CREDIT: DOUG FREER, CSP, BLUE MOOSE SNOW

BE PREPARED IN THE EVENT OF A SPILL

What's your game plan for cleaning up an oil spill when a hydraulic line on your plow fails? Worse yet, what if your salt truck blows a pressurized hydraulic line while lifting the bed or spreading salt and there is a potential for dumping gallons of fluid on your client's property? Are you equipped to manage the leak and clean up the resulting hazard? While you can't prevent all spills or leaks from occurring, the best way to manage through the incident is to be prepared.

Spill kits and proper training are important to protect your drivers, equipment operators and crew from coming into contact with potentially dangerous spills. Further, while a client may be disappointed that you experienced a spill on their property, they will be more willing to forgive the incident if you manage it effectively and demonstrate care and concern for their property by being prepared.





SPILL PREVENTION

Think of the spill kit as an insurance policy for an accident or incident you hope never happens and work proactively to avoid. Your preventive maintenance program should include periodic visual inspections of hoses, fuel/oil lines, tanks and other areas of your vehicle and equipment particularly prior to winter season. Keeping your equipment clean and parked in areas where small leaks can be detected early can also help prevent larger leaks or spills from occurring.



KIT INSPECTION

Your spill kit should be set up and stacked according to the products that will be used first to last starting with the information sheet. The PPE should be at the top of the kit followed by absorbent socks and so forth followed last by the disposal bags. If any items are used in the spill kit, this should trigger a restocking to make sure it is ready for the next use. Make sure your equipment has the appropriate MSDS and label information easily accessible. In the event of an accident, first responders will need to know what product is being hauled.



REPORTING SPILLS

ALL-NEW NIGHTHAWK™ LED HEADLAMPS WITH EXCLUSIVE EDGEVIEW™ TECHNOLOGY

Know your city, county and state requirements for reporting spills and follow your company's reporting processes for spills. This will alert proper staff to the need for possible follow-up to ensure the cleanup was successful. Managers can address any issues with the client and let them know what measures were taken.





HOW TO USE A SPILL KIT



Evacuate non-essential personnel. Assess the spill and identify the liquid. Choose the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) such as nitrile or rubber gloves that are resistant to the product being cleaned up, safety glasses, and apron if appropriate.



Set up absorbent socks (overlap ends) to contain the spill and prevent it from flowing any farther or into waterways. If available set up a fluid collection container to collect dripping or running fluids. Next, if available, use a patchand-plug product to stop the leaking/dripping at its source.



Use pads, spill mats, pillows and/or loose absorbents to clean up the spill, working outside of the spill inward to the center.



Once the spill is confined, plugged and cleaned up, dispose of the products used in your specially identified cleanup bag and seal tightly. Special disposal of the contaminated pads and absorbents may be necessary based on local codes and restrictions.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SPILL KIT

Different spill kits may be needed depending on the location (e.g., shop, equipment). Spill kits should be built according to the products that will be used first to last. Your spill kit should include at a minimum:

- Instruction sheet / MSDS
- Safety glasses
- Suitable gloves

- Sock absorbents
- Universal pad absorbents
- Yellow plastic liners/bags
- Scrubbing towel
- Container (e.g., bucket with lid or soft-sided zippered bag)

