SAFETY MEETING TOPIC:

Spill Prevention and Response Procedures

Background

Reducing the likelihood of spills, responding to spills in a timely fashion, and training employees in response procedures all lead to a clean, safe work environment. The incorporation of DOT&PF BMP 42.00 (Vehicle/Equipment Storage, Maintenance and Fueling) has information that will assist in the decreasing likelihood of hazardous substance spill on-site. Some hazardous substances found on construction sites are: soil stabilizers, palliatives, herbicides, growth inhibitors, fertilizers, fuels, lubricants, and other petroleum distillates. The goal of this Safety Meeting topic is to cover spill prevention and response.

Approach 1: Spill Prevention Discussion

This covers general spill prevention procedures. This would be most useful at the beginning of a job, when there has been turn-over, or when a new sub-contractor has started work. It can also be used as an occasional reminder throughout the life of the job. You can read from the following example script, or modify it as appropriate.

Example script:

There are a number of hazardous and toxic substances on our constructions site. In order to protect yourself, your coworkers and the environment, please follow some of these basic procedures to prevent spills on the jobsite and to limit your exposure to harmful chemicals:

- Ensure materials are stored and transported in a secure container
- Make sure storage areas are marked with the correct signage
- Store hazardous materials and all refueling items are in a secondary containment area with a cover, in addition as far as practicable from waterbody(s) and/or storm drain(s). [Describe where secondary containment areas are located]
- All secondary containment should be covered when not in use
- Use proper equipment for handling and transporting materials, including personal protection equipment (PPE), dollies/hand trucks, etc. Check containers for leaks prior to transporting
- Regularly inspect your equipment for leaks. Conduct any necessary maintenance in the designated areas [describe where these are located on site]
- Drip pans or absorbent pads should be placed under leaking equipment until maintenance/repair can be conducted
- Never leave a vehicle or piece of equipment unattended while fueling

No matter how careful you are, spills can happen to anyone. In order to prepare, I encourage you all to review the Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the chemicals you work with so you understand the hazard each one presents plus provides vital information that will help with spill response. After a spill occurs, do your best to contain and clean up the spill and then report it immediately.

Approach 2: Spill Response Discussion

This covers general spill response procedures. This would be most useful at the beginning of a job, when there has been turn-over, or when a new sub-contractor has started work. It can also be used as an occasional reminder throughout the life of the job. You can read from the following example script, or modify it as appropriate.

Example Script:

When a spill of a hazardous or toxic substance happens, it is important to respond immediately, but safely using the supplies and equipment you have on hand. Here are the steps to take in the event of a spill:

1. Evaluate the situation and identify the hazards. If you can safely respond to the situation, do so. If the situation is too hazardous (look for fire/explosion hazards and avoid fumes), move to a safe location and call the Project Engineer and Superintendent
2. Protect yourself with appropriate personal protective equipment
3. If you can, stop the source of the discharge. This may require plugging a leaking container, or capturing the leak in a secure container
4. Contain the spilled product. Larger spills may require construction of a dike or berm for containment, the use of spill socks, or plugging/protecting storm drains, sewers, and waterbodies
5. Clean-up the spilled product as soon as possible. Smaller spills may simply be contained with the use of absorbent material, granular material, pads, and other materials in the project spill kits or vehicle spill kits (if available). Spill kits are located [provide staff with location(s)]
6. Place all used spill cleanup materials in a contained and covered container
7. Report the spill to the Project Engineer and SWPPP manager. Be sure to give details, such as the approximate amount of gallons spilled, the time of the discharge, the cause of the discharge, and the substance spilled, so they can record the spill in Form 25D-137 and properly report the spill to DEC, if necessary

Use good judgment. Do not attempt spill response or clean-up if:

- You don’t know what the material spilled
- You don’t have the necessary training, protection, or the right equipment to respond.
- The spill is too large
- The spill is hazardous
- You feel symptoms of exposure, such as dizziness, headache, or nausea

Approach 3: Spill Reporting Discussion

This covers general spill reporting procedures to increase awareness about reporting requirements and aid in compliance. This would be most useful at the beginning of a job, when

there has been turn-over, or when a new sub-contractor has started work. It can also be used as an occasional reminder throughout the life of the job. You can read from the following example script, or modify it as appropriate.

Example Script:

We are obligated to notify the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as soon as we are aware of:

- The release of any amount of hazardous substance
- The release of any amount of oil products to water
- The release of 55 gallons or more of oil or petroleum products to land

For this reason, we ask that if such a spill happens, you immediately notify the Project Engineer and Superintendent. They are responsible for reporting to DEC and recording the spill in the project SWPPP. In order to aid in reporting, please take note of the following information:

- Exact location of the spill
- Date/time of spill and date/time the spill was discovered
- Material/product that spilled and the quantity spilled
- Source and cause of the spill
- What surface did the spill occur on such as gravel, asphalt, vegetation, and/or waterbody
- Any resources that are affected or threatened by the spill including water sources, wildlife, wells, etc.

It is always good to take photos, of the spill if you're able and provide these for documentation purposes. Refer to the DEC Flyer for more information.

IT'S THE LAW!

AS 46.03.755 and 18 AAC 75.300

REPORT OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

During Normal Business Hours

call the nearest response team office:

Central Alaska: Anchorage	**(907) 269-3063** Fax: (907) 269-7648
Northern Alaska: Fairbanks	**(907) 451-2121** Fax: (907) 451-2362
Southeast Alaska: Juneau	**(907) 465-5340** Fax: (907) 465-5245
Alaska Pipeline: Fairbanks	**(907) 451-2121** Fax: (907) 451-2362

Outside Normal Business Hours

Toll Free	**1-800-478-9300**
International	**1-907-269-0667**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/spillreport.htm

Hazardous Substance

Any hazardous substance spill, other than oil, must be reported immediately.

Oil – Petroleum Products

To Water

- Any amount spilled to water must be reported immediately.

To Land

- Spills in ***excess of 55 gallons*** must be reported immediately.
- Spills in ***excess of 10 gallons, but 55 gallons or less,*** must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the spill.
- Spills of ***1 to 10 gallons*** must be recorded in a spill reporting log submitted to ADEC each month.

To Impermeable Secondary Containment Areas

- Any spills in ***excess of 55 gallons*** must be reported within 48 hours.

Additional Requirements for Regulated Underground Storage Tank Facilities

Regulated Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities are defined at 18 AAC 78.005 and do not include heating oil tanks.

If your release detection system indicates a possible discharge, or if you notice unusual operating conditions that might indicate a release, you must notify the ADEC UST Program within 7 days.

UST Program: (907) 269-3055 or 269-7679

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