

involving a radioactive or infectious material, or there is a release of a marine pollutant.

Spills and incidents that have or may result in a spill along a highway must be reported to the nearest law enforcement agency immediately. The Colorado State Patrol and CDPHE must also be notified as soon as possible. In the event of a spill of hazardous waste at a transfer facility, the transporter must notify CDPHE within 24 hours if the spill exceeds 55 gallons or if there is a fire or explosion.

The National Response Center should be notified as soon as possible after discovery of a release of a hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide from a pipeline system if a person is killed or injured, there is a fire or explosion, there is property damage of \$50,000 or more, or any nearby water body is contaminated.

The National Response Center and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission Gas Pipeline Safety Section must be notified as soon as possible, but not more than two hours after discovery of a release of gas from a natural gas pipeline or liquefied natural gas facility if a person is killed or injured, there is an emergency shutdown of the facility, or there is property damage of \$50,000 or more. The Colorado Public Utilities Commission should also be notified if there is a gas leak from a pipeline, liquefied natural gas system, master meter system or a propane system that results in the evacuation of 50 or more people from an occupied building or the closure of a roadway.

### **Oil and Gas Exploration**

All Class I major events on federal lands, including releases of hazardous substances in excess of the CERCLA reportable quantity and spills of more than 100 barrels of fluid and/or 500 MCF of gas released, must be reported to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) immediately. Spills of oil, gas, salt water, toxic liquids and waste materials must also be reported to the BLM and the surface management agency.

Spills of exploration and production (E&P) waste on state or private lands in excess of 20 barrels, and spills of any size that impact or threaten to impact waters of the state, an occupied structure, or public byway must be reported to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission as soon as practicable, but not more than 24 hours after discovery. Spills of any

size that impact or threaten to impact waters of the state must be reported to CDPHE immediately. Spills that impact or threaten to impact a surface water intake must be reported to the emergency contact for that facility immediately after discovery. Spills of more than five (5) barrels of E&P waste must be reported in writing to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission within 10 days of discovery.

## **REPORTING NUMBERS**

National Response Center (24-hour)  
**1-800-424-8802**

CDPHE Colorado Environmental Release and Incident Reporting Line (24-hour)  
**1-877-518-5608**

Radiation Incident Reporting Line (24-hour)  
**303-877-9757**

Colorado State Patrol (24-hour)  
**303-239-4501**

Division of Oil and Public Safety  
(business hours)  
**303-318-8547**

Oil and Gas Conservation Commission  
(business hours)  
**303-894-2100**

Colorado Public Utilities Commission Gas Pipeline Safety Section (business hours)  
**303-894-2851**

Local Emergency Planning Committees  
(to obtain list, business hours)  
**720-852-6603**



**Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment**

# Environmental Spill Reporting

Colorado Department of Public  
Health and Environment  
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South  
Denver, CO 80246-1530

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>

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When a release of a hazardous material or other substance occurs to the environment, there are a number of reporting and notification requirements that must be followed by the company or individual responsible for the release. Most spills are covered by more than one reporting requirement, and **all** requirements must be met. In addition to verbal notification, written reports are generally required. This brochure briefly explains the major requirements. A more detailed description is provided in the "Reporting Environmental Releases in Colorado" Guidance Document, available on the web.

Releases that must be reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) may be reported to the Colorado Environmental Release and Incident Reporting Line.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SPILL REPORTING

### CERCLA, EPCRA and RCRA

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) require that a release of a reportable quantity or more of a hazardous substance to the environment be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities when the release is discovered.

Under CERCLA, reportable quantities were established for hazardous substances listed or designated under other environmental statutes. These include:

- all hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) listed under Section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act.
- all toxic pollutants designated under Section 307(a) or Section 311(b)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act.
- all Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) characteristic and listed hazardous wastes.
- any element, compound, or substance designated under Section 102 of CERCLA.

