

Oil Spill Contingency Guidelines – River and Catchment Services Operations

Final

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1 Introduction

Environment Waikato's River and Catchment Services Group undertakes activities on its own behalf and has contractors undertake activities that regularly require machinery to be working in and around waterways. The following document is a Contingency Spill Guideline outlining the activities required to prevent, contain and mitigate the effects of hydrocarbon material in the event of an oil spill.

2 Hydrocarbon spills

Most oil spills associated with construction activities occur during the refuelling of machinery and accidental ruptures of hydraulic hoses during machinery operation.

The most common substances spilt are diesel and hydraulic fluid resulting from:

- spillages during refuelling,
- leaking fuel tank or hoses/lines,
- rupture of high pressure hoses,
- operator error,
- discarded empty containers (eg grease cartridges).

In general any efforts to contain hydrocarbon spills will closely follow the Environment Waikato Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan protocol for spill response which includes but is not limited to the following options:

- prevent further spillage,
- contain the spill on site,
- recover spilled material,
- divert spill away from sensitive areas,
- disperse spill (if appropriate),
- clean up affected areas,
- monitor spill but take no action (non persistent spills that are not threatening)

3 Spill management procedures

The River and Catchment Services Group considers that the management of hydrocarbon spillages is best dealt with by a two stage approach.

- Prevention
- Operational management.

3.1 Prevention

To reduce the chance of a spill occurring the River and Catchment Services Works Supervisor will ensure that any causes for concern are addressed through clauses in contracts. Contractors will also be required to meet the following best management practices:

- Always use a designated refuelling area. If possible it should be situated away from water bodies so that if accidental spillage does occur it is unlikely to enter a waterway.
- Never refuel machinery in a position where fluid spills could enter a water course.
- Do not leave the machine unattended when refuelling.
- Regularly check fuel lines and tanks for faults.
- In the event of a high pressure hose rupture immediately cease operations and contain any spill. Appendix one of this report details the procedure to follow in the event of a spill.

- If possible fuel should be brought to the site as needed rather than stored there overnight or over the longer term.
- If fuel is to be stored on-site overnight it should be located in a location secure from the public (e.g. out of view from public roads) and well away from any watercourses so that if an accidental spill occurs it is unlikely to enter a waterway. All taps/valves/pumps should be turned off, locked and checked before leaving the site.
- If it is not possible to designate fuel storage or refuelling areas away from waterways then a bund should be constructed around the designated area as illustrated in photo 1, to contain any spillages and prevent them from entering a waterway.



Photo 1 Designated refuelling area contained by an earth bund and lined with impermeable plastic.

3.2 Operational management

During the course of letting contracts to carry out river and vegetation management and erosion protection works, Environment Waikato River and Catchment Services Group may require contractors to submit a site safety plan, including a site specific spill contingency plan. Spill Contingency plans submitted by contractors shall be consistent with these guidelines.

Contractors undertaking works in areas that are remote or difficult to access and/or do not have cell phone or R/T coverage are required to have their own emergency spill kits located on site. Those contractors that are not required to hold a portable spill kit should know where they can obtain one and ensure that it is readily accessible in an emergency.

3.3 Equipment

All Environment Waikato Works Supervisors have access to portable spill kits. Portable spill kits generally contain:

- oil absorbing material, such as pillows or pads (of varying designs and absorptive capacity);
- absorbent booms (of various sizes);
- products that break up the hydrocarbon material, for example, oil dispersants;

- 'Plug and Dike' material. This is a useful non-toxic material that can be used to form an immediate seal over holes in tanks to control flammable and/or hazardous leaks and spills.

4 Spill notification

If in the event of a Hydrocarbon spill where there are risks to, or impacts on, people, property, wild life and water fowl, or risk that the spill may enter a marine area, then other agencies/parties may need to be contacted. This will vary from site to site, but may include agencies such as:

- Emergency Services (Fire Service)
- Environment Waikato RCS management
- Environment Waikato Resource Use Group – Ready Response (0800 088 401)
- Department of Conservation
- Fish and Game
- District Council
- Affected landowners.

5 Spill clean-up

In the event of a spillage, contractors and works staff shall follow the spill procedure in Appendix one. All materials used to contain and/or soak up a spill shall be disposed of appropriately in a public landfill. Replacement spill kits can be obtained from Process Lubricants Limited, Auckland.

Appendix 1 Spill procedure & clean up

In the event of a hydrocarbon spill the following procedure shall be used as a guideline for spill control:

If there is a significant risk to you, the public or to property dial 111

Assess the spill for safety.
Can you safely contain and clean up the spill without external help?



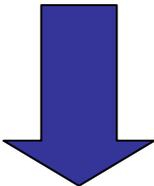
Turn off valves, pumps or source associated with the spill if you can do so safely.

Spills to water can generally only be contained by the use of absorptive booms and pads

Contain the spread of the spill on land as much as possible by forming a temporary bund/containment structure or using a portable spill kit. In some instances a few shovels of earth may be sufficient to block access to a waterway or to contain the substance in a drain.

Phone the relevant Environment Waikato Works Supervisor for assistance on 0800 800 401.

If the EW works supervisor is unable to contain the spill contact Environment Waikato's ready response team on 0800 088 401.



Report the spill to the appropriate Environment Waikato Staff member on 0800 800 401.

Clean-up

- Remove contaminated soil or material from the site
- Dispose of any contaminated soil or material in a landfill

- 7) Please attach/draw a map of the works site showing the location of waterways, fuel storage areas and machinery refuelling areas