

Fact-sheet - How to conduct a chemical spill response drill?



What is the objective?

The objective is to **train** the employees so they know how to **respond rapidly and safely to a chemical spill**. A proper response plan is essential to avoid any harm to the environment and the workers and to avoid any damage of the factory's equipment and facilities. The documentation of the emergency response plan and its communication among the employees is a first step but, without practice, it's not possible to know **how people will react** in the real event of an emergency situation and if the **response plan is adapted or not**. This is why performing regular drills is important.



How to achieve this objective?

Step 1: Identify potential scenarios of chemical spill incidents in your factory. Examples are given below:

- Chemical drums falling during unload from the transportation truck;
- Worker bumping into open chemical container by accident;
- Reaction of incompatible chemicals;
- Etc.

Step 2: Plan the chemical spill response drills; when do you want to conduct the drill? For which scenario? How long it should take? How often the drill should be performed? Where? When you have the answers to these questions, you can establish a drill planning for the year.

Step 3: Define who will attend the drill and who will monitor the drill. The person who will monitor the drill, has to fill-in a form that will be kept as the drill records. See below an example of form to fill-in for each drill performed:

Chemical spill response drill - form			
Report written by:		Report date:	
Date of the drill:		Time start:	
		Time end:	
List of workers participating to the drill:			
Manager in charge:			
Location:			
Drill scenario:			
Description of the actions taken during the drill:			
Comments about the attitude of the workers, gaps between the emergency plan and the drill result, etc.:			
Recommendations for improvement:			



The drill is also giving an **opportunity** to discuss about **how the incident could be avoided**. This can be added in the form.



Common non-compliances

Chemical spill response drill not properly documented

The factory confirms orally that a chemical spill response drill is performed every year. However, there is only the list of participants but no documentation about the exercise practiced and the comments of the manager in charge to monitor the drill.