

Plan now to contain your oil spills

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Should your facility have a spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan (SPCC)? Facilities engaged in nontransportation-related activities — oil storage for use or distribution, drilling, producing, transferring or refining, that could potentially discharge oil in harmful quantities — must have a SPCC plan.

This regulation affects facilities with these quantities of oil at their site:

- Over 1,320 gallons total capacity of oil above ground, or
- One tank over 660 gallons capacity of oil above ground, or
- More than 42,000 gallons oil storage below ground,
AND
- They are located where this stored oil could be associated with contamination of any navigable waters of the United States.

Some facilities may not be regulated if their locations could not reasonably be expected to discharge oil into a navigable water. When determining if their facility is covered by this regulation, companies must take into consideration a spill or leak occurring during a storm event with runoff draining to a storm water ditch, which ultimately flows to a stream or creek. Few companies have sites protected from storm water events, and therefore should have SPCC plans.

Oils are defined as any kind or form of oil, such as petroleum and nonpetroleum substances. Many oils are easily recognizable, such as gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene and crude oil. But oils of vegetable or animal origin are also regulated. If you need assistance making a determination for a substance at your facility, please call EPA Region VII office at 913-551-7670 or 913-551-7331.

“Discharge of a harmful quantity” is defined as causing “a film or sheen upon” or “discoloration of the surface” of the water or adjoining shorelines, or causing a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines.

SPCC plans are a complete document of a facility’s plan for eliminating or minimizing discharges of oil that could be harmful to aquatic environments. These plans include very specific site and operation details about how this

will be done at your facility — many companies require outside assistance for completion of these plans. The following components, while not a complete list, should be included in all SPCC plans. (For complete requirements, see the suggested resources listed at the end of this document.)

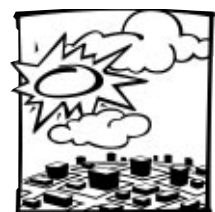
1. Written SPCC, as outlined in 40 CFR 112.7, which must be reviewed and certified by a registered professional engineer. These plans must be retained on-site and be updated and recertified when modifications or changes in operations will affect them.

The plans must address drainage control, secondary containment, bulk storage tanks, truck loading and unloading, transfer operations, inspections and records, security measures and employee training.

2. Full management approval and support. SPCC plans must be fully implemented and incorporated into company policy, and include proper training for all employees involved in facility operations.
3. A comprehensive spill prevention plan to prevent oil discharges. Inspections are an important part of preventing spills to detect equipment or containment system failures and should be documented to show compliance with the spill prevention program requirements.

Spills into navigable waters deemed a “harmful quantity” must be reported, and each spill event within the past year should be documented and include a description of the corrective action taken and detailed plans for preventing future spills.

4. A prediction of the direction, rate of flow and total quantity of oil that could be discharged as a result of a major equipment failure.
5. A description of structures and equipment designed to prevent discharged oil from reaching water by equipment use or stationary diversion structures such as dikes, holding walls, or secondary containment systems. Secondary containment for above-ground tanks should be constructed to hold the entire contents of the largest single tank plus sufficient freeboard (extra volume) to hold precipitation from a storm event.



Pollution Prevention — oil spill plan

- Rainwater accumulated in containment structures must be examined and determined to be free of oil contamination before they can be drained.
 - Spills in containment devices must be removed immediately in order to minimize groundwater contaminations and safety hazards.
 - Areas that are not diked should have flows directed into collection systems and not be located in areas prone to flooding.
6. A complete written discussion of compliance with construction and operating guidelines for tank and pipeline construction, protection and repairs and other effective spill prevention procedures.
 7. A discussion of the facility's compliance with applicable guidelines relating to facility drainage, bulk storage, piping, loading and unloading, oil drilling, facility security, inspections, record keeping and personnel training.
 8. Documentation of three-year reviews and amendments, to include process changes and improvements. New plans must be recertified by a registered professional engineer.
 9. Security measures to prevent risks of vandalism by the public. Access to the facility should be restricted during business hours and prohibited after-hours with fencing and locked gates, if possible.

Any spill deemed a "harmful quantity" to surface waters must be reported to the National Response Center at 800-424-8802.

In addition to SPCC plans, a facility response plan (FRP) is also required for companies with oil or oil processes that could cause significant injury to fish and wildlife, and sensitive environments. The FRP details all personnel, equipment, training and procedures needed to address an oil spill with this potential. This regulation is contained within the oil pollution prevention regulation in CFR 112.20 and affects companies with the following conditions or activities:

1. Transfers oil over water, to or from vessels, and has a total oil storage capacity greater than or equal to 42,000 gallons, or,
2. The facility's total oil storage capacity, including above ground and underground storage vessels, is greater than or equal to 1 million gallons, and one of the following is true:
 - The facility does not have secondary containment for each above ground storage area sufficiently large to contain the capacity of the largest above-ground oil storage tank within each storage area, plus sufficient freeboard to allow for precipitation;

- A discharge from the facility could cause injury to fish and wildlife and sensitive environments.
- Discharge from the facility would shut down a public drinking water intake.
- Facility has had a reportable oil spill in an amount greater than or equal to 10,000 gallons within the last five years.

All facility response plans should also be consistent with requirements of the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300) and applicable Area Contingency Plans, following section 311(j)(4) of the Clean Water Act. The facility response plan must be submitted to EPA for review and approval. The plan should be coordinated with the local emergency planning committee (LEPC), and the owner or operator should provide a copy of the facility response plan to the local emergency planning committee or state emergency response commission (SERC).

The following secondary containment guidelines are recommended for oils:

- Make sure container is compatible with the material it will capture and is able to withstand the pressure, corrosiveness and temperature of the oil.
- Containment should be large enough to hold the entire contents of the largest single tank, plus sufficient freeboard for stormwater.
- The amount of freeboard, or excess capacity to hold rainwater, should be based on regional rainfall patterns.
- Diked containment areas should be constructed of impervious material to retain the spill plus sufficient freeboard. Light oils, such as jet fuel, can percolate through the soil, causing soil and groundwater contaminations.
- Backups to catchment basins offer additional protection in cases of overflow or dike failure. Trench around these areas to allow drainage to a holding pond for temporary containment. (It should be noted that these systems offer the potential for groundwater contamination and should be used only as "fallback" containment.)

Resources for SPCC requirements

SPCC plan guidelines are found in 40 CFR 112 and in EPA guidance document: *Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Information Guide*, document #EPA903B93001. EPA also offers a sample SPCC plan which can be ordered by calling the EPA regional office at 913-551-7670, or the Pollution Prevention Institute at Kansas State University at 800-578-8898.



The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's (SBEAP) mission is to help Kansas small businesses comply with clean air regulations. SBEAP operates through a consortium of the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University. This fact sheet was published by Kansas State University's Pollution Prevention Institute. For more information, call 800-578-8898 or send e-mail to SBEAP@ksu.edu. The University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Wichita State University are EEO/AA providers.