

## In the event of a Chemical Spill

### Raise the alarm:

- Make others aware of the situation before attempting any rescue or clean-up.
- Consider alerting emergency services or a neighbour if there is nobody available to provide assistance.

### Safety:

- Always consider your own safety before entering a contaminated area; check for hazards/risks.
- Consider whether the products are flammable or toxic, the possibility of fumes, slippery surfaces, mechanical and electrical hazards/risks etc.

### Identify products involved:

- If it is safe, get information about the products involved.
- Consider container labels and safety data sheets as a source of information.
- Look for trade names, and any warnings on flammability, toxicity, and ecotoxicity hazards/risks.
- Until it has been confirmed what the spill is, treat all spills as highly flammable and toxic.

### Casualties:

- Attend to human casualties.
- Consider your safety as well as theirs. Do not enter a confined area unless you are sure there are no toxic fumes or vapours present.

### Assess the spill -

Major Spill A spill involving a substance with any of the following warning statements:

- ❖ EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE
- ❖ HIGHLY FLAMMABLE
- ❖ FATAL
- ❖ TOXIC
- ❖ OXIDISER
- ❖ CORROSIVE
- Alert the Fire Service and if necessary evacuate the area. Dial 1-111
- Have the specific safety response information (material safety data sheets) available for the emergency services.
- If the spill is likely to contaminate a waterway, ring the relevant regional council.

Minor Spill A spill involving less than 200 litres of any other agrichemical or fuel.

- Make sure an appropriate person has been alerted to your plans. Respond to the spill and if necessary evacuate the area.
- Have safety response information (material safety data sheets) available.
- If the spill is likely to contaminate a waterway, ring the regional council pollution hotline.

### Spill intervention:

- If it is safe, put on appropriate protective equipment and use the spill kit and spill containment equipment to contain the spill.
- Consider the flammability and chemical toxicity of the spilled material, location of drains, slope of the ground and proximity to waterways and other sensitive areas.
- Spread absorbent material from the spill kit on and around liquid spills.
- Sweep up powder or absorbent materials and place in a plastic bag or appropriate container for disposal.
- Follow Fire Service and local authority recommendations for clean-up.
- Information will also be available on safety data sheets.

### Disposal:

- When the spill has been cleaned up, review safety data sheets for further advice on disposal.
- Consider calling the chemical manufacturer/supplier or your council for advice on disposal options.

**Decontamination:**

- Follow safety data sheet advice for site decontamination procedures.
- All personnel involved in spill clean-up should wash down their protective equipment before removing it.
- Staff should shower/wash thoroughly after removing protective equipment.

**Notify the HSNO Enforcement Officer at WorkSafe that a work-related accidental spill has occurred.**

HSNO Enforcement Officer  
WorkSafe - Napier  
19 Bower Street  
Napier 4110  
New Zealand

Phone 0800 20 90 20  
Fax (06) 835 7102

**After the event:**

- After any emergency, conduct a debrief with those involved and review the emergency response plan. Identify steps to prevent future incidents.
- Ensure any equipment used to deal with the spill is replaced and required records are updated.

**Further Information:**

WorkSafe

Website: [www.business.govt.nz/worksafe](http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe)  
Tel: 0800 20 90 20

Environmental Risk Management Authority - ERMA

Website: [www.ermanz.govt.nz](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz)  
Email: [hsinfo@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:hsinfo@ermanz.govt.nz)  
Tel: 0800 376 234

Hawkes Bay Regional Council

Website: [www.hbrc.govt.nz](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz)  
Tel: 0800 108 838

South Wairarapa District Council

Website: <http://www.swdc.govt.nz/>  
Email: [enquiries@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@swdc.govt.nz)  
Tel: 06 306 9611

Marlborough District Council

Website: <http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/>  
Email: [mdc@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:mdc@marlborough.govt.nz)  
Tel: 03 520 7400