

## **Toolbox talk – Environment**



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## **Fuel and oil**

#### What?

poor storage, lack of care during refuelling, vandalism and poorly maintained plant can all result in a spillage of fuel or oil.

### Why?

- avoid environmental harm: even a small spillage of oil or fuel can cause damage to the environment and harm plants, animals, fish, and humans
- avoid prosecution: a spillage can result in a prosecution, a fine, and damage a company's reputation
- reduce costs: spillages are likely to lead to be clean up costs, which can be significant, often several times greater than the fine.

## **Questions**

- 1 How far away from drains or watercourses should oils be stored?
- 2 What is the minimum capacity of a bund?
- 3 What should be done if there is a spillage?

#### Do

- ensure bulk fuel and oil storage tanks are bunded and that the bund has a capacity of 110 per cent of the tank
- ✓ store all containers of oil and fuel in a secure, bunded area
- regularly check tanks, containers and bunds for damage and leaks
- ✓ supervise all fuel and oil deliveries
- ✓ lock containers and tanks when not in use
- ensure a spill kit is provided adjacent to fuel storage and refuelling areas
- place a drip tray or absorbent mat under all static plant and mobile plant during fuelling
- ✓ clear up all minor spillages immediately
- ✓ use a funnel when refuelling small plant
- use an automatic shut off or pistol grip delivery system when refuelling plant
- seek advice from a line manager before disposing of waste fuel or oil, or contaminated spill granules or absorbent mats
- liaise with a line manager to organise removal of contaminated water from bunds and trays by an appropriate contractor.



#### Don't

- pour waste fuel and oil down drains
- wash fuel and oil spillages down drains
- store fuel and oil, or carry out refuelling, within 10 m of a watercourse or drain
- allow drip trays or bunds to overflow
- locate fuel and oil tanks/storage area near to vehicle routes
- leave a tank to fill unsupervised.

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