

Spills and Breach of Containment

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURE

1. Purpose and Scope

This procedure details how to respond in the event of an emergency condition occurring relating to **Spills and breach of containment Procedure**.

2. Procedure

Arrangements:

- A comprehensive list of emergency contacts is listed on the front page of the Incident Response Plan.
- For materials subject to COSHH: you **MUST** consult the site register. This contains information of the substances potential environmental & health impacts.
- Spill kits are deployed across site and at areas of heightened risk of loss of containment or spills.
- Staff have been trained in the use and disposal of spill kits.

In the event of a pollution incident / spill:

Wet Chemical

- **Alert others, stop all work in the area and inform the Incident Controller.**
- **Attend to injuries, if the chemical has contacted skin or eyes, flush the effected area with eye wash or safety shower for at least 15 minutes.**
- **If safe, identify what substance(s) are non-contained.**
- **Ensuring it is safe to do so, clear the area of all people and ensure all drainage system valves (penstock) are closed to isolate the system and contain all substances on site.**
- **Consult the COSHH register as appropriate.**
- **Ensure you are wearing appropriate PPE before attempting to contain any spill/loss of containment (minimum safety goggles & chemical resistant gloves).**
- **Using the appropriate spill kit, contain as much spilt material as possible. Contain as effectively as possible without exposing anyone to risk and prevent from entering the drainage system by use of absorbent booms, pillows, pads or granules.**
- **Prevent any substance including water being put down the drainage system.**
- **Once the spill is contained and under control, contact your line manager and Duty Shift Team Leader to inform of incident and spill contained.**
- **Act on any additional instruction provided.**
- **Take photos of incident for evidence and provide to line manager at a suitable and safe time.**

- **Whilst wearing appropriate PPE, bag up all contaminated absorbent, label and return to a quarantine area for safe storage and appropriate disposal.**
- **Notify management of the need to replenish spill kits on return to facility/plant.**

Dry Chemical

- **Prioritize personal safety: If the chemical is highly hazardous (e.g., toxic, corrosive, or reactive) or the spill is large (more than can be handled by a local spill kit), evacuate the area immediately and inform the Incident Controller.**
- **Remove yourself and others from the immediate area to avoid further exposure.**
- **Remove contaminated clothing if the substance touched skin or clothing, avoiding pulling clothing over your head. Flush the affected area with water for at least 15 minutes if skin irritation or pain occurs and seek medical attention.**
- **Identify the chemical if safe to do so by checking the label or Safety Data Sheet (SDS). This information is crucial for selecting the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleanup materials.**
- **Wear appropriate PPE before attempting cleanup. At a minimum, this includes safety goggles, a lab coat or protective clothing, and chemical-resistant gloves. For high-hazard materials, a respirator may be necessary.**
- **Ventilate the area provided it's safe to do so and does not spread the contamination.**
- **Prevent the spread of the powder by closing doors and cordoning off the area with signs or warning tape.**
- **If possible, cover the spill with plastic sheeting or a tarp to minimize the powder becoming airborne due to air currents.**
- **For small, low-hazard spills: Gently scoop the material using a scoop or a dustpan and brush, taking care to minimize creating dust into a sealable container or double black sack and label with contents.**
- **For hazardous or fine powder spills: Use a dampened paper towel or cloth to cover and carefully wipe up the powder, or a specialized Type H (HEPA-filtered) vacuum cleaner if available and appropriate for the chemical. You may also use an inert absorbent material like dry sand or vermiculite to help collect the powder.**
- **Work from the outer edges of the spill towards the centre to prevent spreading.**
- **Place all contaminated materials (used absorbents, disposable PPE, etc.) into a heavy-duty plastic bag or a sealable container.**
- **Double-bag the waste for added security.**
- **Label the container clearly as hazardous waste, including the name(s) of the chemical(s).**

The Supervisor or Manager will:

- Log details of incident on Incident Reporting System and initiate investigation.
- Seek support from HSEQ team if required.
- Inform HSEQ team or Principal Operations Manager if contact with the Environmental Agency or Local Authority is required.
- Obtain records/evidence/statements from staff involved in the non-containment.
- Arrange to investigate and implement further clean up in consultation with the authorities where applicable.
- Spills involving hazardous substances under the COSHH Regulations require more careful consideration and reference to the appropriate COSHH Assessment Sheet.
- After dealing with the incident all waste must be disposed of in accordance with the AWRP-SW-EN-RE-002 Waste Stream Assessment.
- All incidents should be investigated, and records kept.
- Ensure spill kits are renewed.
- Update emergency response plan if required following completion of investigation.

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