

Environment Information

Spill Response

Prevention is better than spill response

What's the issue with spills?

Spills of hazardous substances and dangerous goods including fuel, oil and / or chemicals pose a significant risk to the environment at the airport. This includes risks to nearby local waterways, including the Georges River at Bankstown and the Nepean River at Camden. It can also impact upon soil and groundwater.

Historically a number of the contaminated sites at Sydney Metro Airports (SMA) have been caused from a lack of and/or poor response to spills.



Background

Fuel, oil, solvents, paint, adhesives, detergents, herbicides and pesticides, amongst other things, are all classified as Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances and are potentially dangerous or harmful to human health and the environment.

Poor storage, handling and disposal of these products can often result in a spill.

This creates a risk to human health, and impact on the environment by causing pollution of soil, air or water.

Not only does this create a risk to human health and the environment but the cost to clean up environmental pollution can be extremely expensive.

This means prevention of spills is the best management measure and first line of defence.

Where a spill could not be prevented effective and timely spill response and management can significantly reduce or avoid risks human health and environmental pollution.

Storage of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances

Sydney Metro Airports Environment Information – Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances provides information on your responsibility for handling, storage and disposal of chemical substances. It also includes ways to minimise the risk of uncontrolled spills of these substances.

The law and what this means for you at a Sydney Metro Airport

The Airports Act 1996 makes it an offence for a person to directly or indirectly cause environmental pollution on an airport and significant penalties apply. *The Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997* requires operators on airports to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent pollution and, if prevention is not possible, to minimise pollution.

This means all tenants, their employees and contractors have a duty to prevent and minimise pollution.

The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulation 2011 apply to the management of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances (i.e. fuels, oils, solvents and other chemicals) and require people using and storing these products to make provision for;

- containment of spills and
- response to, and clean-up of, spills that occur.

Operators at Sydney Metropolitan Airports must therefore;

- Store fuel, oil, solvents and other liquid chemicals in a bunded area (*to capture any spills that may occur during storage*);
- Hold sufficient equipment to capture spills that may occur and know how to use that equipment; and
- Clean up spills as they occur.

Spill Response Equipment and Procedures

All operators (that is tenants, employees and contractors) on airport are required to maintain sufficient response equipment and procedures to manage the type and size of spill that may occur at their premises, or in association with their work.

An emergency response plan should be developed for all sites describing response to emergencies at the site including spills to ensure staff and the environment are protected.

The emergency response plan should also outline what spill response equipment is available on site, where it is located and how to use it.

There is a variety of spill response equipment that is widely available. This equipment is designed to target specific substances so consideration should be given to the appropriate equipment for the products stored on site.

The type and quantity of products used and stored at the facility will determine the type and quantity of spill response equipment required.

For example absorbent mats and booms are available that are designed to absorb hydrocarbons (fuel and oil) and allow water to pass through.

Some examples of spill response equipment includes:

- Absorbent Booms and Mats
- Absorbent Granules
- Stormwater Drain Caps
- Portable Bunds



In facilities where small amounts (<5L) of Dangerous Goods and Chemicals are used and stored, absorbent substances such as “chemsorb” or saw dust may be sufficient for spill response.

Spill Response procedures

All operators at Sydney Metro Airports must take action in the event of a liquid chemical spill (i.e. spills of fuel, oil, solvents, PCBs, paint, adhesives, detergents, herbicides and pesticides or any other liquid chemical). A Spill Response Flowchart is appended and SMA encourage you to ensure staff are aware of SMA and site specific spill response processes and that they are displayed in appropriate locations around the site.

Remember safety comes first.

- Call the Duty Airport Operations Officer (0419 294 432) immediately if you can't contain the spill, don't know what has been spilled, the spilled material has entered a stormwater drain or if the material spilled is toxic.
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment when managing spilled material and let experts deal with toxic materials.

