

Chapter 14

Environmental Protection

US military forces operate under increasingly diverse environmental requirements, both domestic and foreign, particularly during stability operations and support operations. Heightened environmental concern has led all federal agencies, including the armed services, to consider the environmental consequences of proposed actions. Compliance with environmental laws and regulations is now a necessary cost of doing business. The military must comply with all environmental laws and regulations that apply to installations or theaters of operation. See TC 20-401 for additional information concerning military environmental protection.

PREOPERATIONS CHECKLIST

14-1. Unit leaders must consider the environmental impact of unit actions and plan to eliminate or minimize negative effects. An example of a preoperations checklist is shown below.

- Has coordination occurred with the installation and operational staffs concerning applicable environmental laws, regulations, and considerations?
- Has the operation plan (OPLAN)/operation order (OPORD) and or constructive directives been reviewed for environmental requirements or considerations?
- Has the environmental-protection portion of the unit's SOP been reviewed, especially the areas concerning spill response and reporting?
- Have land-use permits and range clearances been obtained? Have all other unique, environmental-related requirements been completed?
- Has a recent risk assessment been performed to identify environmental-related risks?
- Have areas of environmental concern been verified during site reconnaissance?
- Are rehearsals conducted to ensure that all safety and environmental considerations are satisfied?
- Are hazardous material (HM) and petroleum, oils, and lubricants (POL) checked to ensure that they are properly labeled and that a material safety data sheet (MSDS) is on hand for each substance before transporting?
- Are personnel designated for the spill-response team(s) properly trained and aware of their assignment?

- Are tools, equipment, and materials (spill kits) available for environmental emergencies?
- Have previous after action reviews (AARs) been evaluated for environmental lessons learned concerning the area(s) of operation and the mission type, and have preventive measures been taken?

PERSONNEL-PREPARATION CHECKLIST

14-2. An example of a personnel-preparation checklist is shown below.

- Do soldiers understand their responsibilities in reducing the generation of hazardous waste (HW) and minimizing damage to the environment?
- Have all soldiers been briefed on range or maneuver restrictions and endangered species, vegetation, archeological, cultural, and historic resource preservation?
- Are identified environmental risks discussed during planning?

SPILL-RESPONSE PLAN

14-3. A spill is defined as any quantity of petroleum product over 5 gallons (or according to local laws since some states are more stringent than 5 gallons) or any quantity of HW. Should a spill occur, take the following actions immediately (*Figure 14-1*).

14-4. Protect yourself by—

- Evacuating the area in a manner appropriate to the type of spill.
- Taking personal precautions as detailed in the MSDS for the type of material spilled.
- Using the proper personal protective equipment.
- Extinguishing smoking materials and all sources of ignition.
- Turning off power if there is the possibility of fire.
- Ventilating the area.
- Showering and changing clothes (as soon as possible) if HW contamination occurs.

14-5. Stop the flow if it is possible, without taking unnecessary chances or causing injury or contamination, by shutting off valves and turning drums upright.

14-6. Contain the spill by—

- Using an absorbent.
- Making dams to keep the spill from spreading farther. Do not let it enter storm or sewer drains or other waterways.
- Diverting the flow to prevent the spill from entering any water source (including drains) if containment is not possible.

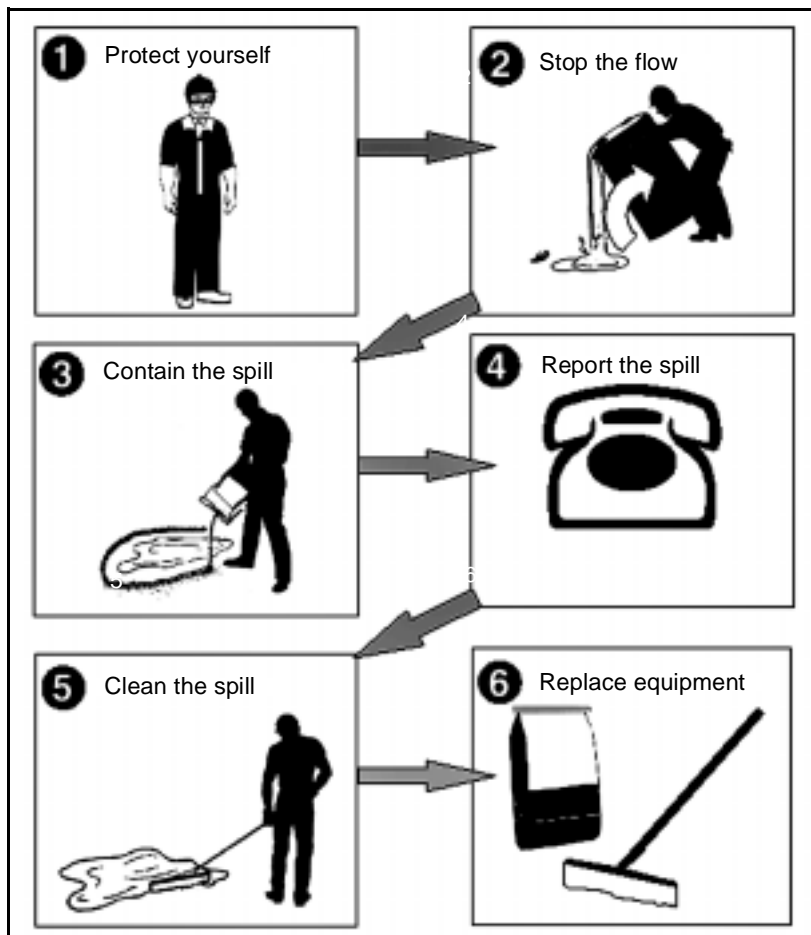


Figure 14-1. Spill-Response Actions

14-7. Report the spill to a superior and—

- Sound an alarm or give a verbal warning.
- Continue to assess the size and severity of the spill, while having another person call the installation fire department.
- Report the spill of any HM other than a petroleum product (regardless of the quantity) to the unit environmental compliance officer or the installation's environmental office immediately.

14-8. Clean the spill by—

- Scooping up the contaminated material and put it in a container. Mark the container "Hazardous Waste, Contaminated Dirt" if the spill occurred on concrete or asphalt and the spill was cleaned up with dirt.
- Checking with the unit supply sergeant or the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO) for proper disposal procedures.

14-9. Replace the spill equipment through the following procedures—

- Immediately after a spill is cleaned, the spill-response team's noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) will account for all tools and supplies. The NCOIC will order replacement consumables (sweeping compound and rags) from unit supply. The NCOIC will also identify missing property and initiate appropriate action (statement of charges or report of survey) to maintain accountability.
- Before resealing the drums, the spill-response team's NCOIC will complete a spill-kit inventory.