EPCRA established a list of extremely hazardous substances (EHS) that could cause serious irreversible health effects from accidental releases. Many substances appear on both the CERCLA and EPCRA lists. EPCRA extremely hazardous substances that are also CERCLA hazardous substances have the same reportable quantity (RQ) as under CERCLA. EPCRA extremely hazardous substances that are not listed under CERCLA have a reportable quantity that is equal to their threshold planning quantity (TPQ). A list of CERCLA reportable quantities is included in 40 CFR Section 302.4. A list of EPCRA threshold planning quantities is included in 40 CFR Part 355 Appendices A & B.

CERCLA-reportable releases must be reported immediately to the National Response Center (NRC), while EPCRA-reportable releases must be reported immediately to the National Response Center, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the affected Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). If the release is an EPCRA extremely

hazardous substance, but not a CERCLA hazardous substance, and there is absolutely no potential to affect off-site persons, then only the State Emergency Planning Commission (represented by CDPHE for reporting purposes) and the Local Emergency Planning Committee need to be notified.

In the case of a release of hazardous waste stored in tanks, RCRA-permitted facilities and large quantity generators must also notify CDPHE within 24 hours of any release to the environment that is greater than one (1) pound.

### Radiation Control

Each licensee or registrant must report to the Radiation Incident Reporting Line in the event of lost, stolen or missing licensed or registered radioactive materials or radiation machines, releases of radioactive materials, contamination events, and fires or explosions involving radioactive materials. Releases of radionuclides are reportable under CERCLA.

### Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act requires the person in charge of a facility or vessel to immediately report to the National Response Center all discharges of oil or designated hazardous substances to water. Oil means oil of any kind or form. Designated hazardous substances are included in the CERCLA list.

The Clean Water Act also requires that facilities with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit report to the National Response Center within 24 hours of becoming aware of any unanticipated bypasses or upsets that cause an exceedance of the effluent limits in their permit and any violations of their maximum daily discharge limits for pollutants listed in their permit.

A release of any chemical, oil, petroleum product, sewage, etc., which may enter waters of the state of Colorado (which include surface water, ground water and dry gullies and storm sewers leading to surface water) must be reported immediately to CDPHE. Any accidental discharge to the sanitary sewer system must be reported immediately to the local sewer authority and the affected wastewater treatment plant. For additional regarding releases to water, please see "Guidance for Reporting Spills under the Colorado

Water Quality Control Act and Colorado Discharge Permits" at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/Resources/Guidance/spillguidance.pdf>.

### Clean Air Act

Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) are designated as hazardous substances under CERCLA. If a facility has an air permit but the permit does not allow for or does not specify the release of a substance, or if the facility does not have an air permit, then all releases in excess of the CERCLA / EPCRA reportable quantity for that substance must be reported to the National Response Center and CDPHE. If the facility releases more of a substance than is allowed under its air permit, the facility must also report the release. Discharges of a substance that are within the allowable limits specified in the facility's permit do not need to be reported.

### Regulated Storage Tanks

Owners and operators of regulated storage tank systems must report a release or suspected release of regulated substances to the Division of Oil and Public Safety at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment within 24 hours. Under this program, the reportable quantity for petroleum releases is 25 gallons or more, or any amount that causes a sheen on nearby surface water. Spills of less than 25 gallons of petroleum must be immediately contained and cleaned up. If cleanup cannot be accomplished within 24 hours, the Division of Oil and Public Safety must be notified immediately.

Spills of hazardous substances from tanks in excess of the CERCLA or EPCRA reportable quantity must be reported immediately to the National Response Center, CDPHE and the local fire authority, and to the Division of Oil and Public Safety within 24 hours.

### Transportation and Pipelines

The person in physical possession of a hazardous material must notify the National Response Center as soon as practical, but not to exceed 12 hours after the incident, if as a direct result of the hazardous material, a person is killed or injured, there is an evacuation of the general public lasting more than an hour, a major transportation artery is shut down for an hour or more, the flight pattern of an aircraft is altered, there is fire, spillage or suspected contamination