
Let's Talk Safety

January 2009 - Mount Holyoke College – Environmental Health & Safety

Oil Spill Response

Employees have an important role in managing oil storage and oil containing devices on campus and in initiating an appropriate oil spill response.

1. Assess the severity of the situation

- Determine if the situation is immediately hazardous to your well being, evacuate if in danger.
- For spills of 10 gallons or more, or that pose a health or safety (e.g., on a roadway) threat or that can reach a water body, drain or catch basin, immediately call Public Safety at 1911 (cell phone or off-campus: 413-538-2304). They will contact the spill coordinator and response personnel.
- For small local spills, report to spill coordinators: Rick Bigelow (ext. 2369) or Nancy Apple (ext. 2529).

2. Contain the Spill



- If it can be done safely, contain spill without endangering yourself or others.
- Cover/block floor drains and catch basin with a drain cover, boom, speedy dry, etc.
- If indoors, ensure the area is properly ventilated.

3. Small Incidental Spill Clean Up

- If it can be done safely and you have been trained, clean-up the spill.
- Wear the Proper Protective Equipment (safety goggles, oil resistant gloves, fluorescent vests etc).
- Use absorbent materials to clean spill (pads, speedy dry, etc).

4. Manage the Contaminated Waste Appropriately

- Put contaminated materials from the clean up in a covered buckets or drum with a secure lid.
- Affix a Hazardous Waste label on the container.
- For waste storage and disposal requirements contact EH&S at ext. 2529.

Oil Spill Prevention:

- All waste oil containers need to be placed in/on secondary containment.
- Monthly inspections are performed on all oil containing devices that have a capacity of 55 gallons or greater.
- Know where all spill kits are located in you facility and take time to ensure they are properly stocked.
- Do not allow anything but rainwater to flow into storm drains.



Group Discussion Topics:

- Identify any past spill situations and how they were handled.
- Are there any oil containing devices that pose a greater risk than others for a potential spill/release?
- Where are clean-up materials located?