

9 Ways to Avoid a Release that Negatively Impacts the Environment

Let's face it – no one wants to spend the time and resources necessary to clean up a release to the environment. The best way to avoid it? Not to let it happen in the first place! Follow the suggestions below and you'll be well on your way to keeping money in your pocket and products (petroleum, chemicals, etc.) where they belong.

1. **Have all of your employees properly trained**

Do your employees know everything they need to know? Alarms, testing, storage, vendor supervision, etc. are all very important. The manager isn't the only one that needs to be up-to-speed. Make sure that everyone knows what they are responsible for and regularly receive a refresher course.

2. **Make sure your products are properly stored, labeled and segregated**

It may seem like common sense, but not everyone knows that you shouldn't store bleach next to ammonia. That may be a dramatic example, but the bottom line is that everything needs to be stored in its proper place.

3. **Stay up-to-date on all periodic testing and inspection requirements**

Make sure that you get all lines/equipment tested/inspected as needed or required.

4. **Evaluate secondary containment to assure you are covered**

Make sure you have your drums and aboveground storage tanks in secondary containment (when required or as practical) so that if they should leak, the leak will be contained.

5. **Statistical inventory reconciliation**

You should account for all product volume. If there is a discrepancy, you may have a leak or missing inventory.

6. **Emergency cutoff**

Do your employees know where the emergency cutoff is? If not, you could have a mess on your hands in the case of an emergency.

7. **Product alarm systems**

They are there for a reason – not just to be annoying. If yours goes off, you need to check into it immediately.

8. **Assure that your vendors are certified**

Do your due diligence on your vendors. The last thing you want to do is become responsible for an issue due to ignorance or negligence.

9. **Stock an emergency response kit**

Should there be a release, you want to contain it as quickly as possible. Make sure everyone knows where it is and what to do with it.

CONCLUSION

Do everything you can to keep products in their place. In the unfortunate event that you have a release, make sure you spring into action as quickly as possible. Time is not your friend!