most air releases
- Clean Water Act – most water releases
- CERCLA – everything not covered above
- * Emergency Planning Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) – Section 304



Iowa Is Unique

Spill reporting in Iowa revolves around:

- Code of Iowa 455B.381-399
- IAC Chapter 131
 - Implements Iowa's Spill Reporting Requirements
 - Covers EPCRA 304 Reporting

Iowa Does not have Reportable Quantities



Reportable Quantities (RQ)

RQs are the threshold at which a responsible party is required to report a spill or release to the proper authority.

Examples of Federal RQs

- Anhydrous Ammonia – 100 lbs
- 2,4 D - 100 lbs.
- Mercury – 1 lbs.
- Acetone – 5,000 lbs.



Soil verses Water

Most Spills that impact a water or can reach a water will be reported to the DNR and NRC.

Oils and Chemicals

Oils follow EPA Sheen Law – “Cause a film or "sheen" upon, or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines”

Chemicals (non-oils) – Federal Reportable Quantity.



What is Oil

Oil – “Generally, oils fall into the following categories: crude oil and refined petroleum products, oils of animal or vegetable origin, and other nonpetroleum oils.” – basically anything that doesn’t mix with water.

**One Gallon of Oil Can
Contaminate One Million
Gallons of Drinking Water.**



Soil verses Water (cont)

Most Spills that impact a soil (solid surface) may need to be reported to the DNR and NRC.

- DNR – if it creates a Hazardous Condition
- NRC – if it exceeds a Federal Reportable Quantity (RQ)



Water

So what is a water?

- Lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams
- Storm sewers, ditches – storm water control structures containing water
- Groundwater



So What is Reportable?

Guideline for Reporting

- DNR Spill Reporting Guide
- www.iowadnr.com/spills/



So When should they Report?



When Should They Report?

- ✓ **Will it or Can it Leave the Property.**
- ✓ **Will it or Can it Reach Surface Water or Ground Water.**
- ✓ **Is there or Could there be a Threat to Public Health & Safety or the Environment.**
- ✓ **Does the Public have Access to the spill.**



When Should they Report (cont)

- ✓ **Can it be Detected at the Property Boundary.**
- ✓ **Local Officials Respond to the Incident.**
- ✓ **The Release Exceeds a Federal Reportable Quantity.**

*If In Doubt,
Report It!*



How do they Report?

To the DNR:

- Via Phone 24/7 – 515-281-8694

To the EPA:

- Via the National Response Center (NRC)
 - Phone 800-424-8802
 - On-line Reporting at www.nrc.uscg.mil
- EPA Directly
 - Phone 913-281-0991



What do we want to Know?

- The exact location of the hazardous condition.
- The time and date of spill or discovery
- The name of the material and the volume
- The medium (land, water, or air) in which they spilled it.
- First Responders on-scene



What do we want to know?

- The name, address, and telephone number of the party responsible for the hazardous condition.
- The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person reporting the hazardous condition.
- What happened, visible effects, and what are they doing about it.
- Other information – deaths/injuries, evacuations, etc.



How Soon?

- Iowa DNR within 6 hrs
- EPA/National Response Center (asap)

Our rule of thumb is:

*Stop the spill from
becoming worse
(if possible) then report.*



Questions

Department of Natural Resources
Emergency Response Unit
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-8694

Adam Broughton 515-725-0386

Rodney Tucker 515-725-0387

www.iowadnr.gov/spills/

