

**SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL AND COUNTERMEASURES (SPCC) &
STORM WATER BMPs
SPILL/RELEASE PREPARATION & RESPONSE**

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

Scope

This SOP applies to those UNL locations where oils are stored in containers or tanks that are 55 gallons or greater in size and which are subject to the terms of one of UNL's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plans or to storm water best management practices (BMPs).

It is intended to provide those employees who have responsibilities related to oil storage (herein referred to as operations personnel) with guidance on minimizing the potential for oil spills and releases through effective planning, preparation, and response procedures.

Planning and Preparation

Spill kits have been established at campus oil storage locations subject to SPCC regulations or identified as having a real potential for a release reaching a water of the state. The amount of spill materials kept at each location depends on the volume of oils stored there. Spill kit materials will assist in creating berms around and absorbing spilled oils. The absorbents are of two types: diatomaceous earth (Oil Sorb) and polypropylene. Oil Sorb is supplied in 25-pound paper bags. Polypropylene is supplied as socks, pillows, and pads. The use and limitations of each is described below.

Absorbent Type	Use	Limitations(s)
Oil Sorb	Spread on the leading edge of an oil spill and work back to the source.	Can absorb its weight in oil. Will absorb both water and oil. Does not float on water.
Polypropylene	Spread on the leading edge of an oil spill and work back to the source.	Can absorb 25 times its weight in oil. Will only absorb oil. Will float on water even if oil saturated.

Blocking/diking materials are also of two types: sand bags and elastomer mats and berms. The use and limitation of each is described below.

Diking Material	Use	Limitation(s)
Sand Bags	Place in path of flow and butt the ends of	Getting a good seal between adjacent bags and the ground can

	the bags tightly to each other to form a barrier.	be difficult. Use absorbent to catch leakage. Each bag weighs about 70 pounds and thus is difficult for some to move.
Elastomer Mats	Place over storm or sanitary drains to seal them.	May not completely cover some larger drains. May not form a perfect seal on rough surfaces or along curbs.
Elastomer Berms	Place in the path of flow to form a barrier or lay around drain openings to form a barrier.	May not completely encircle some larger drains. May not form a perfect seal on rough surfaces or along curbs.

Response Procedures

Under UNL's SPCC Plans and storm water BMPs, two scenarios are planned for oil spills. The first is for non-emergency spills called "Incidental Oil Spills" and the second is for "Emergency Oil Spills."

Incidental Oil Spill

An incidental spill is a manageable spill that poses low risk to safety and health and is not likely to adversely impact the environment. Incidental oil spill response procedures are as follows:

- Eliminate the source of the spill by up righting drums or other containers, closing valves, or other similar actions.
- Prevent the oil from leaving the building, spreading to adjacent areas, or entering drains by absorbing flowing oil, diking the area, and/or using drain plugs/barriers.
- Spread absorbents over the surface of the spill working from the perimeter of the spill to its center. Socks and pillows work best on pooled liquid while pads have an advantage on thin layers of oil.
- Call EHS at (402) 472-4925 during normal business hours or by dialing the Campus Operator at "0" after hours if assistance in spill control and clean up is necessary.
- Containerize spill residues (i.e. contaminated socks, pads, Oil Sorb, etc.) and tag for collection by EHS.

Emergency Oil Spills

The Incidental Oil Spill procedures must be modified for a spill that is an emergency. An emergency situation exists when:

- The quantity of spilled oil is 25 gallons or larger, or
- The spill has entered a sanitary or storm drain, or
- The spill has entered a ground or surface water, or
- The spill can not be contained or stopped, or
- The spill poses a fire/explosion hazard, or
- Additional spill equipment is needed and is not immediately available.

In the case of an emergency spill, the person discovering it should summon emergency responders by dialing '911' and remain in the vicinity but at a safe distance until released by emergency responders. If it is safe to do so:

- Take action to stop the spill if it is continuing (i.e. shutting off valves, up righting containers, etc.),
- Take action to prevent the spill from entering sewers or streams and to minimize the area affected. Such actions might consist of absorbing flowing oil or diking the area with sand bags, elastomer mats, or elastomer berms, etc.