

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters (WO)
Washington, DC**

Forest Service Handbook 2109.14 – Pesticide-Use Management And Coordination Handbook

Chapter 60 - Spills, Incidents, and Accidents

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Responsible Staff:

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Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

60: Makes minor technical, formatting, and editing changes throughout the chapter.

61.1: Changes caption from “General Considerations” to “Spill Prevention”. Adds references to the unit or Forest spill plan to clarify that project spill plans must be coordinated with these higher-level plans.

61.11: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.21. Changes caption from “Planning” to “Spill Prevention Planning”. Adds direction that the development of a facility spill emergency plan is required for any pesticide storage facility.

61.12: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.22.

61.12: Exhibit 01 – Modifies the spill kit to include emergency phone numbers and a hand pump for the removal of pesticides from containers. Removes the following requirements: a spill kit includes respirators; a spill kit includes a fire extinguisher; and the requirements for drum spigots, bung wrench, and bung.

61.2: Records to this section direction previously set out in section 61.3.

61.21: Records to this section direction previously set out in section 61.31.

61.22: Recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.32. Clarifies in paragraph 1 that respirator use should only be by persons authorized and trained to use them. Adds paragraph 5 to insure that necessary immediate first aid is administered while victims are being transported.

61.23: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.33.

61.24: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.34.

61.25: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.35. The use of a self-contained breathing apparatus is restricted to those individuals who are authorized and trained to use it. Paragraph 1(d) includes a description of what information should be on labels used to identify containers of spilled pesticide and absorbent material.

61.26: Establishes new code and recodes to this section direction previously set out in section 61.36.

61.3: Removes direction and caption “Cleanup Procedures” and recodes to section 61.2. Recodes to this section caption and direction previously set out in section 61.4

61.31: Removes code, direction, and caption “Spill Identification” and recodes to section 61.21.

61.32: Removes code, direction, and caption “Care of Injured” and recodes to section 61.22.

61.33: Removes code, direction, and caption “Spill Containment” and recodes to section 61.23.

61.34: Removes code, direction, and caption “Notification” and recodes to section 61.24.

61.35: Removes code, direction, and caption “Site Cleanup” and recodes to section 61.25.

61.36: Removes code, direction, and caption “Pickup, Packaging, and Disposal” and recodes to 61.26.

61.4: Removes code, direction, and caption “Decontamination” and recodes to section 61.3.

62: Clarifies the notification steps to follow after a pesticide incident.

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60 - Authority

FSM 2165.12, FSH 6709.11, chapter 60, Hazardous materials.

61 - Spills

Pesticide and adjuvant spills might occur during mixing, loading, transporting, use, or storage. All spills must be managed immediately and in accordance with established policy and procedure. Employees who may be tasked in any transportation, storage, or disposal of chemicals should at least receive tailgate safety session and JHA. No employees should engage in any type of chemical related tasks without appropriate training and qualifications. Only properly trained certified pesticide applicators, or other appropriately trained and authorized personnel shall be involved in the clean-up of incidental spills, as defined by OSHA. According to OSHA, an incidental release is a release of a hazardous substance which does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity or to the employee cleaning it up, nor does it have the potential to become an emergency within a short time frame. Incidental releases are limited in quantity, exposure potential, or toxicity and present minor safety or health hazards to employees in the immediate work area or those assigned to clean them up. An incidental spill may be safely cleaned up by employees who are familiar with the hazards of the chemicals with which they are working. (FSM 2165.12).

Use established emergency actions described in this chapter, and those contained in FSM 2150 and FSM 2160, in the event of pesticide spill.

61.1 - Spill Prevention

Spill prevention is the first line of defense in avoiding unacceptable environmental contamination and possible adverse effects to people and the environment.

