



Environmental Spill Reporting

*24–Hour Emergency and Incident Reporting Line
Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response*

1-877-518-5608

Updated: June, 2018

Reporting chemical spills and releases in Colorado

General

For all hazardous substance incidents, local emergency response agencies must be notified.

Releases from fixed facilities

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III, requires reporting releases from fixed facilities

Refer to the SARA Title III List of Lists, available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for the reportable quantity.

The party that owns the spilled material must immediately notify the following agencies or organizations:

- National Response Center (NRC) 1-800-424-8802;
- Colorado Emergency Planning Committee (CEPC), represented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) 1-877-518-5608; and
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) 1-720-852-6600.

In addition to telephone notification, the responsible party must also send written notification describing the release and associated emergency response to both the CEPC (in this case, CDPHE) and the LEPC.

Releases from RCRA facilities

Emergency releases from facilities permitted under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) are reportable according to the permit requirements.

The permit often requires reporting to CDPHE, even if the amount of the release is less than a reportable quantity under SARA Title III (6 CCR 1007-3 Part 264).

Permitted facilities and generators and transporters of hazardous waste are required to have and implement a contingency plan that describes the actions facility personnel must take in response to fires, explosions or any unplanned sudden or non-sudden release of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents to air, soil, surface or ground water at the facility (6 CCR 1007-3 Sections 261, 262, 263, 264 and 265).

Whenever there is an imminent or actual emergency situation, appropriate state or local agencies, with designated response roles as described in the contingency plan, must be notified immediately.

The National Response Center or government official designated as the regional on-scene coordinator must be notified immediately if it is determined that the facility has had a release, fire or explosion that could threaten human health or the environment outside the facility.

CDPHE and local authorities must be notified when the facility is back in compliance and ready to resume operations. In addition, the facility must send a written report to CDPHE within 15 days of any incident that requires implementation of the contingency plan. The contingency plan should include current contact information for notification and submittal of written reports.

Permitted facilities, generators and transporters that store hazardous waste must notify CDPHE within 24 hours of any release to the environment that is greater than one (1) pound and must submit a written report to CDPHE within 30 days of the release (6 CCR 1007-3).

Transportation accidents

Transportation accidents that require reporting:

- Result in a spill or release of a hazardous substance in excess of the reportable quantity (40 CFR Part 302.6)
- Cause injury or death or cause estimated property damage exceeding \$50,000.
- Cause an evacuation of the general public lasting one or more hours.

Those that close or shut down one or more major transportation arteries or facilities or result in fire, breakage, spillage, or suspected contamination from radioactive or infectious substances must immediately be reported to the National Response Center.

Refer to the EPA SARA Title III List of Lists for those substances that have reportable quantities.

In addition to the NRC being notified, the local emergency number (9-1-1) must be called and CDPHE should be notified.

Written notification of any transportation accident involving a release of hazardous materials must be provided to the U.S. Department of Transportation within 30 days (49 CFR Part 171.16)

Since hazardous waste is a subset of hazardous materials, transporters who have discharged hazardous waste must notify the NRC and provide a written report to the US Department of Transportation as noted in the above reporting requirements.

The transporter must give immediate notice to the nearest Colorado State Patrol office (8 CCR 1507-8 HMP 5) and the nearest law enforcement agency if the accident or spill involved a vehicle (42-20-113(3) CRS).

Notification and a written report detailing the ultimate disposition of the discharge of hazardous waste must also be provided to CDPHE (6 CCR 1007-2 Section 263.30). This may be a duplicate copy of the US Department of Transportation report

In the event of a spill or discharge 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.

Within 15 days of a reportable incident, the transporter must submit a written report of the incident to CDPHE, including the final disposition of the material (6 CCR 1007-2 Section 263.40).

Releases of hazardous waste at a transfer facility may also require notification to the National Response Center and a written report to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Releases to water

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 or storm sewers leading to surface water) must be reported to CDPHE immediately (25-8-601 CRS).

Written notification to CDPHE must follow within five (5) days (5 CCR 1002-61, Section 61.8(5)(d)).

Any accidental discharge to the sanitary sewer system must be reported immediately to the local sewer authority and the affected wastewater treatment plant.

Releases of petroleum products and certain hazardous substances listed under the Federal Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 116) must be reported to the National Response Center as well as to CDPHE (1-877-518-5608) as required under the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act.

Releases to air

Any unpredictable failure of air pollution control or process equipment that results in the violation of emission

control regulations should be reported CDPHE by 10 a.m. of the following working day, followed by a written notice explaining the cause of the occurrence and describing action that has been or is being taken to correct the condition causing the violation and to prevent such excess emissions in the future (5 CCR 1001-2 Common Provisions Regulations Section II.E).

If emergency conditions cause excess emissions at a permitted facility, the owner/operator must provide notice to CDPHE no later than noon of the next working day following the emergency, and follow by written notice within one month of the time when emission limitations were exceeded due to the emergency (5 CCR 1001-5, Regulation 3 Part C, Section VII.C.4).

