



Substance Spillage - TOOLBOX TALK

Prepare:

Why?: Construction projects and sites are often criticised for the damage they cause to the surrounding environment.

Reason: Spillages on sites if not contained can and do statistically account for the greatest harm to the environment.

Outline: This talk will cover: Spillage Types and responses:

Major:

Spill that cannot be controlled; danger of pollution entering or has entered a drain or watercourse.

Action:

Report to foreman site supervisor immediately, they should then report the incident to the Environment Agency and complete an Environmental Incident report. If appropriate

Minor:

Can be controlled, spill has not entered, or can be prevented from entering a drain or watercourse.

Action:

Spillage should be contained and cleaned up immediately using the appropriate materials e.g. spill kits etc.

Stop - Contain - Notify

On discovering a spillage you should: (TBT presenter to discuss likely contaminants on site and make TBT participants aware of any Chemical and Flammable hazards that may be encountered on site, location of on site COSHH documents etc.)

Stop: You should not put your self at risk if you do not know the nature of the spill. Do not panic. Where practical, call for assistance.

Respond immediately to prevent any more material spilling e.g.

- right an oil drum,
- close a valve.
- Eliminate any sources of ignition, e.g. switch off engines, and extinguish all sources of ignition.

Ensure you are protected by PPE. Only if it is safe to do so!

Contain: You should use spill kits, bunds of earth, sand, drip trays etc immediately. Check that the spillage has not reached any nearby drains / manholes, watercourses, ponds or other sensitive areas.

Notify: TBT presenter to give Name and contact information I.e. foreman, supervisor and other immediate information required:

Environment incident hotline

Telephone (24 hour service) 0800 80 70 60

Location / Status

- Whether the spillage is or has entered the drain/watercourse or is affecting the environment.
- Material / substance involved, if known
- Reason for the incident I.e. Road Traffic Accident, pipe failure, plant collision etc;
- Quantity involved

Q When containing a spill what PPE should be used?

Q What are the 3 things you should do if a spill occurs?