The risk of spills is minimized by using appropriate pesticide storage, transportation, and handling practices, preparing a JHA, and by doing frequent inspections of storage facilities, pesticide containers, and mixing and loading sites. Take the following actions to reduce the likelihood and severity of spill incidents:

1. Prepare pesticide spill emergency plans for storage, transportation, and mixing and loading areas (FSM 2165.2). These plans must be consistent with the overall safety plans for the facility or pesticide project (FSH 2109.14 sec. 16.1), and must be consistent with the Forest or unit spill plan (FSM 2165).
2. Post emergency phone numbers at the storage facility and at other locations as described in FSH 2109.14, section 41.1 and establish emergency notification procedures. Verify procedures are in place to assure emergency response contact information is current and is updated as required.

3. Train employees in the proper care and handling of the particular pesticides proposed for use, and in the procedures used for incidental spill cleanup, decontamination, and pesticide disposal. Include appropriate hazard communication training as required by 29 CFR 1910.1200 and FSM 2162.5. Information about required training such as hazard communication standards, emergency response awareness level, and hazardous waste operations and emergency response training can be obtained from the unit Hazmat Safety Coordinator, Emergency Response Coordinator or by contacting the Regional Environmental Engineer (FSM 2160.43 and 2161.4, FSH 6709.11, sec. 61.1; for additional Emergency Response Information and Training Requirements consult 49 CFR 172.704).
4. Establish and maintain spill kits (FSH 2109.14 sec. 61.12).
5. Follow coordination and notification procedures outlined in the forest/unit spill plan (FSM 2165) and coordinate with appropriately equipped and trained local authorizations that might participate in spill-cleanup activities (for example, fire departments, law enforcement, and State police).

61.11 - Spill Prevention Planning

Prepare written pesticide emergency spill plans for facilities that store and utilize pesticides (FSM 2165.2). These emergency plans must also be prepared for mixing and loading sites, and must be included in each pesticide-project safety plan (FSM 2151.3). All site- or project-specific safety plans should be coordinated with the Forest, Station or unit spill plan so as not to duplicate information found in those unit spill plans (FSM 2165.2).

Maintain current plan copies at storage facilities, at mixing and loading sites, and with vehicles used to transport pesticides. A copy should be available to the District and Forest Pesticide Coordinators who are responsible for responding to spill emergencies. It is recommended that additional copies be available at the District Ranger's front desk, and with the Forest Dispatcher. Pesticide-project safety plans (FSM 2151.3) need to include at a minimum the following:

1. Emergency spill plan including a complete, current inventory of all pesticides on hand, current labels and SDSs for products being used, and a list of key personnel with contact information.
2. A detailed, up-to-date sketch of the pesticide storage area, mixing and loading sites, and transport routes. This sketch map should indicate exterior runoff patterns, swales, nearby water sources (for example, wells, lakes, and streams), dry creek beds, location of pesticides, and location of spill kits or other emergency response equipment.
3. A runoff contingency plan. The plan should discuss the equipment and materials needed to contain or clean up an incidental spill.

4. A list of the symptoms of pesticide poisoning specific to the pesticides used or stored. Summarize them briefly. Specify first-aid response in case of contact with toxic pesticides.

61.12 - Incidental-Spill Kit Setup

Put together, or purchase commercially, spill kits (ex. 01) for use in proper response to an incidental pesticide spill. Label the kit and designate it “For Use in Handling Incidental Pesticide Spills Only”. List the contents of the kit on the label, noting contents with any relevant expiration dates. Place the kit in an accessible location close to the general area where spills might occur. Spill kits must be on site at storage facilities, loading and mixing sites, and on vehicles used to transport pesticides. These kits should be evaluated and reviewed by trained and qualified responders. Quarterly inspect spill kits to ensure that all components are available and remain usable.