Releases from oil and gas wells

All spills or releases of exploration and production wastes or produced fluids which meet the reporting thresholds of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) Rule 906 shall be reported verbally to the COGCC within 24 hours of discovery and on the COGCC Spill/Release Report Form 19 within 72 hours of discovery.

Spills or releases are reportable to the COGCC in the following circumstances:

- 1) the spill or release impacts or threatens to impact any waters of the state, (which include surface water, ground water and dry gullies or storm sewers leading to surface water), a residence or occupied structure, livestock or a public byway;
- 2) a spill or release in which 1 barrel or more is released outside of berms or other secondary containment; or
- 3) any spill or release of 5 barrels or more.

COGCC also requires reportable spills or releases be reported to the surface owner and local government. Whether or not they are reportable, spills or releases of any size must be stopped, cleaned up, and investigated as soon as practicable.

If the spill or release impacts or threatens to impact waters of the state, it must also be reported immediately to CDPHE (25-8-601 CRS).

Releases from storage tanks

Petroleum releases of 25 gallons or more (or any size that causes a sheen on nearby surface waters) from regulated aboveground and underground fuel storage tanks must be reported to the Division of Oil and Public Safety (303-318-8547) within 24 hours. If the report is made after business hours, please leave a message on the technical assistance line for the Division of Oil and Public Safety, and contact the 24 hour CDPHE Emergency and Incident Reporting Line. This includes spills from fuel dispensers.

Spills or releases of hazardous substances from regulated storage tanks in excess of the reportable quantity (40 CFR Part 302.6) must be reported to the National Response Center and the local fire authority immediately, and to the Division of Oil and Public Safety within 24 hours. (8-20.5-208 CRS and 7 CCR 1101-14 Article 4).

Owners/operators of regulated storage tanks must contain and immediately clean up a spill or overfill of less than 25 gallons of petroleum and a spill or overfill of a hazardous substance that is less than the reportable quantity.

If cleanup cannot be accomplished within 24 hours, the Division of Oil and Public Safety must be notified immediately (7 CCR 1101-14 Article 4-4).

CDPHE should also be notified in the case of hazardous substance releases as cleanup activities may be covered by state solid or hazardous waste requirements (6 CCR 1007-2, 6 CCR 1007-3).

Any release that has or may impact waters of the state (which include surface water, ground water and dry

gullies or storm sewers leading to surface water), no matter how small, must be reported immediately to CDPHE (25-8-601 CRS).

Releases from pipelines

Releases of five or more gallons of hazardous liquids or carbon dioxide from a pipeline that result in explosion or fire, cause injury or death or cause estimated property damage (including cost of clean-up and recovery, value of lost product and property damage) exceeding \$50,000 must be reported immediately to the US Department of Transportation Office of Pipeline Safety (49 CFR Part 195 Subpart B) and the National Response Center.

Releases of five or more gallons of hazardous liquids or carbon dioxide from interstate pipelines that do not involve explosion or fire, injury or death or property damage exceeding \$50,000 should be reported to the US Department of Transportation Office of Pipeline Safety within 30 days after the incident.

Releases of natural gas from intrastate pipelines that cause injury or death, property damage in excess of \$50,000 (including the cost of lost product), closure of a public road, or evacuation of 50 or more people must be reported immediately to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, Pipeline Safety Group (4 CCR 723-11-2).

Releases of natural gas or liquefied natural gas (LNG) from interstate pipelines that cause injury or death, property damage in excess of \$50,000 (including the cost of lost product), or results in an emergency shutdown of the facility must be reported immediately to the National Response Center and the US Dept of Transportation Office of Pipeline Safety.

Releases of oil, petroleum products or other hazardous liquids from interstate and intrastate pipelines that have or may enter waters of the State of Colorado (which include surface water, ground water and dry gullies or storm sewers leading to surface water) must be reported to CDPHE immediately (25-8-601 CRS). CDPHE should also be notified of releases to soil, as cleanup activities may be covered by state solid or hazardous waste requirements (6 CCR 1007-2, 6 CCR 1007-3).

Radiological accidents, incidents, and events

CDPHE must be notified of any condition that has caused or threatens to cause an event, which meets or exceeds the criteria specified in (6 CCR 1007-1) RH 4.51 and RH 4.52 of the State of Colorado *Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Radiation Control*. Reportable events include lost radioactive materials, lost radiation producing machines, over-exposures to persons, contamination events and fires or explosions involving radioactive materials.

Depending upon the severity of the event, notification may be required immediately, within 24 hours, or within 30 days. In most cases, a written follow-up report is also required.

If you are unsure of the proper notification requirement, please contact CDPHE immediately. Telephone event notifications can be made to the CDPHE Radiation Program at any time by calling 1-303-877-9757.

Notification Numbers

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment toll-free 24-hour environmental emergency and incident reporting line: (877) 518-5608 (24-hour)

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

State Oil Inspector (Colorado Division of Oil & Public Safety-Above & Underground Storage Tank Regulators)
(303) 318-8547