

# HCC Rights of Way Good Practice Guide

## Contractor Regulations for Oil & Fuel Spillage

### Part 1.

The pollution caused by the uncontrolled release of fuel and oil can be very significant, especially in contact with water. One litre of oil can coat the surface of 1000 square metres of open water. The Environment Agency has a duty to protect controlled waters from pollution, which include all water courses, canals and groundwater. Offenders may be fined and charge the cost of any clean up operation.

To reduce the probability of incidents occurring the following points should be applied:

- Guard against spillage using non-spill canisters for all on-site refuelling.
- Refuel equipment, maintain equipment and store fuels and oils, well away from water courses.
- Ensure all containers are sealed when not in use.

### Part 2.

All operations including the potential for fuel and/or oil spillage must be assessed for the risk they present and appropriate contingency plans put in place. The following measures are sufficient for normal Rights of Way Contractor activities.

- A shovel and bags should be available, plus additional absorbent material if it is not readily available on site. Absorbent material can include, proprietary absorbents (in the form of sheets, pillows, dry powder or granules), sand or earth.
- Contaminated material should be bagged and removed from site where it can be disposed of appropriately.
- Do not hose down or use detergents.

The severity of potential spillages associated with Contractor activities will normally be slight and therefore the stated contingency measures are sufficient. However unusual projects involving greater than normal quantities or closer proximity to water may occur. In these cases greater measures will be needed and prior consultation with the Environment Agency is advised.

Environment Agency - Emergency Hot line 0800 80 70 60