



## Emergency Spill Response Protocols and Guidance

### IF A SPILL OCCURS:

- **Control**
- **Contain**
- **Comply**
- **Clean-up**



### Be Prepared

- **Prevent** spills with good operation and maintenance.
- **Plan** your spill response specific to your waterways.
- **Post** emergency contact numbers in an 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 Management Program:

- NW Region - 360-961-7412
- SW Region - 360-746-1249
- EA Region - 509-969-7140
- PS Region - 360-791-1462

### 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.

- **Maintain** 12-15 inches of freeboard on storage ponds ( lagoons).
- **Inspect** all storage structures regularly for signs of leaks or problems.
- **Check** 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 seasonal setbacks throughout the year.
  - Identify and avoid high-risk areas.
  - Check forecasted rainfall.
  - Apply at appropriate rates and times.

### Manure Spill?

#### Act quickly and follow these four steps:

1. **Control** - Immediately stop the spill at the source.
2. **Contain** - Limit impacts by containing the spill before it reaches a waterway.
3. **Comply** - Immediately notify the appropriate authority about the extent of the damage.
4. **Clean-up** - Follow instructions from the appropriate agency on how to clean up the spill and restore the area without causing further impacts.

## What to 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.

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



**DRY DITCH**

*Dry ditch that may see seasonal water flow.*



**DITCH**

*Water is currently flowing in ditch. May be continuous or intermittent.*



**CREEK, STREAM**

*Water flows year-round. May contain fish and habitat.*



**RIVER**

*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 or what is affected downstream of a spill. Is it drinking water, recreation, shellfish, fish habitat/passage or wetlands? Know who may be affected.
- » **Plan your response.** Is it better to divert flow, dam flow, clean out ditch, or let it flow? This will vary depending on the type of waterway, time of year and long-term impact of a clean-up response. Consider where the waterway drains and what downstream users may be affected.
- » **Holding time.** If a response is to dam a waterway, can the temporary dam hold the water? Is anyone upstream affected by flooding if water flow is stopped? Think about how interrupting the flow may affect both upstream and downstream users.
- » **Don't double pollute.** If a ditch is plugged up with dirt, or manure saturated soil is removed from a ditch, be sure materials are then agronomically applied in a low-risk manner. Don't put it on the bank where it can run off 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 affected
- ✓ Concentration of manure nutrients
- ✓ Potential upstream and downstream impacts

**Contact your local Conservation District to get a spill response plan for your dairy.**

**Advance preparation can help you reduce impacts of a spill.**

**If you have questions, please contact your regional Nutrient Management Program inspector:**

Southwest Region 360-746-1249

Northwest Region 360-961-7412

Eastern Region 509-969-7140

Puget Sound Region 360-791-1462