

Source Protection in Spills Response

Spills Action Centre (SAC)

Overview of the Spills Action Centre

- 24-7 Environmental and Adverse Drinking Water Reporting Line
- Coordinate responses to spills, adverse drinking water, other environmental incidents and emergencies
- Staffed with Environmental Officers proficient in environmental legislation and spill response

Spills Action Centre



Overview of the Spills Action Centre

- SAC receives around 70,000 inbound calls per year
- Around 6,000 spills per year. Majority are of smaller spills.
- 60+ Procedure Cards that are incident specific guidance for SAC Environmental Officers

Spills to Watercourses *

Card 10

For all Spills to the Great Lakes and their Interconnecting Channels – see also Card [11](#), [20](#) and [21](#)
During Business Hours SAC Officers are to Contact the District/Area Office for **ALL SPILLS**

Additional questions following
Primary Assessment - [Card 3](#):

Reporting Details

1. Name of watercourse?
2. Location of spill on watercourse?
3. Flow of watercourse?
4. Is the impacted part of the watercourse accessible by land?
5. Is there a water treatment plant downstream?
6. Name of conservation authority?
7. Has municipality been notified?

Note:

- If fish or waterfowl kill, also see [Card 39](#).
- If pesticides involved, also see [Card 17](#).
- If manure spill, also see [Card 42-C](#).
- For all spills to Great Lakes or their Interconnecting Channels, also see [Card 11](#), and as applicable [Cards 20](#) and [21](#).

Sewage bypass /overflow events resulting from equipment failure, power failure, human error, and other abnormal occurrences, are handled and documented as **SPILLS**.

Note: Sewage bypass /overflows normally result from weather conditions such as high rainfall, flooding and snow melt. These are almost always directed to the nearest surface watercourse.

*Essentially all surface waters, including tributary streams, wetlands, ponds, lakes, etc.

**In addition to verbally notifying CCG also fax the report to 519-383-1879

Determine if the spill is located in a Surface Water Protection (SWP) Zone

Is the spill potentially hazardous? i.e. threatens health/ safety/ environment.

Yes

No
Complete report and forward to District Office

MOE [Procedure F-5-1](#) requires the plant operator to notify SAC and the local health unit. SAC may assist with notification if this action appears to be necessary.

SAC Actions:

1. Ensure Police, Fire Dept, and Works Dept. are notified as required.
2. During business hours contact district office. Off hours determine need to dispatch ERP as per "call-out criteria" (note [Card 1-C](#)) with any route directions established by police or other authority in charge on-site.
3. Contact local health unit if the spill has the potential to impact public health or private drinking water users.
4. Contact WTP's if they may be affected. See "Surface Water Intakes Municipal WTP's" binder for municipal systems. For **ANY** contact that SAC has with a WTP, please export and email a copy of the IDS report to the [SDWB DW Compliance Operations Coordinator](#). If water intakes are to be closed, ensure that the drinking water inspector responsible for the plant is notified (only during regular business hours) and also notify the [SDWB DW Compliance Operations Coordinator](#) (see "Drinking Water Management Division" binder). See "Other Agencies" binder, Health Canada section for drinking water health threats to First Nations and federal facilities. Note [Card 38](#) for DWMD support and [Card 56](#) for First Nations.
5. For a major fish kill or significant watercourse impairment, contact Environment Canada ([Card 24](#)), possibly MNR ([Card 23](#)), and park & conservation authorities. See also [Card 24](#) for spills of "National Interest".
6. For spills from a vessel, notify Env. Canada and the CCG, note [Cards 11, 20](#) and [21](#).
7. If the release threatens to cross a boundary (Provincial or International), notify the neighbouring jurisdiction environmental contacts, Environment Canada see [Card 24](#) and CCG**. Note [Card 35](#) and "Other Government Agencies" contact sheets (harbour authorities and US contacts also noted in [Card 11](#)).
8. If report suggests that there is likely a need for addition MOE support refer to [Card 57](#). Brief SAC management.
9. If water intakes are to be closed **NOTE** [Card 53](#) EMO-PEOC.
10. If workers are affected, contact MOL as per MOL procedures.
11. For media support, brief MOE Communications (see also [Card 7](#)).
12. For incidents that involve sinking of vessels, vehicles, aircraft and equipment contact [MOL Diving Notification Centre](#)

Source Protection in Spills Response

- Source Protection Committees wrote policies directing the MOECC to incorporate source protection vulnerable zone information into spill response
- Since all spills are reportable by legislation to SAC, this specific action needed to be addressed by SAC
- The challenge for SAC was the volume of scientific information. How can the information be packaged in such a way that the SAC EO's could quickly obtain and understand the information required to coordinate a response given that spill response is time sensitive.

