

## **SPILL RESPONSE PLAN**

### **CITY OF BIRMINGHAM**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, HORTICULTURE DIVISION**

Even when proper procedures are followed, pesticide spills occur. The way a spill is handled will often dictate the extent of damage and cost of cleanup.

#### **Step One: Control the Spill**

CAUTION: Control the spill but do not endanger yourself by being inadvertently exposed to the product. Evaluate the danger and make use of Personal Protective Equipment.

The first step in spill response is to control the spill. This involves up-righting an overturned container, closing the valve that leads to a ruptured hose, or plugging a leak.

#### **Step Two: Control the Spill**

Once the spill has been controlled, contain it with a soil, sand, granules, or chemical absorbent pigs. Quick and effective containment of an accidental spill is critical in minimizing potential environmental impacts.

It is particularly important not to allow any product to get into a water channel or body of water. This includes:

- Storm Sewers
- Sanitary Sewers
- Septic Tanks
- Lakes, Ponds, Streams, etc.

If a field spill is headed for a waterway, dam the path of a spill so it ponds up and stops moving or spreading.

Never hose down equipment or a spill area until the cleanup is complete. This only enlarges the problem by adding volume to the spill.

#### **Step Three: Reporting the Spill**

Once all reasonable efforts have been taken to contain the spill, call the office and explain the nature of the accident.

The Department of Agriculture must be notified for any spill over one gallon of pesticide.

You should be prepared to report the:

- Time the accident occurred
- Location
- Material released (Label name, Active Ingredient, EPA Registration #)
- Volume of the spill
- Cause of release
- Present and anticipated movement of contaminants

#### **Step Four: Spill Site Clean Up**

Once the situation has stabilized and appears the spill will not spread, decide how to clean the area. Spills on paved surfaces will require absorbents:

- Activated Charcoal
- Pet Litter
- Limestone
- Clay and Soil

When liquid herbicide spills on the soil, all the dampened soil plus six inches below should be dug up and disposed of.

The spill site should always be photographed.

#### **Step Five: Spill Incident Follow-Up**

After the cleanup is complete, it will be necessary to follow up and note any developments. Take pictures of all areas to document follow-up visits. The incident site and path of pesticide flow must be observed at least forty-eight hours after the incident and once every three days thereafter for two weeks.

#### **Summary:**

- Control
- Contain
- Notify Authorities
- Clean-up
- Follow-up

## **SPILL REPORTING**

ALABAMA: 1-800-424-8802