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61.12 - Exhibit 01

Pesticide Spill Kit Contents

Storage Facility Kit	Vehicle Kit
List of emergency phone numbers	List of emergency phone numbers
4 pairs unlined nitrile gloves	2 pairs unlined nitrile gloves
2 pairs unvented goggles	1 pair unvented goggles
2 pairs rubber boots or overshoes	1 pair rubber boots or overshoes
2 pairs of coveralls or rainsuits	1 pair of coveralls or rainsuits
1 roll of flagging or engineer's tape	1 roll of flagging or engineer's tape
1 repair/patch kit (duct tape, putty)	1 repair/patch kit (duct tape, putty)
1 dust pan	
1 shop brush (synthetic fiber)	1 whisk broom (synthetic fiber)
1 dozen 30-gallon plastic trash bags with ties	6 30-gallon plastic trash bags with ties
1 gallon liquid detergent	1 pint liquid detergent
1 polyethylene or plastic tarpaulin	1 polyethylene or plastic tarpaulin
10 blank labels & a permanent marker	10 blank labels & a permanent marker
80 lbs. absorbent material or equivalent	10-30 lbs. absorbent material or equivalent
	1 portable eyewash kit
3 gallons of household bleach	
1 square point "D" handle shovel	1 shovel
1 30-gallon plastic trash can (more if needed) or two 5-gallon containers if all pesticides are stored in containers of less than 3 gallons capacity	
1 18-inch pushbroom with synthetic fibers	
1 hand pump suitable for use with pesticides	

61.2 - Cleanup Procedures

Ensure that personnel who are authorized to work with pesticides, or in areas containing pesticides, are trained in procedures for personnel protection and evacuation, and incidental spill containment and decontamination. Project personnel shall only be involved with cleanup of incidental pesticide spills, and only to the degree that they have been trained (FSM 2161).

Follow established policies and procedures after a pesticide spill occurs.

61.21 - Spill Identification

When emergency response personnel are called following a pesticide spill, in order to provide prompt accurate assistance, they need to know at least the product name, chemical common name, EPA registration number (all listed on the product label), and extent of the spill.

61.22 - Care of Injured

In the event of unintended release of pesticide, immediately determine if any personnel are injured or contaminated. Notification of trained county, State, or Federal responders should be first; engaging of Forest Service employees, unless “highly” trained in all aspects of unintended releases, should be avoided. The role that any “untrained” Forest Service employee should play is to attempt to limit exposure to themselves and others within the vicinity of the spill. Situations may differ, but the major and immediate effort should be to assist injured personnel and minimize further contamination. In the event of an “incidental” spill accomplish the following steps as rapidly as possible.

1. Dress in personal protective equipment for which you are properly authorized, trained and equipped. If a fumigant or dangerous vapor is involved, wear the appropriate respirator or emergency escape breathing apparatus only if authorized and trained to do so (FSH 6709.11, ch. 50 and ch. 60, sec. 61).
2. Designate a decontamination zone and safe area and move injured personnel from the exposure site to safe area.
3. Gather contaminated clothing from injured individuals and rescue personnel. Wash the individuals with detergent and water (as specified on the product label), or decontaminate as specified by the manufacturer.
4. Immediately call for medical assistance for injured and contaminated personnel. Do not leave contaminated individuals alone, except possibly very briefly to call for medical assistance. If possible, direct a responder to stay with them until medical personnel take charge. Alert medical personnel of possible or actual pesticide exposure.
5. If it is necessary to transport pesticide-exposed individuals for prompt medical attention, in the vehicle apply first aid as specified on label for routine spills of toxic,

caustic, or corrosive pesticide. Prepare for this contingency by stocking containers of potable water in transport vehicles to flush eyes or skin.