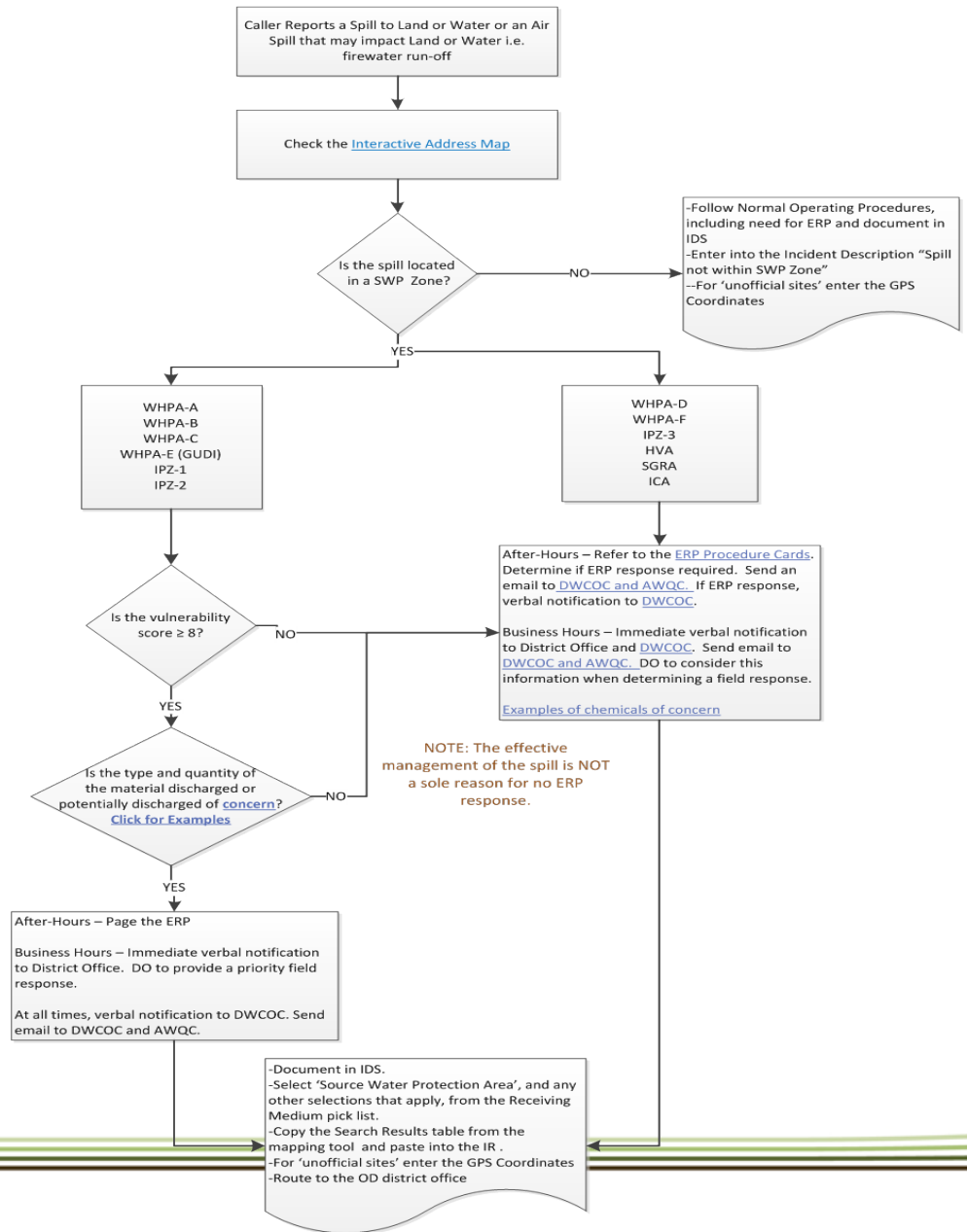
Source Protection in Spills Response

- It was determined that the Source Protection Interactive Mapping Tool (SPIMT) was essential for SAC to be able to gather and use source protection information
- SAC created a draft procedure and piloted this procedure using the SPIMT to obtain source protection information for every spill reported to SAC.

Source Protection in Spills Response

End Result for SP Spills Response Procedure:

- If a spill is within a source protection area with a high vulnerability score and the type or quantity of material spilled is of concern then an immediate after-hours environmental response is required.
- During business hours an immediate priority field response is required.
- For source protection areas with a lower vulnerability score normal operating procedures apply.



Training

- Q&A's Developed
- Examples Developed
- Two training sessions for SAC on SP101, SPIMT and new procedure
- Spills response training was part of the overall pilot training for Niagara and Timmins District Office
- SAC training session recorded and sent to district offices for supervisors to train local staff

Implementation

- Reference materials posted where all users can access the information
- Source Protection Spills Response procedure was implemented October 1 for Niagara and Timmins District Offices to match the Source Protection Plans implementation date.
- SAC continues to pilot the SPIMT for the remainder of the province.
- Full provincial implementation scheduled for November 1st

Implementation Stats To-Date

From October 1st to October 16th (first two weeks) for Niagara and Timmins District Offices (DO):

- 21 spill reports were created for Niagara (10) and Timmins (11) DO's
- 17 spill reports required consultation with the SP Spills Response Procedure Card
- Only 1 of the spills (2 L of paint) was within an source protection area, IPZ-2 with score <8. Therefore, normal operating procedures applied.