

RRT III Fact Sheet

www.dot.gov/dotinfo/uscg/lantarea/rrt/rrtmain.htm

POLLUTION NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Who Do I Call to Report a Pollution Incident?

National Response Center (NRC). Created by the National Contingency Plan, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3000 (NCP), the National Response Center is charged with receiving notifications of all chemical, radiological, oil, and biological releases regulated by the CWA, as amended by OPA 90. Located in the Coast Guard Headquarters Command Center, the NRC immediately relays reports to the cognizant, predesignated On-Scene Coordinator.

What is the Telephone Number?

For pollution spill or release notifications call the National Response Center (NRC) at:

800-424-8802

What Do You Report?

When making a report or notification of a pollution discharge or release at a minimum provide the following information:

- A description of the location of the discharge or release;
- The source of the pollution (if known);
- The size of the discharge or release;
- The color of the substance in the water, air, or environment;
- The substance discharged or released (if known); and

- The time and date you observed the pollution incident.

Give a Detailed Report if Possible

To assist various responders to a pollution incident, more information is better than too little. **IMPORTANT!** Safety is always a primary concern. Do not risk contamination by trying to identify the material. Do not handle, breathe or come in contact with any unknown material because it may harm you. The following information will assist you with a more detailed report:

What Do You See in the Water?

Type of pollution and description: garbage/ oil drums/ wood/ plastic/ sewage/ other (Describe):

Dimensions or quantity of discharged material:

Does material leave a rainbow sheen on the water? yes/no

Where is Pollution Coming From?

Is it coming from a specific source? yes/no (Describe):

If it is from a specific vessel or facility, please provide details:

Registration state and number or flag/homeport of ship:

Name of boat or ship:

Approximate length and other information about the vessel:

Approximate course, speed, and position:

If offshore, approximate distance from land and body of water:

Where Are You?

Observation made from: shore/ boat/ other. (Describe):

Specific location of boat or place on shore where observation was made:

Date and local time of sighting:

Who Are You?

You are not required to give this information in order to report a pollution incident unless you are the spiller. You may request anonymity, which is guaranteed by law. However, if you submit a report anonymously, it may receive lower priority than a report with an identified observer.

Name/Affiliation:

Address and phone number:

Witnesses (provide contact information if known):

Specific Reporting Requirements

Oil Spills

The Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) require that the responsible party notify the National Response Center as soon as possible on learning of an oil spill or discharge from a vessel or facility operating:

- In or along U.S. navigable waters;
- On the Outer Continental Shelf, or
- In a deepwater port.

Gas Pipeline Releases

Releases of any toxic, corrosive, or flammable gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) or gas from an LNG facility must be reported to the NRC by the responsible party when:

- A death or injury involving patient hospitalization occurs;
- More than \$50,000 damage occurs (including cost of lost gas);
- The release results in the emergency shutdown of an LNG facility; or
- An incident is deemed significant by the operator

Details can be found in 49 CFR 191.5

Liquid Pipeline Releases

The responsible party must call the NRC when a pipeline system failure releases a hazardous liquid or carbon dioxide that causes any of the following:

- An explosion or fire;
- An escape to the atmosphere of more than five barrels a day of highly volatile liquid or carbon dioxide;
- A death or injury requiring hospitalization;
- Property damage (including cost of cleanup and recovery and value of lost product) exceeding \$50,000;
- Pollution of any body of water; or
- An incident deemed significant by the operator

Details can be found in 49 CFR 195.52

Transportation Accidents

Transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, including radioactive substances, must be reported to the NRC immediately by the carrier when one of the following occurs:

- A person is killed;
- A person receives injuries requiring hospitalization;
- Property damage exceeds \$50,000
- Fire, breakage, spillage, or suspected contamination occurs involving an etiologic agent or radioactive materials;
- An evacuation of the general public lasting one hour or more;
- A shutdown of a major transportation artery or facility for one hour or more;
- A release of a marine pollutant in a quantity exceeding 450L (119 gallons) for liquids or 400kg (882 pounds) for solids;
- The operational flight pattern or routine of an aircraft is altered; or
- A situation deemed significant by the operator or carrier.

Written reports are required when any of the circumstances above are met and also when there is any unintentional release of hazardous material during transportation.

Details can be found in 49 CFR 171.15 & 171.16.

Chemical Releases

CERCLA requires that all releases of hazardous substances (including radionuclides) exceeding reportable quantities be reported by the responsible party to the NRC. Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 302, promulgates reportable quantities and reporting criteria. EPCRA requires that all extremely hazardous substances that exceed reportable quantities be reported to the NRC as well as to the SERC and the LEPC. Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 355, promulgates reportable quantities and reporting criteria.

Garbage Discharges

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex V) places limitations on the discharge of garbage from vessels. It is illegal to

dump plastic trash anywhere in the ocean or navigable waters of the United States. It is also illegal to discharge garbage in the navigable waters of the United States, including the Great Lakes. The discharge of other types of garbage is permitted outside of specific distances offshore as determined by the nature of that garbage except in "Special Areas" designated by regulation. The following illustrates the general restrictions.

<u>Garbage Type</u>	<u>Discharge</u>
Plastics - includes all synthetic ropes, fishing nets, and plastic bags	Prohibited in areas
Floating dunnage, lining and packing materials	Prohibited <25 mi from nearest land
Food waste, paper, rags, glass, metal, bottles, crockery, and similar refuse	Prohibited <12 mi from nearest land
Comminuted or ground od waste, paper, rags, glass, etc.	Prohibited <3 mi from nearest land

Other Releases

Discharges from a hazardous waste treatment or storage facility must be reported by the emergency coordinator at the facility. Abandon dump or waste sites should be reported by anyone having knowledge of such a site.

Discharges of untreated sewage from vessels into waters of the United States, including Territorial Seas, is prohibited. Improper discharges shall be reported to the NRC.