61.23 - Incidental-Spill Containment

For incidental spills/release, contain spilled pesticides as much as possible on the site where the spill occurs. Only those certified Pesticide Applicators or other personnel who are properly trained and equipped to respond to incidental spills may do so. Contact the unit Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Coordinator and refer to unit contingency and emergency response plan for guidance. As outlined in the pesticide-project safety plan, spilled pesticide should be kept from entering storm drains, wells, ditches, open water (for example, streams, ponds, or lakes), or water systems by following these procedures:

1. As identified in the project job hazard analysis and pesticide-project safety plan, wear appropriate protective clothing from a spill kit. This includes goggles, unlined rubber or nitrile gloves, chemical resistant coveralls or rain suit, and rubber boots or overshoes.
2. Prevent further leakage.
3. Separate leaking container(s) from other containers.
4. Cordon off the area with engineer's tape labeled "WARNING" to keep unauthorized personnel from entering.
5. Confine the spill to prevent it from spreading.
 - a. Liquid spills. Encircle the spill area with a dike of absorbent material. If necessary, use soil or rags, and dig a ditch to redirect the flow away from any sensitive area that is threatened.
 - b. Dry pesticide spills. Cover with a polyethylene plastic tarpaulin and secure.
6. If the incidental spill involves a small water course, a soil dam should be quickly erected, and activated charcoal or other appropriate cleansing agent should then be used to decontaminate the impounded water, as identified in the pesticide-project safety plan. For larger waterways, a log boom or baled straw may be used to contain the spill. Dam, or divert the flow of, clean water to prevent contact with contaminated water.
7. Cover the spill with absorbent material if the spill is liquid. Shovel absorbed liquids or spilled dry pesticides into approved hazardous waste containers for appropriate disposal. Label containers as specified in FSM 2163 and FSH 2109.14, section 61.25.
8. Prevent ignition of flammable materials by removing the material and eliminating sources of ignition (for example, exhausts, electric motors, gasoline engines, and cigarettes).

9. Do not flush the spill into a ditch, sewer, drain, or off road surface, since this serves to further spread the spilled chemical.

10. If cleanup is to be temporarily delayed, cover the spill with a polyethylene plastic tarpaulin and secure.

61.24 - Notification

Promptly notify appropriate individuals or agencies on the (spill plan) notification list when a spill occurs.

61.25 - Cleanup of Incidental Spills

As outlined in the pesticide-project safety plan, use site cleanup procedures to mitigate hazards at the site of incidental spills. Only those certified applicators or other personnel who are properly trained and equipped to respond to incidental spills may do so. For spills larger than “incidental”, contact the unit Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Coordinator, and consult the unit contingency and emergency response plan (FSM 2165.2). Use of a professional emergency response contractor with safety support to COR is recommended. As defined by OSHA, an incidental spill/release is a release of a hazardous substance which does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity or to the employee cleaning it up, nor does it have the potential to become an emergency within a short time frame. Incidental releases are limited in quantity, exposure potential, or toxicity and present minor safety or health hazards to employees in the immediate work area or those assigned to clean them up. An incidental spill may be safely cleaned up by employees who are familiar with the hazards of the chemicals with which they are working. Spills/releases that are beyond the definition of incidental must be addressed by either State/local hazardous materials spill response teams and/or qualified emergency spill response contractors.

Personnel shall only respond to incidental spills commensurate with their training, and equipment (OSHA 1910.120).

Follow these guidelines for liquid and dry spills.

1. Liquid Spills. Pump as much as possible of the spilled liquid into recovery containers; then:

- a. Use absorbent materials, such as commercially bagged clay, kitty litter, or sawdust, to soak up the spill. Use only enough material to absorb the spill.
- b. Spread the absorbent material around the perimeter of the spill and sweep toward the center.
- c. Shovel the absorbent and pesticide into approved hazardous material container(s) for subsequent disposal. In some cases, absorbent containing pesticides such as herbicides can be applied to the ground as though it were a granular formulation. Contact the Regional Pesticide Coordinator for further information. If it is

determined that the pesticide can be reused, label the container as a service container (FSH 2109.14, ch. 40, sec. 42.1).

d. Label all containers properly and legibly (FSM 2163.2). Label containers with the date the container was filled, chemical common name, product name and EPA registration number, and a description of any absorbent or other additional material (soil, forest detritus, and so forth) found in the container, and include the words “Hazardous Waste” when appropriate. (40 CFR 262.31 and 32).

