**May Safety Focus**

**Spills and Spill kits**

**Spills**

Who thinks about having a spill? Not many people that is why it is important that we train on procedures and techniques to help with the containment and cleanup of spills. A lot of trucks carry between 100 and 200 gallons of Diesel approximately, and approximately 10 gal of oil. That is why we need training and the tools to help prevent disaster.

**Spill Kits**

Spill kits are a handy thing to have in your truck. A small spill kit should contain at least 2 socks (booms) and about 20 pads. Rubber gloves, Plug n dyke putty, and wood plugs. Some kits also may have goggles and aprons or jackets. They also should contain a couple of disposal bags.

**How much is a spill**

A spill can be considered any amount. How much before we need to be worried? This will depend on what is spilled and the proximity to dirt or an open water source. Fuel spills can be the hardest to judge on how much has really been spilled on the ground. If it has been raining it will spread very fast. It is very safe to say any amount is too much.

**What steps should we take if we have a spill?**

The first thing we need to do is make sure everybody is safe. Then asses if we can stop the leak. If you have the materials to stop the leak then protect yourself and stop the leak. There are several things that can be used to stop a leaks wooden plugs for holes and broken lines plug n dyke putty also works. Stuffing rags in the holes also helps anything you can do to stop or slow down the leak. Next we need to contain the spill if you have a spill kit it should contain some socks (booms) and Pads. You will need to assess the direction of flow and the surface that it’s on. Put the socks around the spill and use the pads to soak up the spilled material.

What do we do if there is no spill kit available? Use anything that you have. A Sleeping bag, Clothes, or your mattress will work. If you have a shovel scoop up dirt and use it to build a dam. Do not let anybody track through the spill area it only spreads contaminate. Containment of the spill is the best option. If containment is not possible then protect the environment. If the spill is on asphalt or concrete make sure it doesn’t go to any storm drains, or patches of bare earth or ditches. These areas are very difficult and costly to clean up.

Why is this Important?

The cost of cleaning up a spill is very high. If it is in the dirt there is the cost of digging up the earth then the disposal fees at a hazardous materials collection site. If it gets into a stream this is even worse due to the amount of man power used to stop and contain the spill and the environmental impact studies that may have to be done depending on the waterway. If the cause of the spill is caused by another person the Driver or the company is still responsible for the containment and cleanup of the spill not the person that caused it. Many times at an accident the emergency personnel will also be involved in the containment of the spill. The more you can do at the first signs of a spill the better.

Things to remember

1. Protect yourself and others first
2. Stop the leak or slow it if possible
3. Contain the spill or protect the environment from the spill
4. Report immediately
5. Clean up and properly dispose of the contaminated materials