



## Spills Regulations and Reporting

Spills, unfortunately, do happen, and some spills need to be cleaned up right away. When hazardous substances such as fuel oil are spilled, the environment and public health can be harmed if action is not taken.

The *Environment Act* and the *Spills Regulations* outline what types and sizes of spills must be reported. Spills of hazardous substances must be reported regardless of the volume if they are abnormal in quality or quantity. If you're not sure, report it!

### When a Spill Occurs

You must take these steps **as soon as possible under the circumstances** after a spill has been identified:

1. Report the spill to the Yukon Spill Report Centre or an Environmental Protection Officer. Spills occurring anywhere in the Yukon should be reported to the **Yukon Spill Report Centre at (867) 667-7244**. This number is maintained by the Yukon Government 24 hours per day, and collect calls are accepted. The Spill Report Centre will gather information such as:
  - the location and time of the spill;
  - the circumstances leading up to the spill;
  - the type and quantity of material spilled;
  - details of any action taken at the spill site; and
  - a description of the environment at the location of the spill (e.g. terrain, watercourses, etc.)
2. Notify the owner or person in charge of the spilled substance and any person who may be adversely affected by the spill.
3. Take all reasonable measures to confine the spill.  
Measures may include actions such as the following, if it is safe and appropriate to do so:
  - stopping the release of any more of the spilled substance by turning off valves, picking up fallen containers, etc.;
  - putting down absorbent material;
  - building berms or ditches to stop spilled material from spreading; etc.
4. Restore the site to the same condition that it was in before the spill.  
Environmental Protection Officers may provide direction regarding actions to be taken to restore the site, including sampling to show that no contamination remains.

## Last Resort

If the person responsible for the spill does not attempt to confine the spill or to restore the site, an Environmental Protection Officer has the authority to order the responsible person to take action.

If the responsible person still does not act, the Environmental Protection Officer has the authority to ensure that the site is cleaned up, and any costs incurred will be billed to the person responsible for the spill.

More detailed information can be found in Part 11 of the *Environment Act*, and in the Spills Regulations.

## Other Topics

Fact Sheets are also available on the following topics:

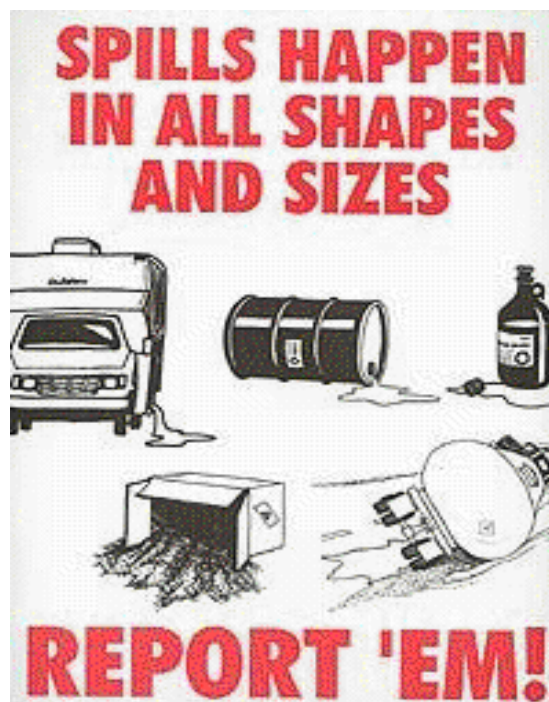
- Spill Response Plans
- Contaminated Sites
- Storage of Special Wastes

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**For more information on the Spills Regulations, please contact:**

Environmental Programs Branch  
Department of Environment (V-8)  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6

Phone: (867) 667-5683  
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408 extension 5683  
Fax: (867) 393-6205  
E-mail: [envprot@gov.yk.ca](mailto:envprot@gov.yk.ca)



Copies of Yukon regulations may be viewed online at <http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/monitoringenvironment/> under the "Standards & Approvals" section, or at any Yukon Public Library, territorial agent, territorial representative or regional services office. You may purchase copies at the Inquiry Centre, Yukon Government Administration Building, 2071-2nd Avenue in Whitehorse, or by mail from the Subscriptions Clerk, Yukon Government Queen's Printer, Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 2C6 (phone (867) 667-5783 or toll free 1-800-661-0408 extension 5783).