2. Dry Spills.

a. Immediately cover spills of dry pesticides with polyethylene plastic sheets or a tarpaulin to prevent pesticidal materials from becoming airborne. Spreading might be minimized by slightly dampening spilled dust with a fine mist of water.

b. Clean up by rolling the tarpaulin back little by little while sweeping. Dampen dust with fine spray of water to suppress spreading.

c. Shovel the material into a plastic bag within a recovery container that can be sealed.

d. Seal bags and recovery containers and identify as containing pesticide. Label all bags and containers properly and legibly as for liquid spills (sec. 61.25, paragraph 1(d)).

e. Set the bags or drums aside for subsequent use, if the pesticide can still be used, or for disposal as hazardous waste. If it is determined that the pesticide can be reused, label the container as a service container (FSH 2109.14, ch. 40, sec. 42.1), otherwise label as a hazardous waste if appropriate (sec. 61.25, paragraph 1(d)).

61.26 - Pickup, Packaging, and Disposal

Follow the general guidelines for pesticide waste disposal (FSH 2109.14, ch. 40, sec. 43). Contact the unit Hazardous Materials Coordinator and the Regional Pesticide Coordinator regarding disposal of contaminated materials.

61.3 - Decontamination of Incidental Releases

For spills larger than those defined under OSHA as “incidental,” refer to unit contingency and emergency response plan. For unintended incidental releases, properly trained certified pesticide applicators may decontaminate small amounts of residual pesticide(s) remaining after the cleanup process as outlined in the pesticide-project safety plan (FSM 2151.3). Decontaminate or neutralize road surfaces, mixing and loading sites, storage area floors, and truck beds while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. The decontaminating or neutralizing agent used varies based on the spilled chemical, surface type, or area contaminated. Consult the manufacturer’s Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and product label or contact the Regional Pesticide

Coordinator for further information. For spills larger than incidental, refer to unit Emergency Response Plan.

62 - Incidents

For incidents resulting from pesticide use on NFS lands, follow the unit contingency and emergency response plan (FSM 2165.2) and the pesticide-project safety plan (FSM 2151.3). Use the report outline in FSH 2109.14, chapter 70, section 71.3 to promptly report pesticide incidents. Additionally, for operations covered under an NPDES permit, follow local permit reporting requirements.

Pesticide incidents include non-life-threatening situations such as incidental pesticide spills, non-target pesticide applications, unusual occurrences of drift, unforeseen adverse effects on wildlife or other components of the environment, and any other situation that might affect public welfare or be of special interest to the public, the press, or other media.

Incident reporting must follow the following procedure:

1. The District or Forest involved with an incident presents an initial report to the Regional Office Pesticide Coordinator, the Emergency Response Coordinator, and the Safety and Health Coordinator. If the incident involves a spill of pesticides that exceed threshold minimum reportable quantities, a report must be immediately made to the National Response Center (1-800-424-8802) (FSM 2165.3). The Regional Office Pesticide Coordinator in conjunction with the Regional Emergency Response Coordinator and the Regional Safety and Health Coordinator makes a recommendation to the Regional Forester on whether further elevation of the reporting of the incident is required and whether additional outside resources should be summoned.
2. If the Regional Forester determines that the incident will be reported upward, the Regional Forester refers details of the incident to the Washington Office, Forest Health Protection staff (FHP).
3. FHP's National Pesticide Coordinator evaluates the nature of the incident, public issues involved, and all related information, and in conjunction with the Designated Agency Safety and Health Official and the National HAZMAT Coordinator presents an oral report of the incident to the appropriate Deputy Chief who may report the incident to the Chief. The Chief decides whether to forward the information to the Office of the Secretary.
4. For adverse incidents involving any pesticide that is registered with EPA by the Forest Service (for example, TM-Biocontrol-1, EPA Reg. No. 27586-1; Gypchek, EPA Reg. No. 27586-2; or, Technical MCH, EPA Reg. No. 27586-5), EPA regulations at 40 CFR 159 provide description of registrant reporting obligations under FIFRA section 6(a)(2). Region, Area, and Institute Pesticide Use Coordinators shall prepare required incident reports involving Forest Service- registered pesticides within their respective areas and promptly transmit to the Forest Service National Pesticide Use Coordinator. The Forest

Service National Pesticide Use Coordinator shall review reports and submit to EPA, as appropriate.

