## **Hazardous Substance Spill Response**

**5 Steps for First Responders** 



#### **ASSESS THE SITUATION**

What substance(s)? Liquid, vapor, solid? What ground surface? Asphalt, gravel, soil? Waterways impacted or threatened? Is it a hazard to you or others?

Call the VT HazMat Hotline at **800-641-5005**for immediate onsite assistance if you need additional personnel or resources.

(2)

#### STOP THE RELEASE

If you can do so safely and are trained to the appropriate level, stop more material from being released.

Close the lid, shut off valve, right the drum, plug hole, etc. Eliminate ignition sources.

(3)

#### **CONTAIN THE SPILL**

Keep spill from spreading or entering storm drains, waterways, drainage ditches, etc.

Contain spill using: absorbent materials, temporary dike or trench, etc. **See page 2.** 

4

#### CALL TO REPORT

Call 24-hr HazMat Hotline (800-641-5005) as soon as possible to report and/or request assistance if spill is:

- 2+gallons
- Less than 2 gallons and threatens human health or the environment (e.g. 1-gal gasoline spilled in a wetland; small indoor fuel oil spill that impacts air quality)
- High hazard substances

**Provide this information if available:** 

- Responsible Party name & insurance info
- Ground surface types impacted
- Waterways impacted or threatened
- Estimated & potential total release amount
- Road closure? State highway?
- Materials encountered (cargo or otherwise)
- Cause of release

Call even if you don't have all information

(5)

### **CLEAN UP**

Materials used to contain and/or clean up hazardous substances (including oil) may also be hazardous waste & if so must be properly disposed of as such (not put in trash). First responders may perform limited cleanup to their training level & assistance will be provided for proper disposal.

Never use surfactants or dispersants in non-explosive environments

Do not leave clean up materials on roadway.

**See Page 2** for recommended cleanup materials.

Note: While the requirement to report and clean up a spill lies with the Responsible Party, in an emergency, first responders are encouraged to gather information and report the spill to ensure timely action.

## RECOMMENDED CLEANUP MATERIALS

If the spill is	use this to clean up
Oil	Granular absorbent or oil-specific absorbent pads
Gasoline	Granular absorbent, sand, activated charcoal, or non-combustible absorbent materials
Antifreeze	Granular absorbent
Solvents	Non-combustible absorbent pads
Acids, bases, oxidizers, mercury, phosphorus, bromine	Contact state Emergency Management to request VT HazMat Team at <b>800-641-5005</b>

# TECHNIQUES FOR SPILL RESPONSE







