



DAYTON, OHIO REGIONAL HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM NEWSLETTER

May 2005

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Fuel Spills

All fire departments routinely deal with fuel spills, some on a daily basis. Here are just a few reminders.

All fuels are not created equal.

By addressing the properties of the fuel you are dealing with it is possible to respond in a safe manner and, at the same time, protect the environment and property. Let's take a look at some of the more popular fuels in use in the transportation industry:

- *Gasoline* has a flashpoint of -38° to -50°F and presents a high flammability and explosion hazard to crews working in or adjacent to the product. Gasoline is used primarily by automobiles and small trucks. These vehicles may have single or multiple tanks capable of holding up to 40 gallons or more of gasoline.
- *Diesel* fuel has a flashpoint of around 125°F and presents much less risk to crews. This fuel is used in all methods of transportation from 20 gallon fuel tanks on cars and pickup trucks, multiple tanks on over-the-road trucks, to more than 4,000 gallons of fuel on railroad locomotives.
- *Jet Fuels* may have properties similar to gasoline or diesel. You must investigate and determine what you are dealing with at the scene of a plane crash. If in doubt, treat as gasoline.

If possible, attempt to contain the release. By preventing the fuel from spreading you will

reduce the clean-up cost and time. If the product has entered a waterway, get ahead of the release and take appropriate action. Boom it, dike it, but do something—please don't think "*Out of Sight Out of Mind.*"

Trucks

If the truck has two or more fuel tanks, there usually is a crossover line that allows the tanks to be used at the same time and equalize into each other. Most dual-tank configurations will have some sort of valve located at the bottom of the tank. However, some newer trucks will not have valves. Instead, they'll have a fuel siphon line that picks up the fuel from the top of the tank and sends it to the engine block to be preheated to maximize fuel economy.

In these cases, crimp the fuel line or restrict the flow as much as possible to minimize environmental impact. If possible, use a plug or patch to slow or stop the leak.

If necessary, establish a series of dikes/dams to confine and control the run-off.

Reporting Requirements

Ohio EPA should be notified in the following situations:

1. 25 gallons or more out of its container regardless of where spilled.
2. Any amount in a waterway (this includes a drainage ditch) that puts a sheen on the surface.

Any spill in a *Well Field Protection Area* should be reported to the local authority.

If in doubt, please call.

Thank You

Many thanks go out to city of Dayton staff members Donna Winchester, Steve Gaytko and Phil Van Atta. They provided a very interesting and useful training experience at our April Training. I urge all of you to start a relationship with your water department and both storm sewer and sanitary sewer operators. They will be valuable assets in the future when a spill involves their operations.

May Training

This month's training will be held on the 19th, 20th and 21st at the Dayton Fire Training Center on McFadden Avenue off of Springfield Street. Although we call this Technician Refresher Training and we do issue Tech. Refresher Certificates, this session is for all Team members. If you are a member of our Team, you are encouraged and expected to attend one of these training sessions if at all possible, no matter your level of training. There is plenty for all present to do and much to be learned at this training.

2005 Training Schedule

May 19-20-21

0900-1700 hours—Tech. Refresher Training
DFD Training Center

June 16-17-18

0900-1200 hours

July 21-22-23

0900-1200 hours

August 18-19-20

0900-1200 hours

September 15-16-17

0900-1700 hours

October 20-21-22

0900-1200 hours

November 17-18-19

0900-1200 hours

December

No Training