

MABAS Division II Diesel Spill Response Guidelines # 35F

Purpose:

To establish a guideline for responding to diesel spills.

Definitions and contact numbers:

1. IEPA Illinois Environmental Protection Agency via 800-782-7860 or 217-782-7860.
2. NRC National Response Center 800-424-8802

For further information:

Call the Emergency Response Unit of the Illinois EPA at 217-782-3637 during office hours or 800-782-7860 in an emergency after office hours and ask to be connected with the IEPA Duty Officer.

Guideline:

Diesel spills pose not only a fire danger, but an environmental issue. This guideline will be used to assist responding personnel on how to handle incidents involving these products.

I. Safety

- A. Because these products can be highly flammable personnel should wear full firefighting PPE with SCBA until the products flammability can be determined.
- B. These products can pose a severe threat to the environment, so all efforts should be made to prevent or minimize their contact with the ground, and especially water ways including storm sewers, streams, wetlands and intermittent drainage areas.

II. Minor Spills

Minor spills of petroleum based fuels pose a lesser threat to property and the environment than major spills. However, it is still important to take protective measures in response to these incidents. The following type incidents are to be considered minor, unless additional information warrants them being upgraded.

- Spills less than 25 gallons on an impermeable surface such as asphalt or concrete.
- Spills less than five gallons on soil.

The following actions should be taken as a minimum on this type incident:

- Prevent the spread of product by using damming, diking and diverting techniques.
- Eliminate any possible ignition sources.
- Isolate the area to a safe distance until the spill is controlled.
- Have dispatch notify public works department if sewers or storm drains are involved.
- Have dispatch center notify IEPA of the spill. Advise them that no response is necessary that this is a **notification only**.

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Provide the following information.

- Type of product spilled.
- Approximate amount of spill
- Type of surface spill is on
- It is not threatening a water source.
- If materials are on an impermeable surface the use of a sorbent material such as granulated clay (oil-dry) or Suhag Sorb is the best approach. The spiller is responsible for proper disposal of waste generated while cleaning the spill. That is the person that had control of the material at the time of the spill. This is usually the owner/operator of the vehicle or container.

III. Major Spills

Major spills of petroleum based fuels can pose a significant threat to property and the environment. These incidents can quickly escalate and cause damage to property and the environment. Ensure all protective measures are taken to minimize the spill. The following types of incidents are to be considered major incidents.

- Spills greater than 25 gallons on the hardtop.
- Spills greater than five gallons on soil.
- Spills of any size threatening a waterway.
- Spills of any size in a waterway.
- Spills with impending bad weather that could cause further issues.

The following actions should be taken as a minimum on this type of incident.

- Request the Division 2 Haz-Mat team respond to the incident.
- Prevent the spread of product by using damming, diking and diverting techniques.
- Eliminate any possible ignition sources. If there is a potential for ignition a foam blanket should be applied.
- Isolate the area to a safe distance until the spill is controlled.
- Have dispatch notify public works department if sewers or storm drains are involved.
- Have your dispatch center notify IEPA of the spill. Advise your dispatch center that a **response** from IEPA is necessary.

Provide the following information.

- Type of product spilled
- Approximate amount of spill
- Type of surface spill is on
- If a water source is affected.
- A call back number for IEPA to call (preferably dispatch or the responding Incident Commanders phone).

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- Status of the spill; is it contained or continuing to spread.
- If materials are on an impermeable surface the use of a sorbent material such as granulated clay (oil-dry) or Suhag Sorb is the best approach. The spiller is responsible for proper disposal of waste generated while cleaning the spill. That is the person that had control of the material at the time of the spill. This is usually the owner/operator of the vehicle or container.

IV. Responsible Party

- A. By law it is the person that is responsible for the spill to contact IEPA. This function may be initiated by the responding fire department via dispatch in order to expedite the process. Once contact is made and IEPA is informed of the incident all information will be turned over to IEPA for coordination with the responsible party.
- B. The responsible party will be liable for the approved clean-up of the scene.

For larger spills and those involving water the NRC will also need to be contacted.