

What to Do When You've Had a Spill

Contact local emergency services

Call 911 for medical emergency and public safety assistance from the local fire, police and medical services.

Report the spill immediately

Immediately report the spill or threatened spill to the Oregon Emergency Response System, 1-800-452-0311, when the spill or threat of a spill includes:

- Any amount of oil to waters of the state;
- Oil spills on land in excess of 42 gallons;
- Hazardous materials and reportable quantities that are equal to the Code of Federal Regulations, [40 CFR Part 302](#).

Provide information

When you report the spill to OERS, you will need to provide basic spill information:

- Contact names and phone numbers
- Type of oil or hazardous material
- Estimated quantity
- Location descriptions (land or water)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notification

Some oil or hazardous material spills will require a separate notification to the National Response Center, 1-800-424-8802. Visit [EPA's Emergency Response](#) website for information necessary to determine if you need to report to the federal system.

Other actions to take

- Move away or upwind from the spill if you detect an odor and are unsure if it is safe.
- Avoid contact with liquids or fumes.
- Keep non-emergency people out of the area.
- Control and contain the spill.
- Clean up what you can immediately.
- Remove cleanup materials to an approved facility (such as a solid or hazardous waste landfill or recycling facility.) Save your receipts for documentation.
- Continue with long-term cleanup measures.
- File a completed [Spill Release Report Form](#) with DEQ

Your role

You are responsible for the immediate cleanup of your spill, regardless of the quantity involved.

The responsibility lies with the person who spills the product, as well as the person owning or having

authority over the oil or hazardous material. You may need to hire a qualified contractor or properly trained and equipped personnel to respond immediately to the spill. If you fail to clean up your spill, DEQ may clean it up for you and, as allowed by law, fine you up to three times the cost of the cleanup, in addition to the actual cost of the cleanup ([Oregon Administrative Rules 340-142](#)).



Contractors can work to control, contain and mitigate difficult spills like this truck crash on the North Umpqua Highway that caused diesel to leak into the river.

DEQ's role

DEQ is responsible for ensuring that the cleanup is completed in a way that protects human health and the environment. Oregon law also requires DEQ to recover its costs in carrying out this responsibility.

Depending on the type and quantity of material spilled, and the potential threat to people or the environment, DEQ may choose to oversee the cleanup. This oversight may take the form of DEQ staff at the scene, phone contact, document review or a combination of these actions. You are responsible for these oversight costs and will normally be billed within 45 days.

For more information

Regional Emergency Response coordinators are listed in the margin. You may also visit the [DEQ Emergency Response webpage](#).

Contact

Contact the State On-Scene Coordinator in your area:



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Emergency Response

700 NE Multnomah St.,
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5696
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6124
Contact: Wesley C. Risher
Wes.risher@deq.state.or.us

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.

**Northwest Region Portland-Metro and
North Coast**

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Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or
in a language other than English upon request. Call
DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email

deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov