

FLUID SPILLS

A. Purpose:

To establish procedures for maximizing safety and minimizing environmental impact during vehicle fluid spills.

B. Scope:

This guideline is to be followed when responding to reported fluid spills within the boundaries of the Ponderosa Fire Department. This guideline is for handling motor vehicle liquid fluid spills not to exceed the quantity of one saddle type tank found on semi-tractors. A spill of greater quantity, greater than normal environmental impact, or vehicles fueled by LNG, LPG, or an unknown motive power source are not considered in this guideline. Deviation from this guideline is the prerogative of the senior officer who is solely responsible for the results of any deviation.

C. Safety

Priority must be given to establishing a safe work area for personnel and apparatus. Traffic should be re-routed or stopped to allow a safe work area and traffic cones should be used whenever possible. Flares should not be used. Consideration should be given to eliminating any ignition sources in the immediate area.

D. Positioning

Apparatus, personnel, and POV's will be positioned away from the immediate spill area, uphill and upwind. The apparatus will pass the spill site if possible upon arrival to allow for size up. When practical the apparatus should stage a minimum 75 to 100 feet distant. POV's shall park away from the area and personnel staging will be at the apparatus.

E. Procedure

The type and quantity of the fuel spill must first be established. If the spill meets the criteria established above, the following should be followed:

1. Size up and hazard control of the scene will be completed upon arrival of the senior officer. Suitable electronic monitoring may be required. A hot zone may be required.
2. Establish the need of the Harris County Haz-Mat Team.
3. Firefighters will be in full protective gear. An appropriate pre-connected line will be used.

4. For large spills, vapor suppressing foam may be required. For small spills, a 1% emulsifier solution may be required. Liquid soap may be used as an alternative.
5. Attempts should be made in larger situations to absorb (or contain via booms or diking) product with absorbent pads. Sewer drains should be plugged with PVFD "mini-pools" sewer caps. Vacuum trucks may be required.
6. The PFD SHALL NOT accept or transport waste materials from emergency scenes.