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Agriculture Resource: 24-Hour Emergency Spill Line

We're here to help YOU!

INDIANAPOLIS - Spring planting season is here, and it is important to be prepared for accidents and emergencies that can occur on the farm or on the highway. Because farms manage a variety of chemicals including pesticides, fertilizers, oils, and fuels, proper management of these materials can prevent potential hazardous spills from occurring.

"It is important to call the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) 24-Hour Emergency Spill Line at 888-233-7745 if a spill occurs on the farm," said IDEM Commissioner Bruno L. Pigott. "We have a team of professionals who are equipped and ready to assist landowners who experience a spill."

Indiana Code defines a spill as "[a]ny unexpected, unintended, abnormal, or unapproved dumping, leakage, drainage, seepage, discharge or other loss of petroleum, hazardous substances, extremely hazardous substances, or objectionable substances. The term does not include releases to impermeable surfaces when the substance does not migrate off the surface or penetrate the surface and enter the soil."

The early reporting of spills can save landowners hundreds if not thousands of dollars in fines and environmental mitigation costs. Owners and operators of facilities and modes of transportation are required by law to report all spills, including what was spilled and the total amount spilled. All spills require a spill response, and timely reporting is critical.

"If you have a spill, your quick actions during the first minutes can make a difference in the spill being contained or entering the waters of the state. If you can contain the spill, and keep it out of water, then the cleanup becomes easier and cheaper," said Fred Whitford with the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. "Ultimately, we have an obligation to report a spill to IDEM to meet our legal responsibilities, but more importantly, to get help with the response."

"Farmers and farm retailers take many precautions to protect and enhance our environment and the land they farm. But, during this busy season, spillage accidents of fertilizers or other chemicals can unexpectedly occur," said Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Bruce Kettler. "If you experience a spill of crop protection products or fertilizers, immediately contact IDEM's Emergency Spill Line."

IDEM recently produced a free E101 webinar which addressed agriculture environmental spills and emergencies. The full webinar can be accessed online: <https://youtu.be/6NQgbkA60qM>.

IDEM's Agricultural Liaison partners with and assists farmers, commodity groups, agricultural organizations, the agricultural community, and other stakeholders. To contact IDEM Agricultural Liaison and Assistant Commissioner Julia Wickard, please call 317-234-3386 or email JWickard@idem.IN.gov.