

According to Nebraska regulations (Title 126), fuel spills must be reported to NDEQ and cleaned up. This brochure provides some basic information that will help you comply when you have a fuel spill due to a transportation accident.

#### What fuel spills need to be reported?

- A spill larger than 25 gallons to the land surface
- A spill of any amount that enters surface water

#### What is considered fuel?

- Diesel, gasoline, or any petroleum product

#### Who is responsible for reporting and cleaning up the spill?

- The owner or operator of the vehicle the fuel spilled from is responsible, in most cases.

#### What will NDEQ do after the initial spill report?

- NDEQ will determine if the spill is under control.
- NDEQ will determine if additional immediate actions are needed.
- If necessary, NDEQ will contact other agencies if additional resources are needed to respond.
- NDEQ will provide you a notification number to confirm the spill has been reported.

#### Why is it important to quickly control a fuel spill?

- Oil and fuel on the road can cause a slick surface that is a traffic hazard.
- Spilled fuel can be a fire hazard.
- Vapors from the spilled fuel can be a health hazard to the public.
- Spilled fuel can cause property damage.
- Spilled fuel can harm surface water and ground water.

#### What can I do to minimize the harm caused by a fuel spill?

- Call 911. First Responders are often trained to deal with fuel spills.
- Stop the leak. First Responders may also be able to plug or patch the leak.
- Contain the spill. Absorbent material (Hi-Dri or similar) may be used to keep the fuel from spreading.
- Protect drains and surface water. Place material between the spill and a drain or surface water to stop fuel from reaching the drain or surface water.
- Cover the spill. Sand, soil, or absorbent material can be placed over the spill to control vapors.
  - **NOTE! Avoid putting water on a fuel spill as it only further spreads the spill.**
  - If Hi-Dri or other clay-based material is used on a road, sweep it up right away and put it in containers so it doesn't make the road surface slippery.
  - A fire department may cover a gasoline spill with foam to control flammable vapors.
- Contact your insurance carrier to determine if you have pollution and/or spill coverage.
  - Your insurance carrier may send an adjuster or cleanup contractor right away.



#### What do I do after I have reported the spill?

- Clean up the spill. The sooner, the better.
  - Hire a cleanup contractor. NDEQ does not have requirements for who you hire.
  - Contact Nebraska 811 to get a utility locate before digging up contaminated soil.  
1-800-331-5666, or online at <https://www.ne1call.com/>
  - Contact Nebraska DOT for a permit to clean up any spill in a NDOT right of way.  
<https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/permits/row/>  
(402) 471-4567

#### What do I do after the spill has been cleaned up?

- Send a written report to NDEQ. Title 126 requires a report that includes details about the spill, as well as the cleanup efforts.
  - Who performed the cleanup and when was cleanup complete
  - How much soil/rock/other was excavated and where was it disposed
  - A statement that all spilled fuel and contaminated soils were recovered
  - If all fuel/soil could not be recovered, an explanation as to why
  - A drawing depicting the spill area and photographs (not required, but helpful)

**Mail the report to:**  
**NDEQ-PRS**  
**P.O. Box 98922**  
**Lincoln, NE 68509-8922**



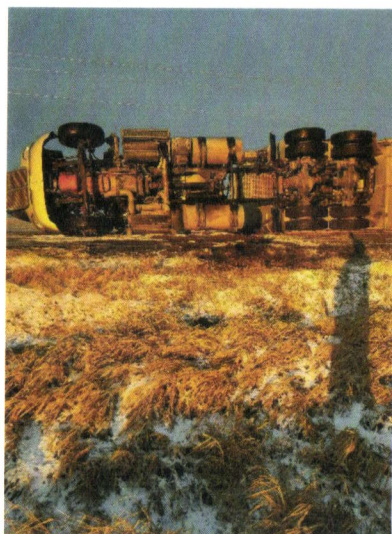
### What happens if I don't clean up the fuel spill?

- NDEQ will send you a "Notice of Violation" letter, which could lead to fines.
- NDEQ may hire a contractor to clean up the spill.
  - If NDEQ hires a contractor, you can expect to receive a bill for the cost of the cleanup

### Who do I contact if I have questions?

- Call NDEQ at (402) 471-2186
- Ask for the Petroleum Remediation Section for questions about spill reporting and cleanup
- Ask for the Waste Management Section for questions about soil disposal
- Visit the NDEQ Web Page for more fuel spill questions and answers:

<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PSS>



### Specialized Spill Cleanup Contractors, March 2019

NDEQ does not endorse or certify any of the contractors on this list. This list is not all-inclusive. This list is provided as a courtesy to spillers wishing contact information for cleanup contractors who regularly do this type of work (contractors listed in alphabetical order). A full list of environmental contractors is available on the NDEQ website.

#### *Environmental Restoration LLC*

*Location: Omaha, NE*

*24 hour phone number: 888-814-7477*

[www.erllc.com](http://www.erllc.com)

#### *Environmental Solutions, Inc.*

*Location: Omaha, NE*

*24 hour phone number: 402-896-3600*

[www.esilink.com](http://www.esilink.com)

#### *Haz-Mat Response*

*Locations: North Platte, NE; Gretna, NE;  
Windsor, CO; and Great Bend, KS*

*24 hour phone number: 1-800-229-5252*

[www.haz-matresponse.com](http://www.haz-matresponse.com)

**NEBRASKA**  
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## What to do when you've had a fuel spill

(Over the Road Vehicle Incidents)

Nebraska Department of  
Environmental Quality (NDEQ)

March 2019



### When and how do I report a fuel spill?

- Call NDEQ M-F, 8-5 at **402-471-2186**
- Non-office hours, call the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) Dispatch at **402-479-4921**. NSP will contact NDEQ, who will call you back
- NDEQ will ask you:
  - when the spill occurred,
  - location of the spill,
  - amount spilled,
  - what has been done to contain or recover the spill, and
  - who is responsible for the spill.