

Hazardous Materials Spill

Quick Reference Guide



Terminology

- **Responsible Party:** Individual, or company, who owns the product that is spilled or released. This is typically the owner of a fixed facility or a transportation company. In situations where a responsible party is not known, the property owner where the incident occurred is the responsible party.
- **Reportable Quantity:** The threshold amount where anything above it needs to be reported.
- **LERA:** Political Subdivisions are required to appoint a Local Emergency Response Authority who is responsible for ensuring an appropriate response to hazardous materials incidents. This is Gallatin County Emergency Management of all of Gallatin County.

Initiation Process

- Notifications are required for:
 - Spills of petroleum products greater than 25 gallons.
 - Spills of petroleum products that enter, or could enter, into waterways.
 - Spills of any chemical in a quantity equal to, or above, the reportable quantity for products regulated under CERCLA or EPCRA.
 - It is often hard to determine what needs to be reported. If you think it might need to be, then treat it as a reportable spill.
- The responsible party is required to notify the following for a reportable spill:
 - Gallatin County Emergency Management on behalf of the LEPC.
 - Montana Disaster and Emergency Services on behalf of the SERC.
 - National Response Center on behalf of EPA/ USCG.
- In situations where the spiller is unknown, use caution on the actions to take so you don't assume ownership. Contact Emergency Management to work through the Orphaned Chemical process.
- For spills of significance, it is asked that the local response agency notify Gallatin County Emergency Management to support the response and ensure proper mediation of the spill.

Considerations

- If the spill isn't contained, exceeds the spillers capacity to control, or poses a threat to the community; consider requesting the Bozeman HazMat Team.
- The Bozeman HazMat Team's job is to stop spills and mitigate dangerous situations. Their job is not to clean up the spill after the situation is stabilized. This includes fuel spills. The responsible party is responsible to cleaning up the spill.
- It is common, especially in transportation incidents, that the responsible party doesn't know what that means or what to do. The first step is to have them contact their insurance company. Most insurance companies recognize the liability and are very rehearsed at how to respond. Emergency Management can also provide support for the responsible party.

Reference

- [EPCRA](#)
- [CERCLA](#) / [SARA](#)
- [Montana Code Annotated – Response to Hazardous Materials](#)

Gallatin County Emergency Management (406) 451-0672	Montana Disaster and Emergency Services (406) 324-4777	National Response Center (800) 424-8802
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