

What to Expect When You've Had a Spill

Emergency Communications

Call 911 for medical emergency and public safety assistance from the local fire, police and medical services.

Immediately report the spill or threatened spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS), 1-800-452-0311, when the spill or threat of a spill includes:

- Any amount of oil to waters of the state;
- Oil spills on land in excess of 42 gallons;
- Hazardous materials that are equal to the Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 302 (List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities), and amendments adopted before July 1, 2002.

When you report the spill to OERS you will need to provide basic spill information:

- Contact names and phone numbers
- Type of oil or hazardous material
- Estimated quantity
- Location descriptions (land or water)

Some oil or hazardous material spills will require a separate notification to the National Response Center, 1-800-424-8802. The Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/oilreqs.htm> will provide you with information necessary to determine if you need to report to the federal system.

Actions to Take

- Move away or upwind from the spill if you detect an odor and are unsure if it's safe.
- Avoid contact with liquids or fumes.
- Keep non-emergency people out of the area.
- Control and contain the spill.
- Clean up what you can immediately.
- Remove cleanup materials to an approved facility (such as a solid or hazardous waste landfill or recycling facility.) Save your receipts for documentation.
- Continue with long-term cleanup measures.
- File a completed Spill Release Report form with DEQ. The form is available at:

http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/forms/cu/spill_releasereportform.doc

Cleanup Responsibility

You are responsible for the immediate cleanup of your spill, regardless of the quantity involved. The responsibility lies with the person who spills the product, as well as the person owning or having authority over the oil or hazardous material. You may need to hire a qualified contractor or properly trained and equipped personnel to respond immediately to the spill. If you fail to clean up your spill, DEQ may clean it up for you and is allowed by law to fine you up to three times the cost of the cleanup, in addition to the actual cost of the cleanup (Oregon Administrative Rules 340-142).



Contractor works to control and contain the spill of diesel from a truck crash on Interstate 5.

DEQ's Role

DEQ is responsible for ensuring that the cleanup is done in a way that protects human health and the environment. Oregon law also requires DEQ to recover its costs in carrying out this responsibility.

Depending on the type and quantity of material spilled, and the potential threat to people or the environment, DEQ may choose to oversee the cleanup. This oversight may take the form of DEQ staff at the scene, phone contact, document review or a combination of these. You are responsible for these oversight costs and will normally be billed within 45 days.

To Find Out More

The Emergency Response coordinators are listed in the margin. You can also visit the web site for the program at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/LQ/>



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Emergency Response

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