

Stormwater: Category 16 BMPs – Spill Response

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Stormwater

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Authority: ES&H Manual, Chapter 26, Stormwater

Category 16 best management practices (BMPs) describe how to prepare for and handle spills so they do not enter the storm drain system. Small spills can have cumulative effects that add up to a significant source of potential pollutants in your stormwater discharge. The best approach is prevention: maintain a regular inspection and repair schedule, and correct potential spill situations before a spill can occur.

When a spill does occur, quick and effective response is the best way to prevent pollutants from reaching stormwater. Prepare a set of well-defined procedures for responding to a spill of any liquids in an area that might be exposed to stormwater. The procedures can be specific for your facility, and should consider all circumstances from small, minor releases that can be easily handled to a large emergency spill including who to call to respond to the situation before it gets out of hand.

Refer to Chapter 16, “Spills”, for additional information, including detailed response procedures.¹

BMPs

- 16.1 Include stormwater protection as part of your facility emergency plan that addresses your area’s specific hazards.
- 16.2 Know and follow SLAC’s emergency procedures.²
- 16.3 Train employees in both these and appropriate spill response procedures.
- 16.4 Spills must be cleaned up promptly and not allowed to evaporate.
- 16.5 Procedures should specify cleaning up leaks, drips, and other spills without water whenever possible.
- 16.6 Do not use a hose to clean a spill area. It adds to the volume of the spill and spreads the spilled material to a larger area.
- 16.7 Spills are divided into three groups, non-emergency, emergency, and radioactive. General requirements for responding vary by group as follows:
 - *Non-emergency* spills are releases of non-hazardous material, or incidental spills of hazardous material where the spill can be controlled at the time of release and there is no potential safety or health hazard. Response to these spills can be performed by anyone provided they have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and any hazards associated with the response are

1 *SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual* (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001), Chapter 16, “Spills”, <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/environment/spills/policies.htm>

2 *SLAC Environment, Safety, and Health Manual* (SLAC-I-720-0A29Z-001), Chapter 37, “Emergency Management”, <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/emergency/chapter/policies.htm>

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mitigated as indicated in the responders JHAM. For example, response to a controllable spill of hazardous material will only be performed by someone who uses and handles that material on a regular basis and is therefore aware of the hazards and mitigations.

- *Emergency* spills are uncontrollable spills of hazardous material or non-hazardous material which poses an imminent threat to the environment. Emergency spills fall into two subclasses, life threatening when the incident has resulted in serious injury or threat of serious injury and non-life threatening. Response to all emergency spills must be performed by outside contractors such as the Palo Alto Fire Department or the SLAC emergency response contractor.
- *Radioactive* spills are releases in which the material is known or suspected to be radioactive. These spills may be non-emergency or emergency spills depending on the levels of radioactivity, if they also contain hazardous materials, and/or if they are controllable.

16.8 Sanitary sewer back-ups need to be handled to prevent employee exposure to biohazards and kept from entering the storm drain. Contact the Conventional and Experimental Facilities (CEF) Department at the first sign that there may be a back-up through a sewer manhole or pipe.

*Note For a complete list of all BMP categories, see Stormwater: Best Management Practices Index.*³

3 Stormwater: Best Management Practices Index (SLAC-I-750-0A16V-001), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/stormIndexBMP.pdf>