# SWM-03. Chemical Spills SWMS

**ACWA: Safe Work Method – Chemical Spills**

**Note:** This Safe Work Method only provides guidance information and may not necessarily cover all possible hazards and should be used with other references

**Date: August/2023.**

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| Risk Assessment |
| **Hazard**  | **Risk** |
| Hazardous substance/ Dangerous good | * Injury/illness from contact, inhalation, ingestion
* Burns
* Environmental damage
* Injury/illness from incompatibility with other chemicals
* Injury from explosion
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| Slips | * Injury from slips and/or falls
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## Safety Considerations

* For spills of volatile substances (e.g., petrol and solvents) in confined spaces or poorly ventilated areas, personnel MUST NOT ENTER. Where volatile substances are known or suspected to be involved, contact the Fire Brigade for assistance
* Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) to confirm the appropriate SAFE method for containment
* If any hazardous incident or spill has created a dangerous situation, staff must contact the emergency services
* Only proceed where safe to do so and consider the use of Personal Protective Equipment that is appropriate for the task

## Spill Management

In the event a spill has taken place, this procedure shall be followed to prevent the substance from potentially contaminating the environment.

* If possible, control the spill at the source to limit the amount of chemical spilled,
* If the spill has the potential to enter a waterway, then the spill should be contained as a priority before contacting others,
* When controlling a spill, every effort must be made to prevent the spill from entering a drainage system, waterway or contaminating soil,
* If spilled substance enters a site stormwater drain and a shut-off valve or other method to seal the drain is located downstream, then the drain should be isolated,
* If a spilled substance has been contained in a section of the stormwater system or has been collected as a liquid, then the substance shall be pumped out and disposed of by an EPA-licensed waste contractor,
* Contamination of soil or water should be avoided at all costs. Contamination accessible to the public may require a higher level of clean-up within a shorter time frame,
* Once the leak has been controlled, the spill contained, and the threat of contamination eliminated or minimised, establish the most appropriate method for removing and disposing of the spilled substance and clean-up of the spilled substance and consumables,
* Clean-up should be initiated within 24 hours of the spill,
* DO NOT place oil or chemical-contaminated wastes in general rubbish skips,
* DO NOT hose down the spill area,
* Contaminated materials (e.g., spill kit materials, absorbent, gloves and kitty litter) shall be placed in a designated receptacle until an EPA-licensed waste contractor can dispose of the items,
* In all cases, employees will ensure the contaminated absorbent substance is stored in a secure area that will not contaminate soil or be washed away by rain.