Further Information

For further information on the law relating to the storage and use of Dangerous Goods and Hazardous substances refer to;

- WorkCover NSW - phone 13 10 50
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Regulation 2011 (<https://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/law-and-policy/legislation-and-codes/work-health-and-safety-legislation> select the Act and follow the links)

For information in relation to the disposal of dangerous goods and hazardous substance containing materials refer to;

- NSW Environment and Protection Agency (EPA) Environment Line - Phone 131 555
- EPA Information on Hazardous Material and liquid Waste. (<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/hazardous-liquids.htm>)
- WorkCover NSW Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Substances Fact Sheet (http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/19580/managing-risks-hazardous-chemicals-code-3837.pdf)

DISCLAIMER

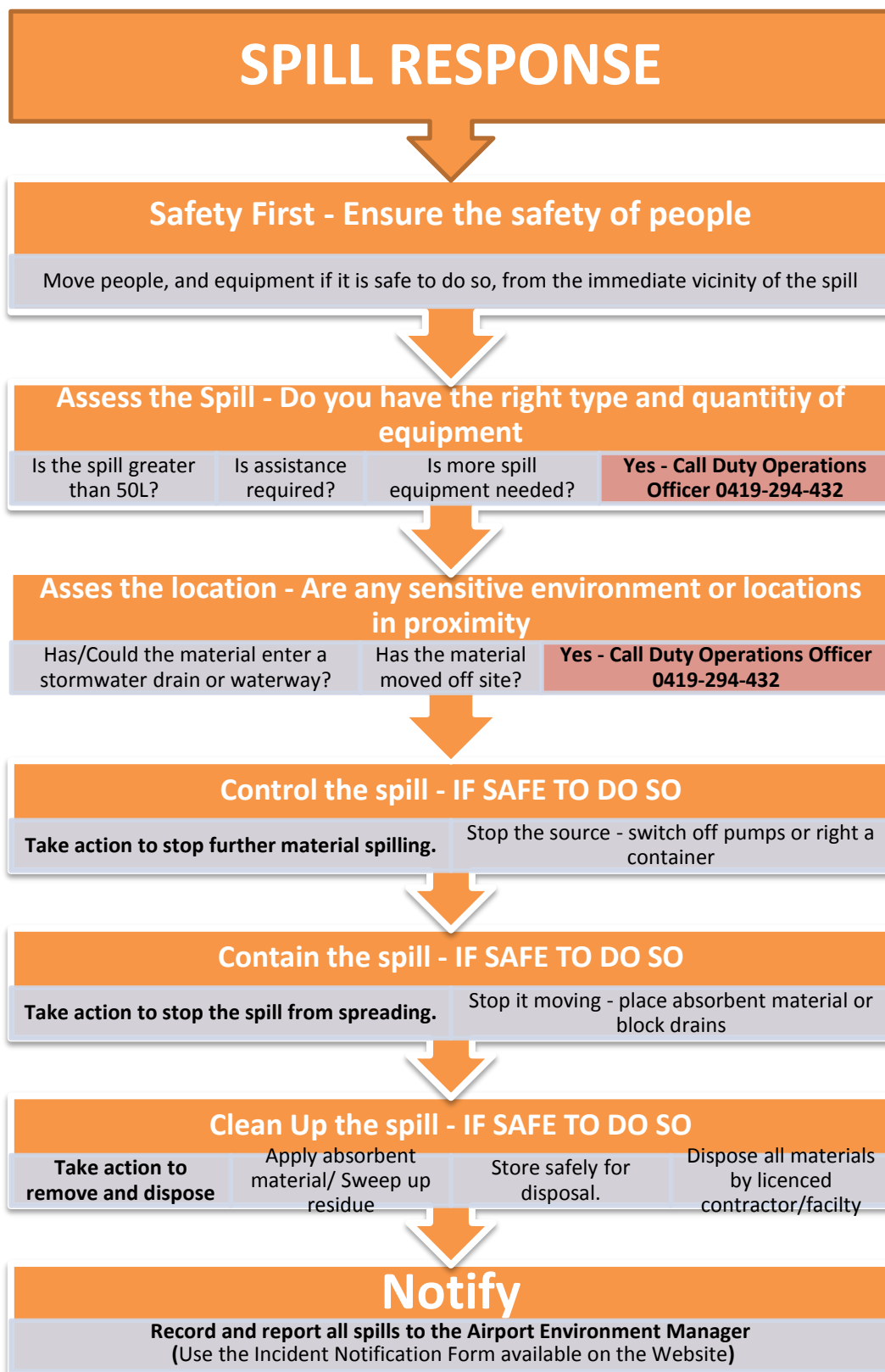
The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and all other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.

Document No.: SMA-EN-SMA-GUI-000806

Version: 01

Date: 21/03/2018

Appendix 1 – Spill Response Flow Chart



Incidents involving a spill of greater than 5 litres, and/or spills that enter a waterway or damage an environmentally significant area should be reported immediately to the Duty Operations Officer on 0419 294 432 and notification to the Sydney Metro Airports Environment and Heritage Manager on 02 8709 9409 as soon as practicable thereafter.