

Emergency Spill Response Protocols and Guidance

IF A SPILL OCCURS:

- Control
- Contain
- Comply
- Clean-up



Plan Ahead to Take Quick Action if a Spill Occurs

- Prevent spills with good operation and maintenance.
- Have a spill response plan specific to your waterways.
- Have emergency contact numbers posted in a easy to find place.

Emergency Contact Numbers

- **Department of Ecology (24 hour hotline):**

NW Region	425-649-7000	SW Region	360-407-6300
EA Region	509-329-3400	Central Region	509-575-2490

- **WSDA Dairy Nutrient Program:**

NW Region	360-961-7412	SW Region	360-202-5870
EA Region	509-969-7140	PS Region	360-202-3257

- **Fill in the number for the following contacts:**

Local CD/NRCS: _____	Facility Owner: _____
Facility Manager: _____	Heavy Equipment Operator: _____
Custom Pumper: _____	Other: _____

How to Prevent a Spill:

The best way to deal with a spill is to prevent it. Here are things to do regularly :

- **Maintain** a 12-15 inch freeboard on waste storage ponds (lagoons).
- **Inspect** all storage structures regularly for signs of leaks or problems.
- **Inspect** all valves, pumps, hoses, and other manure conveyance equipment before and during use. Conduct routine maintenance and repair prior to failure.
- **Make smart manure applications.**
 - Follow all manure application setback distances throughout the year.
 - Identify / avoid high risk areas.
 - Utilize weather forecasts.
 - Apply at appropriate rates and times.

Faced With Manure Spill? Act Quickly and Follow These Four Steps:

1. **Control**—Identify and stop the spill immediately at the source.
2. **Contain**—Limit the area impacted by containing the discharge as appropriate for the situation before it gets to a waterway; if it has reached a waterway, follow your spill response plan.
3. **Comply**—Notify the appropriate authority immediately of the extent of the damage.
4. **Clean-up**—Follow instructions from the appropriate agency on how to properly clean up the spill and restore the area without causing further impacts.

What Do You Do When Manure Gets Into a Waterway?

Knowing how to respond properly to a manure spill is the key to reducing the impact and recovery time for a waterway. Depending on the type of adjacent waterway, the response will vary. Here are a few considerations:

Know what type of waterways are on your farm. Identifying the potential impacts and spill response protocols by waterway is critical. There are 4 types of waterways, all of which have a different response protocol.

- **Ditch** (dry) - Dry ditch that may have seasonal water flow.
- **Ditch** (water present) - Water is currently flowing in ditch. May be continuous or intermittent.
- **Creek, Stream** (perennial, fish or non-fish bearing) - Water flows year round. May contain fish & habitat.
- **River** (perennial, fish bearing) - Water flows year round. Typically contains fish and fish habitat.



- ◇ **Who is affected downstream of a spill?** Clean up and contact response will vary depending on who/what is affected downstream of a spill. Is it shellfish, drinking water, fish habitat/passage, recreation, wetlands? Know who may be affected and plan ahead.
- ◇ **Assess the balance of risk when planning your response.** Is it better to divert flow, dam flow, clean out ditch, or let it flow? This will vary depending on waterway type, time of year and long-term impact of a clean up response. Know what downstream resources may be impacted and where the waterway drains.
- ◇ **Holding time.** Fecal coliform samples take 24 hours to process. If a response is to dam a waterway and wait for a clean sample, can the temporary dam hold the water that long? Is anyone upstream affected by flooding if water flow is stopped? The time of year and flow changes the potential impact and the most appropriate response.
- ◇ **Don't double pollute.** If a ditch is plugged up with dirt, or manure saturated soil is removed from a ditch, be sure these materials are then agronomically applied in a low-risk manner. Don't put it on the bank where it can runoff back into a waterway.
- ◇ **Consider fish habitat.** If a discharge is to a fish bearing waterway, take special care. Depending on time of year and spawning stage, dewatering streams or reducing flows, disturbing gravel/habitat, or increasing sediment/turbidity may result in additional violations. Have these waterways identified and know how to respond.

Your response depends on:

- ⇒ Waterway type
- ⇒ Flow
- ⇒ Length of waterway impacted
- ⇒ Concentration of manure nutrients
- ⇒ Potential upstream & downstream impacts

**Contact your local
Conservation District to get a spill
response plan for your dairy.
Advance preparation can help you
reduce impacts if a spill occurs.**



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

If you have questions about spill response requirements, please contact your regional Nutrient Management Plan Inspector:
Southwest Region @ 360.902.1928 **Northwest Region @ 360.961.7412**
Eastern Region @ 509.969.7140 **Puget Sound Region @ 360.202.3257**
