

DEQ Spill Reporting and Emergency Response

- John Rasmann, Duty Officer/State On-Scene Coordinator
- Shasta Steinweden, Complaint/State On-Scene Coordinator



How to contact us

Duty Officer Phone: 406-431-0014

ENF Main Line Phone: 406-444-0379

Website:

<https://deq.mt.gov/about/Enforcement>

Online Complaint Form:

<https://deq.mt.gov/about/reportpollution>

Spills-What Must Be Reported

- Releases or spills of hazardous substance in amounts that meet or exceed the reportable quantities in 40 CFR Part 302 (DEQ can assist in determining this)
- Spills, overfills, and suspected releases from underground storage tanks and petroleum storage tanks.
- Releases or spills of any materials that would lower the quality of groundwater below water quality standards.

Spills-What Should Be Reported

- Spills that enter or may enter state water or a drainage that leads directly to surface water.
- Spills that cause a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water, stream banks, or shorelines.
- Spills that cause a film, “sheen”, or change the color of the water, stream banks, or shore line.
- Spills of 25 gallons or more of any petroleum product that is a derivate of mineral, animal, or vegetable oils.

Minimum Information DEQ Needs

- Responsible Party
Name, Address, Phone
- DOT# (if available)
- Spill/Accident Location,
Lat/Long
- Date
- Impacts to water, if any
- Type of pollution and amounts
- Incident description
- Actions being taken

What We Do

- DEQ contacts the Responsible Party for the spill and informs them of the cleanup requirements.
- DEQ will review the cleanup report and determine if the actions taken are sufficient.
- Without the minimum information provided, DEQ is unable to follow up and the contamination will remain in place.



DEQ Emergency Response

06/26/2023 07:00



Duty Officer- maintain emergency response telephone coverage 24/7

- Reporting hazardous material spills or releases
- Energy Emergencies
- Disaster-related incidents (ESF-3,ESF-10, ESF-12)
- Other events requiring DEQ assistance
- Perform complexity analysis on reported incidents

What the DEQ Duty Officer Does Not Do

- Is not an On-Scene Coordinator
- Act as a First Responder
- Direct or Recommend Cleanup/Remedial Actions
(will put you in contact with someone who can)
- Make any notifications that the responsible party MUST make on their own, ie. National Response Center



When DEQ Responds with an OSC

- Within DEQ's jurisdictional authority
- Requested by appropriate local authority
- DEQ will not self-deploy to incidents
- DEQ does not have a response funding source
 - Responsible party is tasked with cleanup costs



Norris Lab Incident- July 2018



Little Wall Creek Crude Oil Spill- April 2020

MRL Reed Point Derailment- June 2023



Incidents with No DEQ On-Scene Response

- Coal train derailment - causes a large public and media interest, but minimal environmental threat
- Truck wrecks - unless there is a large impact to water quality or other safety issue DEQ does not respond
- MRL Paradise train derailment April 2023-no response to initial incident. On scene to oversee diesel spill cleanup near Clark Fork River.



Questions?