5. Incidents that involve employee injuries, illnesses, or near misses should also be reported into the USFS e-Safety System.

63 - Accidents

Accidents are events usually more severe than incidents. Accident events comprise major pesticide spills, significant adverse pesticide impacts on the environment, aircraft crashes, or employee injury or death. As with incidents, accidents will be reported using the outline described in FSH 2109.14, chapter 70, section 71.3. Accidents and incidents that involve employee injuries, illnesses, or near misses should also be reported into the Forest Service e-Safety System.

Follow the notification procedure outlined in section 62, except that all accidents will be reported to the Forest Service Washington Office. Notification to Washington Office, Office of Safety and Occupational Health (OSOH) for implementation of Coordinated Response Protocol is required. Incidents that result in three or more hospitalizations or fatalities need to be reported to OSHA within 8 hour time period.

63.1 - Prevention

As described in safety planning (FSH 2109.14, sec. 16), the prevention of accidents is the first line of defense against unwanted effects on pesticide-use projects. Therefore, safety planning is imperative.

63.2 - Emergency Action

Appropriate care of the injured should be the first action in response to accidents or emergencies. Subsequent emergency action depends on the nature of the situation. Most situations must be resolved on a case-by-case basis. However, follow the general guidelines in sections 63.21 through 63.23 when vehicle, aircraft, and fire or explosion accidents occur. Accidents and incidents that involve employee injuries, illnesses, or near misses should also be reported into the USFS e-Safety System.

63.21 - Vehicle Accidents

Immediate attention is required when employee accidents involve trucks, buses, cars, vans, or boats. Personnel should:

1. Protect and care for the injured.
2. For incidental spills only and with proper training contain spilled material, especially pesticides, and note or otherwise record (for example, photograph) precise location of accident.

3. Notify the appropriate Forest Service personnel. If and when Forest Service or GSA vehicles are involved, these incidents must be entered into the Forest Service e-Safety system as a motor vehicle accident (MVA).
4. Notify State highway or other transportation and safety personnel.
5. For incidental spills only, initiate emergency cleanup commensurate with the employee's level of training and certification.

63.22 - Aircraft Accidents

Before any aerial spray activities begin, project personnel shall familiarize themselves with the local aviation mishap response plan (FSM 5723.21), and post the following information at pesticide mixing or loading sites in a suitable display location such that all personnel have access to the information.

1. Name, address, and telephone numbers for emergency use.
 - a. Police or Sheriff's Department.
 - b. Forest Aviation Officer.
 - c. Forest Supervisor.
 - d. Regional Aviation Officer.
 - e. Poison control centers
 - f. Rescue helicopter, include name and contact information

63.23 - Facility Fire or Explosion

An accident resulting in a facility fire or explosion warrants immediate attention to:

1. Protect and care for the injured.
2. Notify local police, firefighting personnel, and hazardous materials personnel.
3. Prevent spread of fire. Ensure that all persons attempting to contain the fire have the proper training to do so, and that personal protection equipment is being appropriately used.
4. Build containment dikes downslope from the accident scene.

The Regional or Station or Area Safety and Health Manager shall notify the Washington Office, Office of Safety and Occupational Health, within 8 hours, in the event of a facility fire or explosion. Follow the guidelines provided by FSM 2160, the unit contingency and emergency response plan, and appropriate environmental engineering personnel if there is release, or the

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potential for release, of reportable quantities of a hazardous material. Prepare for a Regional or Washington Office investigation.