



A Division of SPG
Insurance Solutions, LLC

THE DISPATCH

MANAGING RISK IN THE MOVING & STORAGE INDUSTRY

FUEL SPILLS

Fuel spills resulting from vehicle accidents can be very expensive. In the incident of a vehicle accident, regardless of the circumstances, the spill generator has strict liability and is responsible for fuel cleanup. Cleanup costs for government hired contractors can be triple the costs of those contractors hired independently. Fines for failing to notify local agencies or completing a proper cleanup can range into the thousands of dollars. The cost of a fuel spill can be over \$100,000 if improperly contained. This can be dramatically reduced with proper planning and training, and managing the fuel spill incident with immediate and appropriate response.

Drivers Response Actions:

1. The driver is the key to keeping fuel spill costs low; their actions are critical at the scene.
2. If the saddle tank is leaking, shut off the cross over lines, attempt to plug the leak to slow or stop leakage.
3. If the cross over lines are leaking, cut and crimp the lines if possible.
4. Prevent spill liquid from entering storm drains or sewers.
5. Build a dike of dirt, rocks, furniture pads or whatever possible to slow and contain run off of spill.
6. Confine the liquid on hard surface such as asphalt or concrete if possible. Discourage washing the liquid from the road.

7. Keep all persons away from the spill, except for emergency responders.
8. DO NOT SIGN ANY CONTRACT or cleanup agreement without instructions from the company and your insurer.
9. Notify the appropriate person at your company and follow their instructions.
10. Do not discuss the spill with anyone other than the emergency response crew and your contracted cleanup contractor.
11. Remain at the scene as instructed by your company.

Company Contact Duties:

The Company contact person also needs to act quickly to control the cost of the spill.

1. Get the exact location of the unit and phone number where driver can be reached.
2. Scope of the spill (number of gallons, size, type of liquid).
3. Time of spill and how it occurred.
4. Name, organization, and telephone number of responding authorities.
5. If the local authorities have not been contacted, do so immediately.
6. Notify the insurance company and get a cleanup contractor to respond.

The keys to controlling the cost of a fuel spill are to stop the spill quickly, contain the spill to the smallest possible area and notify the insurance company and cleanup crew quickly so cleanup can get started immediately.

If you have any questions or need help with your safety and loss control programs, please contact our claims department.