



Ohio EPA's Emergency Response Program is available to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with on-scene coordinators (OSCs) available to help first responders address environmental emergencies and pollution incidents, including chemical and petroleum spills. Statewide, Ohio EPA records more than 5,000 incident reports annually through calls to our emergency response spill hotline from citizens, companies, law enforcement, emergency responders and other agencies. OSCs respond to the scene of more than 1,200 of these incidents each year. More than 80 percent of the on-scene responses involve petroleum products. OSCs also respond by phone to more than 400 incident reports each year when an on-scene response is not immediately necessary.

Ohio EPA relies on first responders to assist in incident reporting. Transportation accidents (rail, commercial vehicle, barge, etc.) frequently involve operators who may not be familiar with Ohio's spill reporting requirements or may be incapacitated. Ohio EPA encourages first responders to report all transportation-related incidents involving vehicles with the potential for a release of bulk quantities of materials, even if the spill has not yet occurred.

### Chemicals? Petroleum? When Does Ohio EPA Respond?

Ohio EPA's OSCs investigate many different types of pollution incidents. The majority of the incidents involve chemicals and petroleum

products; however, OSCs have responded to some unusual releases, including coal, corn, dyes, manure, milk, wheat and many more. Releases of any material in large volumes to a waterway can cause environmental damage, including fish kills. The release of any material that impacts public health or the environment should be reported to Ohio EPA's spill hotline.

### Requirements for Reporting Petroleum-Related Spills

The reportable quantities for spills or releases involving a petroleum product (diesel fuel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, etc.) are:

- Any amount of petroleum that causes a film or sheen on a waterway.
- Any spill or release to the environment (not contained on the spiller's property) of 25 gallons or more.

If you are uncertain how much was released, reporting is encouraged. Spills of petroleum products of 25 gallons or more on or adjacent to a public roadway are always reportable.

Ohio EPA encourages responders to report petroleum spills of any amount if the spill threatens a waterway, or will enter a waterway or storm sewer in the future due to rain or snowmelt if unaddressed.

### What Happens When I Call Ohio EPA's Spill Hotline at 1-800-282-9378?

Calls to Ohio EPA's spill hotline received during regular business hours are taken by Ohio EPA duty officers who then contact an OSC if assistance is requested or the incident requires an immediate response. After hours, the spill hotline is answered by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Communications Center in Columbus. Dispatchers gather the necessary information and contact an Ohio EPA duty officer to follow up with the caller or responsible party and the OSC as

necessary. Be prepared to provide as much of the following information as possible:

- **Responsible party** (name of carrier, owner, operator or facility).
- **Date/time** (discovered/occurred).
- **Location** (address, cross street, mile marker).
- **Material(s)** (chemical, product, or common name).
- **Quantity** (estimated release/total).
- **Hazards** (extremely hazardous substance, placard, materials safety data sheet [MSDS]).
- **Affected media/area** (air, land or waterway, including threats to ditches, sewers, streams).
- **Actions/notifications** (evacuations, containment, contractor hired).
- **Contacts on scene** (responder cell phone number, responsible party, contractor, facility point of contact).
- **Other useful information** (truck DOT or railcar number, chemical UN ID number, MSDS, etc.).

The owner/operator is the responsible party for cleanup of a spill. Ohio EPA can provide a list of clean-up contractors or call in a contractor in situations where the source or responsible party is unknown. Ohio EPA oversees emergency clean-up activities and will later recover clean-up costs, if possible.



**Report Spills and Environmental Emergencies: 1-800-282-9378**

## Ohio MARCS Radio System

All Ohio EPA OSCs have MARCS radios. To use MARCS with an OSC, arrange a mutual aid talkgroup with them or contact the Ohio EPA duty officer. In an emergency, the State Highway Patrol Communications Center may reach an Ohio EPA OSC in the field.

## Reporting More Than Just Spills!

First responders can be a great asset to Ohio EPA by reporting observations of environmental hazards or potential illegal activity to the spill hotline or directly to their Ohio EPA district office. Alleged illegal activities may be referred to Ohio EPA's Office of Special Investigations or other Ohio EPA program. Some activities that warrant reporting include:

- Dumping of solid waste (trash, tires, appliances, junk, etc.).
- Open burning that involves any type of solid waste (dark or black smoke).
- Dead fish in a stream (fish kill).
- Dumping of containers (used oil, septic waste, paint, etc.).



## Orphan Drum Unit

Ohio EPA's Orphan Drum Unit removes dumped or abandoned containers when a responsible party cannot be identified. Reports of dumped drums or other containers can be made to the spill hotline.

## Contact Information

If you have a general question about emergency response, please feel free to contact an on-scene coordinator:

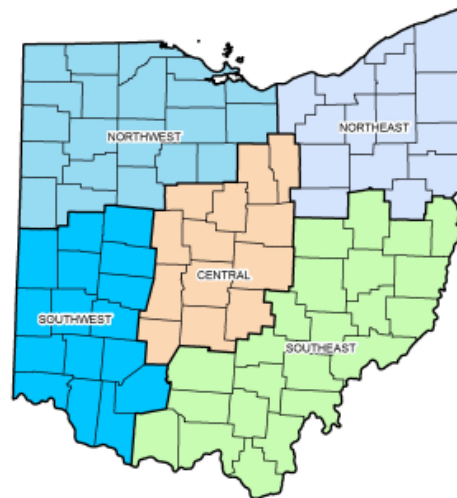
**Central District Office**  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(800) 686-2330

**Northeast District Office**  
2110 E. Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087  
(800) 686-6330

**Northwest District Office**  
347 North Dunbridge Road  
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402  
(800) 686-6930

**Southeast District Office**  
2195 Front Street  
Logan, Ohio 43138  
(800) 686-7330

**Southwest District Office**  
401 E. Fifth Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402  
(800) 686-8930



**Report Spills and  
Environmental Emergencies  
to Ohio EPA's Spill Hotline  
24 Hours, Seven Days a Week  
1-800-282-9378**



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

# Emergency Response Program



**Report Spills and  
Environmental Emergencies  
to Ohio EPA's Spill Hotline  
24 Hours, Seven Days a Week  
1-800-282-9378**

*Together we can protect human health,  
public safety and the environment!*

October 2008