

INTRODUCTION

The scope of the following Tool Box Talk applies to oil, paint and other fluid spills less than 5 U.S. gallons that occur on solid flooring. These kinds of spills are commonly found in maintenance and service shops, and minor tasks in work zones. This Tool Box Talk does not address resolution of spills larger than 5 gallons, or those spills onto open ground or soil.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN CLEANING UP SPILLS

- Know exactly what type of fluid has been spilled. Where available, reference the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) or Technical Data Sheet (TDS) before coming in contact with fluid. Understand the type of health, flammability and reactivity hazards exist with the fluid.
- Notify others in the area of any potential risks.
- Put-on the proper PPE. This may include a face shield, protective eye-wear, close toed footwear, protective sleeves and neoprene aprons and gloves.
- Identify open drains in the area. Ensure the spill cannot reach the drain. Enclose the perimeter of the drain with absorbent materials if needed.
- Move an approved waste storage container to the area of the spill. These containers need to be made of material where the fluid cannot leak or seep. They must be sealable, and strong enough to withstand routine material handling and shipping. Steel drums are commonly used.
- Move portable objects out of the area if they have not come in contact with fluid.
- Place absorbent materials around the entire perimeter of the spill. Sorbents include pads, cloth tubes, rags/towels and granular materials. As the materials become saturated, place them in the approved container, or if the fluid is reusable and can be filtered, place it back into the original container.
- Continue to soak the fluid with the absorbent materials, working from the outside perimeter to the center of the spill.
- Once all the standing fluid is absorbed, wipe the area clean with a degreaser or similar floor cleaner.
- Label the container with a description of the type of fluid and storage date, at a minimum. Remove or black out all other inaccurate labels. Ensure the container and storage site complies with applicable environmental regulations.

QUESTIONS TO GENERATE DISCUSSION

- Do you know the locations of Material Safety Data Sheets, or Technical Data Sheets in you work area?

