



PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Refresher Training Spill Prevention & Response

What You Need to Know

Spill Prevention and Response

Even in small amounts, spills and leaks of hazardous materials and chemicals can be very dangerous. They can cause explosions and fires, contaminate water, and harm animals, plants and people. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and OSHA have very strict spill prevention rules and requirements for handling leaks and spills when they take place. It is important that Pasco County employees are prepared for when spills occur.

Key Points to Consider at Your Work Place for Spill Prevention:

- Directions shall be put in place for safe handling of materials and chemicals.
- If available use safer, alternative materials.
- Properly label all containers with materials or chemicals for identification.
- Properly store materials – make sure lids are on tight and containers are closed.
- Conduct routine inspections of containers – make sure there are no bulges or leaks.
- Keep a log book of onsite inspections.
- Provide training to staff.
- Don't store chemicals in vehicles.
- Store materials off the ground.
- Have available Material Safety Data (MSD) sheets.
- Only use what is needed for the job, try to avoid carrying extras.
- Provide secondary containments when required.

Key Points to Consider at Your Work Place for Spill Response:

- Establish proper cleanup procedures.
- Post signs to notify staff on what to do and how.
- Have spill kits available onsite.
- Wear personal protective safety gear.
- Cleanup spills and leaks immediately.
- Use non-polluting detergents or cleanup methods if possible.
- Identify the appropriate authority to report the spill to – have a designated contact person.
- List emergency contacts to call.
- Contain the spill as close to its source as possible by using an absorbent or placing sandbags or containment booms in front of the spill.
- If a spill occurs outside, always make sure to cover all storm drains.
- Know how to properly dispose of cleanup materials.

Reporting Procedures

If a spill occurs in a right-of-way, due to a sewer failure, sewage pump or lift station, call the Utilities Operation and Maintenance Department. If a spill occurs in a private facility, they are responsible to manage it. However, if you consider the community is in risk due to a spill call 911.

Remember the best method to handle a spill is to prevent it from occurring. For more information contact the Stormwater Management Division at 727-834-3611.