

Your Role in Spill Response: What to Do if You Have a Spill

You are responsible for the *immediate* cleanup of your spill, regardless of the quantity involved. The responsibility lies with the person who spills the product, as well as the person owning or having authority over the oil or hazardous material.

Reportable spills include:

- any amount of oil to waters of the state;
- oil spills on land in excess of 42 gallons;
- hazardous materials that are equal to, or greater than, the quantity listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 302 (List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities), and amendments adopted before July 1, 2002.

Immediately report the spill or threatened spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) phone number is **1-800-452-0311**.

When you report the spill to OERS you will need to provide basic spill information:

- type of oil or hazardous material
- quantity
- location of spill (land or water)
- names and phone numbers

Some oil or hazardous material spills will require a separate notification to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. The Web site at www.epa.gov/oilspill/oilregs.htm will provide you with information necessary to determine if you need to report to the federal system.

Actions to Take

- Move away or upwind from the spill if you detect an odor and are unsure if it's safe.
- Avoid contact with liquids or fumes.
- Keep non-emergency people out of the area.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Control and contain the spill.
- Clean up what you can immediately.
- Contact DEQ to confirm the appropriate disposal site for contaminated materials.
- Remove the cleanup materials to a facility (such as a solid or hazardous waste landfill or recycling facility.) Save your receipts. You may need them for documentation.
- Continue with long-term cleanup.

- You will then be asked to file a report to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The form is available at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/documents/SpillReportform.pdf>



Truck crash on Highway 20 at Bowers Slough. Contractors work to control and contain the spill of diesel.

DEQ's Role

DEQ is responsible for ensuring that the cleanup is done in a way that protects human health and the environment. Oregon law also requires DEQ to recover its costs in carrying out this responsibility.

Depending on the type and quantity of material spilled, and the potential threat to people or the environment, DEQ may choose to oversee the cleanup. This oversight may take the form of DEQ staff at the scene, phone contact, document review or a combination of these. You are responsible for these oversight costs, including staff salaries, supplies, and equipment used. You will normally be billed for DEQ costs within 45 days. However, additional charges, such as lodging and transportation, may arrive later.

If you fail to clean up your spill, DEQ may clean it up for you and is allowed by law to fine you up to three times the cost of the cleanup, in addition to the actual cost of the cleanup.

To Find Out More

The Emergency Response coordinators assigned to each of DEQ's regional offices are listed in the margin. You can also find out more about DEQ's Emergency Response program by visiting our web site at:

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/



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