
Spill Cleanup Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Proper cleanup of a spill could require steps from one or a combination of two or more of the scenarios described below.

Spill contained above ground (Pavement i.e. Streets, Sidewalks, Driveways)

1. Protect public from the area.
2. Collect solid and liquid materials for proper disposal.
3. Wash down the impacted area with water and return all the wash water to the sanitary sewer system.

Spill onto dirt/non-pavement

1. Protect public from the area.
2. Collect solid and liquid materials for proper disposal.
3. Remove impacted, non-vegetated dirt/soil to a depth no greater than six inches.
4. Replace excavated, non-vegetated dirt/soil with clean fill material, similar in nature to the removed dirt/soil.

Spill Entering/Entered Drainage Conveyance System

1. Protect public from the area.
2. Install mechanism (sandbags, plugs, etc.) to prevent spill from further entering storm drains or surface waters.
3. Collect solid and liquid materials for proper disposal.
4. Determine how far downstream the spill has reached.
5. Once determined go to the next downstream manhole and plug pipes at the determined downstream location.
6. Collect all material contained within the impacted drainage conveyance system (DCS).
7. Wash down the impacted area.
8. Conduct cleanup of impacted storm drain in compliance with the storm water NPDES permit. NPDES permit allows only rainwater to be discharged into the DCS.
9. Once spill has ceased and cleanup is complete, remove all mechanisms used to contain the flow.
10. For water used during cleanup that cannot be returned to the sanitary sewer system, direct runoff to de-chlorination tablets or mats containing tablets (Vita-D-Chlor or similar) to neutralize chlorine in the runoff prior to entering the DCS or surface water.
 - a. Use a minimum of two de-chlorination tablets per mat and have at least two mats readily available for spill response. One mat shall be placed in the flow path, and a second mat shall be put in the flow path when tablets in the first mat are approximately one-half of their original size.

Spill Entering/Entered Waterway

1. Protect public from the area.
2. Make every effort to stop the spill from entering the waterway.
3. Place warning signs around the impacted area.
4. Collect sewage, if possible, and return to sanitary sewer system.
5. Follow Water Quality Monitoring for Sampling for Category 1 spills greater than 50,000 gallons.

Private Property Damage Claims

1. If there is property damage (ruined carpet/padding, hardwood floors, etc.) caused by a mainline blockage, the Responder shall do the following:
 - a) Verify that the damage is associated with the current incident.
 - b) Take pictures of the damaged property.
 - c) Notify CalWater of the situation.

Note: Responder should not pre-judge the cause of a spill or admit liability prior to an investigation of the incident. Actions until this point should be abatement, alleviation, and reduction of the emergency.

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