

**Environmental Impact Control Policy-Hydraulic Oils**

Pacific Coast Tree Expert is committed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment. PCTE integrates environmental values into it’s the decision-making process, by considering the environmental impacts of activities and finding reasonable alternatives to those actions.

All employees shall be given awareness training on environmental policy, and in containment/ site cleanup.

Leaks and spills shall be contained and cleaned immediately upon discovery. In the event the material cannot be cleaned by the employees on-site. A containment area shall be established to protect the public and prevent the further spread of the contamination.

All GFs shall be equipped with a well-stocked spill containment/site cleanup kit.

All spills and leaks shall be reported to the crew foreperson. In the event it is not possible to contain or effectively clean the exposed area, due to size or location, the General Foreman and Field Supervisor/Safety Supervisor shall be contacted. The Field Supervisor/Safety supervisors will make the appropriate arrangements with a third-party environmental vendor to remediate the site and inform the appropriate members of management and the local utility.

When work is required to be performed in a designated wetland or near a waterway, care shall be taken to limit the impact of the work being performed on the site. Prior to entry into the site, crews shall check to ensure the equipment they plan to use contains no active leaks. Upon the completion of work care shall be taken the return the site to its original state and check to ensure they did not leak any oils into the soil.

If a spill occurs, immediate steps will be taken to barricade the spill from affecting streams or wetlands.

Additional spill kits or training can be requested through the local PCTE office

**Emergency Response and Cleanup for Small Spills**

This fact sheet applies to spills of about 10 gallons of gasoline, diesel fuel, waste oil, or other engine fluids. This guidance does not apply to spills of chemicals, leaks of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) oil, or PCB contaminated oil from electrical equipment, such as transformers.

**What are the basic steps in responding to a petroleum spill?**

**Step 1: Stop the spill.**

If it can be done safely, the leak or spill should be stopped or contained by onsite personnel. Turn off leaking tools, plug leaks with putty, or place sorbent pads around or under the source of the leak.

**Step 2: Contain and recover the spill.**

If the spill or leak cannot be stopped, catch the flowing liquid using a pan, pail, hubcap, shovel or whatever is available. Spreading sorbent material, such as kitty litter (Speedy Dry), sand, sawdust, wood chips, synthetic [sorbent pads](http://www.dawginc.com/absorbents.html), or dirt from the roadside can stop the flow and soak up the petroleum on pavement. Sorbents do not make petroleum nonflammable.

If the spill occurs on dirt or gravel, scoop up the contaminated material and turn it in for disposal.

 **Step 3: Collect the contaminated sorbent.**

Brooms can be used to sweep up the sorbent material and put it into buckets, garbage cans or barrels or on top of plastic sheeting. Remember to control ignition sources.

**Step 4: Secure the waste.**

If the spill is at a business or if the vehicle in an accident is a commercial vehicle, disposal of the contaminated sorbent is the business' responsibility. The company is required to report spills of petroleum greater than five gallons. The state/local Pollution Control Agency will direct the business on disposal of the wastes.

With the exception of used oil, waste generated from petroleum spills that have been reported and cleaned up immediately are exempt from Hazardous Waste Rules (verify with your state's EPA).

**What other information is available?**

Most State Pollution Control Agencies have fact sheets on spill prevention, cleanup and disposal. Check with state/local PCA for periodic training sessions for fire departments on control of small spills, using sorbent and containment booms, and response to big spills. For more information, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov/oilspill/](http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/).

Sincerely

Pacific Coast Management

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