Oil Spills and Farms: Protecting your Business Easy as 1-2-3!

Oil spills can damage the water resources you need for farming operations and create costly cleanup problems for your business. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan will help you prevent spills and be prepared if a spill accidentally happens.

**You need an SPCC Plan if:** An oil spill from your farm could reach water and you store oil (such as diesel, gasoline, hydraulic oil, lube oil, crop oil or vegetable oil, etc.) in: Aboveground quantities of more than 1,320 gallons; or Completely buried tanks with more than 42,000 gallons of oil.

**You do not need an SPCC Plan if:** You store less than 1,320 gallons of oil aboveground or less than 42,000 gallons below ground.

Determining your SPCC planning option is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. **Add up the oil storage capacity of each aboveground tank on your farm (only count tanks 55 gallons or larger in capacity).**

When adding up the capacity, use the maximum volume of the container (as if it were full), not the actual amount of oil stored in the container.

2. **If your farm has 10,000 gallons or less of aboveground storage capacity; and in the 3 years before developing and certifying your plan you had no oil spills to water larger than:**
   - 1,000 gallons in a single spill OR
   - 42 gallons each from two spills within any 12-month period, then your farm is a “Tier II” farm.

   Create a full SPCC Plan that you may self-certify.

3. **If your farm meets the criteria in 2 and has no aboveground oil storage containers with a capacity greater than 5,000 gallons, then your farm is a “Tier I” farm.**

   Use the shorter SPCC Plan Template to create your SPCC Plan that you may self-certify.

Update your SPCC Plan before **May 10, 2013**! Don’t have an SPCC Plan? Develop one now! Take advantage of the planting and growing off-season to develop your Plan.

**SPILLED OIL?**

1. **Activate your SPCC Plan procedures to prevent the oil from reaching water, then clean up the spill.** Call 9-1-1 if there is a risk of fire or explosion.

2. **Notify the National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802 if you have an oil spill to water.**

3. **Notify your EPA Regional office in writing and your State Oil Pollution or Environmental Agency, if the amount of oil spilled to water is:** more than 42 gallons on two different occasions within a 12-month period; or a single spill of more than 1,000 gallons.

**Need more information or want to download the SPCC Plan template, examples, and other resources? Visit the SPCC for Agriculture Website at:** [http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/spcc_ag.htm](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/spcc_ag.htm)

**DISCLAIMER:** If you have more than 10,000 gallons of aboveground storage capacity, you will need a Professional Engineer to review and certify your SPCC Plan. Not all states allow self-certification for purposes of state requirements and many states have different or additional spill prevention and reporting requirements; check with your state. The information provided here only gives a brief overview of SPCC and is not meant to cover every situation. See the Website for more information.