



Division of Spill Prevention and Response **Small Spill Management and Best Practices When Working in Remote Alaska**

Prevention, Preparedness and Response Program

Remote work in Alaska is a challenge. Transporting and storing fuel, chemicals, equipment, and supplies can be expensive and time consuming. Planning and taking steps to prevent spills can save time and money and can help avoid environmental damage. To prevent or reduce fuel and chemical spills, the following prevention measures should be implemented.

FUEL STORAGE

- Avoid storing fuel within 100 feet of any drinking water source or surface water.
- Store fuel containers in diked, lined areas. If possible, cover and elevate off the ground on level pallets. Liner is typically a thick plastic or coated fabric.
- Place liners under the engines of equipment to catch drips while staging or conducting maintenance.
- Install check valves on fuel tank manifolds. Do not manifold (connect) fuel storage tanks unless check valves are properly installed.



FUEL LINES

- Welded joints are more secure than threaded or compression joints.
- Install expansion joints or flex couplers every 100 feet along fuel lines.
- Install fuel lines under roadways in casing sleeves of sufficient strength to withstand crushing or rupture by all anticipated wheel loads.
- Mark location of buried fuel lines.
- Include large loops in fuel lines for flexibility. Avoid kinks or short loops.

FUELING OPERATIONS

- Never leave fuel transfers unattended.
- Gauge and visually inspect the amount of fuel in the tank before beginning a fuel transfer.
- Stop fueling operations immediately if a leak or spillage is detected or suspected.
- Keep accurate records of all fuel usages to identify if there is a loss of fuel from an unknown leak.
- Keep spill kits onsite and easily accessible to quickly contain spills. See below #6 for recommended items for your spill kit.
- Place portable containment ponds under valves and connectors during fueling operations to catch drips.

To report spills and/or request technical assistance call 1-800-478-9300

Online Spill Reporting: [ReportSpills.Alaska.Gov](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/reporting/)

For State of Alaska Reporting Requirements Please See:

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/reporting/>



What to do if a spill occurs

1. **Safety first!** Protect yourself and others onsite by limiting exposure to fumes and wearing appropriate personal protective gear, such as safety glasses and gloves. Conduct safety briefing so everyone understands the risks and how to avoid injury.
2. **Stop the source** of the spill if possible and safe to do so.
3. **Report oil spills to water, oil spills to land larger than 55 gallons or chemical releases immediately.**

Oil spills under 55 gallons to land may be reported within 24 hours. Report to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) by calling **1-800-478-9300**. Technical assistance can be provided by ADEC.

4. **Analyze** the incident including source and volume of spill, likely behavior of the spill such as flow direction, and collect hazard information on the product spilled. Will this product flow to surface water or a sensitive area? Or flow under buildings that could cause unhealthy vapors for building occupants? Prioritize your response to minimize potential hazards.
5. **Control the spill.**
 - Stop transferring immediately if spill occurs during transfer.
 - Close valves upstream of the leak to stop the flow of product.
 - Place buckets or basins under a leak from a pipe or a valve.
 - Apply a temporary patch over a leaky pipe or plug in damaged tank.
 - If spill is from a damaged tank, transfer fuel to another tank.
6. **Contain the spill as soon as possible.** The quicker the spill is contained, the less potential for danger to humans and less impact to the environment. **Recommended spill response tool kit** –absorbent sausage boom, absorbent pads, oily waste bags, containment pond, bag of granular absorbent, shovel, and rake.



- In summer, use sausage boom and pads or dirt and mud to form a dike around the spill.
- In winter, snow and ice may be piled to form a dike to contain the spill. Fill area with absorbent boom and pads.
- Dig a ditch and line with plastic to divert oil away from streams or other bodies of water.
- Pay particular attention to protecting sensitive areas (such as drinking water sources, fish and wildlife habitats, culturally sensitive areas, or residential areas).

7. **Recover and clean up.**
 - **Recover** contained product before it enters a waterbody by pumping to drums, tanks or other containers. Use absorbents pads to slow the flow and absorb product.
 - **Clean** contaminated equipment, tanks, pipes, or other objects in a way that controls run off from the cleaning operation.
 - **Coordinate with ADEC** to properly dispose of contaminated soil and materials.