
Emergency Operations

Book:	3 Emergency Operations
Chapter	IX Hazardous Materials
Subject	2- Flammable Fuel Spill
Code	3-IX-2
Revised	10/19/2003

2.01 Purpose

- A. To establish guidelines for the handling of flammable fuel spills (liquid or gas).

2.02 Policy

- A. All employees and members shall follow these guidelines in the handling of flammable fuel spills and insure the safety of the personnel and citizens.

2.03 Procedure

A. Upon Arrival

1. When approaching area, slow down or stop if necessary to assess any visible action-taking place. It may be necessary to “stage” incoming units away from the scene.
2. Attempt to determine hazardous area (flammable vapor area).
3. Give report on conditions and request additional equipment or special equipment, if needed.
4. Determine if rescue or evacuation problem exists.
5. Formulate a plan of action based on initial size-up plan.

Plan of action must provide for:

- a. Safety of citizens and firefighters
- b. Evacuation of endangered area if necessary
- c. Control of situation
- d. Stabilization of the spilled material
- e. Disposal or removal of spilled material
6. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel for evacuation and traffic control.

B. Safety

1. Avoid commitment of personnel and apparatus until a complete size up has been made.
2. All personnel should be in full protective clothing; the Officer in Charge (OIC) shall determine the need for self-contained breathing apparatus.
3. If scene involves extrication on victims, consider foam blanket to suppress vapors.

4. Keep all bystanders away from the hazardous area.
5. Remove all ignition sources in the hazardous area.
6. Some flammable liquids give off toxic vapors whether they are burning or not.
7. If flammable liquid/gas is leaking from a burning tank or cylinder, keep clear of container ends. If the whistling sound from pressure relief valves on the container becomes louder evacuate the area, explosion is imminent.
8. In case of a tank fire, fire streams must be used to cool the vapor area of the tank (area above liquid level).
9. Do not extinguish tank or cylinder fire unless fuel shut off can be affected.
10. If personnel must operate in a precarious position, they must be protected with another fire stream.
11. Do not park apparatus down wind or down hill from hazardous area.

C. Confinement

1. Unless immediate hazard to life is involved, any efforts to remove spill by flushing into drainage system should be restricted. If a spill is flushed, it will have to be picked up downstream.
2. If spill is flowing, isolate the spill by the use of dikes and absorbent material (sand, dirt, clay). Absorbent will be used only to prevent product from entering storm drains. If absorbent is put on the ground, it must be picked up.
3. Spill fires, which are flowing to an area where they can burn safely, should be allowed to do so.
4. Direct spill away from exposures.
5. The biggest problem with spills is containment of spilled material; the more water you add, the larger the containment problem becomes

D. Control

1. Use fog streams to dissipate the vapors if possible, without disturbing the liquid.
2. Determine if water can be used based on specific gravity of the spilled material.
3. The use of foam can prevent ignition of spilled material
4. Attempt to stop leak by shutting off valve(s), plugging container etc.
5. Heavy streams can be used to divert flames from exposures.
6. If spill is less than five (5) gallons, emulsifier can be use to neutralize the product. It can be left on the ground. If spill is greater than five (5) gallons, it must be absorbed and picked up.
7. Emulsifier will be used on all petroleum-based products.
8. Any product picked up, absorbed, transferred, or off loaded will be the responsibility of the spiller to dispose of.