



Emergency Response Program

Helping first responders address environmental emergencies and pollution incidents, including chemical and petroleum spills, 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Ohio EPA records more than 5,000 incident reports annually through calls to our emergency response spill hotline from citizens, companies, law enforcement, emergency responders and other agencies. On-scene coordinators (OSCs) respond to more than 1,200 of these incidents each year. More than 80 percent of the on-scene responses involve petroleum products. OSCs also respond by phone to more than 400 incident reports each year when an on-scene response is not immediately necessary.

The majority of the incidents investigated involve chemicals and petroleum products; however, OSCs have responded to some unusual releases, including coal, corn, dyes, manure, milk, wheat and many more. Releases of any material in large volumes to a waterway can cause environmental damage, including fish kills.

Ohio EPA relies on first responders to assist in incident reporting. Transportation accidents (rail, commercial vehicle, barge, etc.) frequently involve operators who may not be familiar with Ohio's spill reporting requirements or may be incapacitated.

Ohio EPA encourages first responders to report all transportation-related incidents involving vehicles with the potential for a release of bulk quantities of materials, even if the spill has not yet occurred. Report any release that impacts public health or the environment. Spills of any amount which cause a film or sheen on a waterway must also be reported.

Requirements for Reporting Petroleum-Related Spills

Spills of petroleum products (diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, etc.) of 25 gallons or more on or adjacent to a public roadway must be reported.

Reporting is encouraged if you are uncertain how much was released; if the spill threatens a waterway; or, if unaddressed, will enter a waterway or storm sewer in the future.

What happens when I call Ohio EPA's spill hotline?

Ohio EPA duty officers are available 24-hours a day to receive spill reports. The duty officer will contact an OSC if assistance is requested or the incident requires an immediate response.

Report a Spill, Release or Environmental Crime

800-282-9378

Reporting a Spill or Release

There is no penalty for early reporting if a release is suspected; however, there may be penalties for failing to report in a timely manner. As soon as you become aware of or suspect a release, contact the spill hotline with as much of the following information as possible.

- **Responsible party** (name of carrier, owner, operator or facility).
- **Date/time** (discovered/occurred).
- **Location** (address, cross street, mile marker).
- **Material(s)** (chemical, product, or common name).
- **Quantity** (estimated release/total).
- **Hazards** (extremely hazardous substance, placard, materials safety data sheet [MSDS]).
- **Affected media/area** (air, land or waterway, including threats to ditches, sewers, streams).
- **Actions/notifications** (evacuations, containment, contractor hired).
- **Contacts on scene** (responder cell phone number, responsible party, contractor, facility point of contact).

Other useful information (truck DOT or railcar number, chemical UN ID number, MSDS, etc.).

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Who is responsible for spill cleanup?

The owner/operator is the responsible party for spill cleanup. Ohio EPA can provide a list of clean-up contractors or call in a contractor in situations where the source or responsible party is unknown. If necessary, Ohio EPA oversees emergency clean-up activities and, if possible, will later recover clean-up costs. For more information, please see the Responsible Party's Guide to Pollution Incident Investigations fact sheet.

Ohio MARCS Radio System

All Ohio EPA OSCs have Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) radios. To use MARCS with an OSC, arrange a mutual aid talk group with them or contact the Ohio EPA duty officer. In an emergency, the State Highway Patrol Columbus Communications Center may reach an Ohio EPA OSC in the field.

Orphan Drum Unit

Ohio EPA's Orphan Drum Unit removes dumped or abandoned containers when a responsible party cannot be identified. Reports of dumped drums or other containers can be made to the spill hotline.

Contact

For more information, contact the division or an OSC in the appropriate district office.

Central Office

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
Street Address:
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 644-3020

Central District Office

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
Street Address:
50 West Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: (614) 728-3778
Fax: (614) 728-3898

Northeast District Office

2110 East Aurora Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087
Telephone: (330) 963-1200
Fax: (330) 487-0769

Northwest District Office

347 N. Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402
Phone: (419) 352-8461
Fax: (419) 352-8468



Southeast District Office

2195 Front Street
Logan, OH 43138
Phone: (740) 385-8501
Fax: (740) 385-6490

Southwest District Office

401 East Fifth Street
Dayton, OH 45402
Phone: (937) 285-6357
Fax: (937) 285-6249