

Toolbox Talk Details

Title	E03 - Emergency spill control
Reason	Spills on site damage the environment and can harm animals, plants, fish and humans. If you know how to act following a spill you can help to protect the environment and avoid costly clean-ups.
Outline	This talk covers some of the methods used and the equipment involved to control spills.

Emergency spill control

1. Vandalism and accidental releases of fuels, oils and chemicals from construction sites make up many of the pollution incidents that happen each year.
2. Most pollution created by spillages can be avoided with proper planning, care and control.
3. It is important that everyone on site knows how to control a spill, what equipment is available and where it is, so they can help to minimise the impact. They also need to know who to report it to and how to correctly dispose of spilled material.
4. Spill kits come in a variety of forms, and will include a combination of absorbent pads, socks, granules, pillows and wipes drain covers and barriers to facilitate containment.
5. An assessment of the potential areas of harm should be carried out on site and suitable kits placed in appropriate areas.

Control measures

1. Know where the spill kits are on site. Make sure you know what to use, how and when, and what protective measures you need, including personal protective equipment (PPE).
2. Stop work to deal with any spill.
3. If the spill is likely to be flammable remove potential ignition (heat) sources.
4. Contain the spill with either a spill kit or use available materials to create a bund to prevent it from spreading and tell your supervisor as soon as possible.
5. Clean up manageable spills and place contaminated material into hazardous waste bags for later safe disposal. This includes the absorbent materials or pads used in the clean-up operation.
6. Ask your supervisor to get spill kits replenished after they have been used.

Precautions

1. Do not put yourself in danger of exposure to harm from spills that you cannot identify. Seek advice.
2. Do not hose down or bury spills.
3. Do not allow spilt materials to enter a drain, gully or watercourse.
4. Do not store harmful materials within 10 m of a drain or watercourse.
5. Do not refuel plant and equipment unless authorised and in a protected area.

Revision Date	Assessed By	Signature
January 2021	Michael Reddan	