ENVIRONMENT

HSEQ library

TOOLBOX INFORMATION

SPILLS

June 2021

HSEQ Direct is a digital communication, registration and training platform with a focus on Health, Safety, the Environment and Quality.
Designed specifically for the workplace!

Associated IOGP Life-Saving Rules

HSEQ DIRECT safer healthier workplace

WHAT IS IT?

A spill is an unintentional release of a harmful substance, e.g. natural gas, natural gas condensate, petroleum, chemicals, excipients and other liquids or gases. If a spill is unintentional, then it is classified as an incident.

HAZARDS

A spill often occurs in critical installation parts, e.g. shaft seals of valves, valves and pumps, seals and gaskets, fittings and flanges, underfloor/underground pipes, flexible hose connections and valves.

COMMON CAUSES OF SPILLS

- old age of an installation
- incomplete maintenance program or backlog in undertaking maintenance
- operational errors
- human errors

PREVENTION

- adhere to your company's work protocols, procedures and instructions which have been developed specifically to manage the risk of spills; if you believe this is not the case, notify your HSE Manager
- identify spillage-critical parts and activities and report these to your HSE Manager
- be aware of the activities carried out by others and the substances, equipment and materials with which they are working

PROTECTION

REPORTING SPILLS

- report every spill to your HSE Manager or Supervisor, even if no harmful substances have escaped into the environment
- any spills should be reported, recorded and registered; procedures may vary depending on the severity of the spill; ask your company about their specific policies and procedures in relation to reporting spills
- reporting, recording and registration of any spill is important to find structural solutions for problems and to prevent environmentally harmful situations from occurring

IN CASE OF...

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF SPILLS?

- never touch a spill
- report all spills directly to your HSE Manager or Supervisor
- prevent further spillage and distribution into the environment if possible and safe to do so
- prevent spreading of the spill throughout the environment

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1 **Never** touch a spill.

2 **Always report any spills** to your HSE Manager or Supervisor.

3 **Prevent spills spreading,** especially into the wider environment.

4 **Always store chemicals;** ask your company for further information about this.

5 **Prevent spills** from reaching equipment, tools and materials you or your colleagues are working with.

QUESTIONS? MORE INFORMATION? UNSAFE WORKING CONDITIONS?

Your HSE Manager is there to help answer any questions and ensure a safe working environment for all.

QUESTION 1

What is the meaning of a spill?

A. Each release of a harmful substance that has unintentionally ended up in a process.

B. When substances end up in the environment such as natural gas condensate or petroleum.

C. Any unintentional release of a substance that is related to a process.

ANSWER 1

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QUESTION 2

When is a spill handled as an incident?

A. If there is no permit for discharging a substance that is unintentionally released.

B. If the release of a substance was unintentional and if an incident happened during the sealing of the spill.

C. If the release of a substance is unintentional, even if there is a permit to discharge the substance in question.

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QUESTION 3

Which installation components often develop spills?

A. Valves, flange joints, shaft seals of valves, ventilation components, fittings, seals and gaskets, underfloor and underground pipes and in a flexible gas injector.

B. Valves, flange joints, shaft seals of valves, valves and pumps, fittings, seals and gaskets, pressure regulators and in a flexible gas mixing piece.

C. Valves, flange joints, shaft seals of valves, valves and pumps, fittings, seals and gaskets, underfloor and underground pipes and in flexible hose connections.

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QUESTION 4

What is one of the effective ways to prevent a spill?

A. Joining a toolbox meeting.

B. Storing chemicals in the designated facilities.

C. Developing a Last Minute Risk Analysis once you have finished working.

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QUESTION 5

What should you do if there is a spill?

A. You immediately stop working and raise the alarm. Then you take the necessary measures to seal the spill.

B. You report the spill directly to your HSE Manager or Supervisor; attempt to prevent further spillage and distribution into the environment (if safe to do so) and/or further spreading of the spill throughout the environment.

C. You immediately stop working and place collecting trays under the spill. Then you conduct a Task Risk Analysis.

ANSWER 5

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