



# POLICY MANUAL

## Emergency Operations Policy

### Cleanup of Minor Spills

Revised: 11-17-04

Code: 1 – 2 – 7

Book Chapter Subject

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7.0 Purpose: Establish guidelines for the handling of spilled material in the City of Clovis.

7.01 Scope: All Emergency Response Personnel.

#### 7.02 GOAL

To provide a means for First Responders to clean up and dispose of minor spills of common hazardous materials at the company level.

#### 7.03 POLICY

No material shall be washed down any gutter or storm drain.

This policy is intended to cover cleanup and disposal of known automotive fluids and liquid pool chemicals that have been identified and do not exceed five (5) gallons.

#### 7.04 PROCEDURE

In order for Fire Department company personnel to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding hazardous materials cleanup at vehicle accident sites and other specific spill sites, the following guidelines, along with common sense, shall be applied:

1. A spill kit shall be placed on each response unit, except staff vehicles, and shall consist of the following:
  - a. Plastic pail with lid, 5 gallon
  - b. Absorbent to fill to approximately 6 inches from top
  - c. Barrier disc to be placed on top of absorbent
  - d. Baking soda, approximately 6 pounds in plastic container
  - e. pH paper, one box
  - f. Plastic garbage bags
2. Should the spilled material exceed the capacity of the spill kit, outside resources shall be called. These could include but are not limited to: Public Utilities, Regional Hazardous Materials Team, and responsible party.
3. Pick up and disposal shall be limited to pooled fuel, oil, coolant or liquid pool chlorine.
4. Materials that are evenly spread over a roadway present a traction hazard and shall be dealt with as such by spreading sand or dirt over the affected area.



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#### 7.04 **PROCEDURE** – (Cont.)

5. If the material(s) is fuel, the Company Officer must make a determination if the fuel vaporization presents a continuing danger in the form of a fire hazard. If it is determined that a potential fire hazard exists, the Company Officer may elect to stay at the scene until the hazard diminishes or pick up the absorbed material and have it transported to the Lind Yard where they will spread it out on a vapor barrier (plastic sheeting or metal tray) for air stripping.
6. The absorbent may be disposed in a dumpster when it dries, no sooner than four (4) days after the incident. The vehicle impound area is the designated area for air stripping of these materials.
7. Spilled motor oil or coolant may be placed in the dumpster at the station after it has been absorbed.
8. Liquid pool chlorine may be left untreated at the site, if it is less than one (1) gallon. If it is more than one gallon, it may be picked up with absorbent material and disposed of in the dumpster at the station.
9. Treatment of battery or pool acids shall be done with respiratory and splash protection and shall consist of applying baking soda found in the spill kits on each apparatus. A gallon of consumer pool acid neutralizes with 6 to 7 pounds of baking soda. The baking soda should be thoroughly mixed with the acid to ensure proper neutralization. Using pH paper, check the acidity of the mixture. If the pH is less than 5, apply more baking soda and pH test again. Liquids are considered neutral when they pH between 5 and 9 and may be picked up for disposal in a dumpster.