



DNR Staff Provide Spill Response and Support

RR-559

July 2014

Rarely does anyone ever plan a spill. Spills are typically caused by accidents of some sort, but when they do occur, the people involved with a spill must comply with state requirements. Wisconsin law mandates that spills of hazardous substances be immediately reported and cleaned up to protect Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources. When a spill occurs, the DNR has staff located in regional offices around the state to help in a variety of ways.

Responding To Spills

During Normal Working Hours

When calls are made to the DNR spill hotline during the day, the information comes directly to the DNR office in Madison, and is forwarded to the Regional Spill Coordinator for follow-up.

After Hours

During the evening hours and on weekends, the phone calls are directed to the Wisconsin State Patrol, who will forward the information to a DNR duty officer. That duty officer will then alert the On-Call Spill Coordinator to the situation.

**The DNR encourages the
public to report
hazardous substance
spills using the
24-hour toll-free hotline:
1-800-943-0003**

DNR Field Response

DNR Wardens and Regional Spill Coordinators

The first responders to a hazardous substance spill for the DNR may be a field warden or regional spill coordinator. Wardens are more likely to respond in remote areas since they are widely distributed across the state. Each county has at least one warden. Wardens know local responders, such as fire and police personnel, are familiar with the natural resources impacted by a spill, and can assist the responsible party in managing the spill.

Spill coordinators (working in the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program) are located in each of the regional DNR offices. These spill coordinators specialize in technical spill response issues and are available before, during, and after spills occur.

When a field warden or regional spill coordinator gets a call about a spill, their follow up may include additional phone calls to get more information about the nature of the spill, going to the site, and/or requesting other DNR assistance (e.g. fish managers, water resources staff and public information specialists).

When an emergency situation occurs and the responsible party is not available or willing to take action, DNR will call in a zone contractor to respond to the spill. Zone contractors are emergency response companies that provide statewide emergency response services in such situations.



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These companies normally provide a response within two hours of notification, and specialize in emergency response, spill containment and removal. They are able to assess a situation, take actions to prevent spilled materials from harming the public or the environment, sample substances to determine how to manage them, contain the spilled materials and remove those substances from the spill site to a secure facility until analyses are completed to determine their final placement. At the conclusion of the response, the department will seek cost recovery from the responsible party.

Assistance before a Spill

The spill coordinators are part of local planning and response networks. They work with local emergency planning agencies, talk to the local fire departments about spill response issues, and work with the wardens to ensure a consistent DNR approach to spill response. In addition, the spill coordinators work with local industries who may handle hazardous substances as part of their business to provide them with technical support for spill prevention as well as spill response.

Assistance after a Spill

When a spill occurs, field wardens and spill coordinators can provide assistance in a variety of ways. The DNR has developed spill packets that are provided to persons who are responsible for the release. Included in these packets is information on DNR regulations, additional DNR contacts, as well as listings of local contractors and waste management organizations that can assist the responsible party in management of the residual spilled material. The responsible party often consults with the spill coordinators for technical advice, since they are familiar with DNR regulations relating to spill containment and cleanup. Although smaller cleanups may not receive direct DNR oversight, the coordinators can answer questions and guide responsible parties through the process.

RR Program State Spill Response Team

The DNR manages spills through the RR Program's Spill Response Team. This team is comprised of a state spill coordinator, a state emergency management coordinator, a federal removals coordinator, the five regional spill coordinators and legal counsel. These staff meet regularly to identify and resolve spill response issues and help make spill response efforts in Wisconsin as effective as possible.

For more information, please see the following web page: dnr.wi.gov/topic/spills/.

Northeast Regional Spill Coordinator

Vacant

State Spill & Federal Removals Coordinator

John Sager (715) 392-7822 (Superior)

Southeast Regional Spill Coordinator

Scott Ferguson (414) 263-8685 (Milwaukee)

State Emergency Response Coordinator

David Woodbury (608) 266-2598 (Madison)

South Central Regional Spill Coordinator

Mike Schmoller (608) 275-3303 (Madison)

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West Central Regional Spill Coordinator

Tom Kendzierski (715) 839-1604 (Eau Claire)

This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



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