Fact-sheet – Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) – Emergency response plan





What is the objective?

The objective is to:

- **Be prepared** to respond rapidly to an emergency situation impacting the ETP;
- Prevent possible financial losses resulting from a damaged ETP or equipment/facility affected by the incident;
- **Ensure** the safety of the workers / operators in charge of the ETP operations.

The ETP emergency response plan details the procedures to be followed in case of emergency. The analysis of the potential emergency situations will also help to take measure to prevent these incidents to happen.



How to achieve this objective?

Step 1: Identify the potential emergency situations and what could be the severity of each emergency situation according to the potential impacts on the environment, the ETP disruption level, the time estimated to fix the issue, etc.

Potential emergency situations:

- Power supply failure
- Flooding / effluent overflow
- Fire breakout
- Abnormal discharge in an ETP tank
- Wastewater spill
- Ftc.

Severity level according to potential impacts (minor, significant and major):

Example: for emergency "Wastewater spill":

- Minor: minor spill, no risk of personnel injury, no contact with the soil and the breach in the pipeline/tank can be fixed within 24 hours;
- Significant: significant spill, contact with the soil/groundwater probable, important maintenance required to fix the problem so likely to take more than 24 hours;
- Major: massive disruption of the ETP causing major leaks, ETP operations must be stopped for several days, maybe weeks to fix the problem.

Step 2: Write the ETP emergency response plan. It should cover the chapters as follow:

- General list of contacts with phone numbers of people to be notified in case of emergency;
- For each emergency situation:
 - Actions to be taken to minimize the damage according to the level of severity (minor, significant and major) and who should be notified in this specific situation. See example below:

Level of severity	What it means ?	Actions to be taken	Who should be notified?
Minor	Ex: minor spill, no risk of personnel injury, no contact with the soil and the breach in the pipeline/tank can be fixed within 24 hours	Ex: contact the technician for the maintenance of the pipeline leaking, request him to identify what could be the origin of the breach, clean-up the spill, etc.	Ex: ETP manager/in charge, Compliance Manager, Utility manager
Significant			
Major			

- How to report the incident and to notify it to the responsible authorities;
- Measures taken to prevent or minimize the recurrence of incidents.

Step 3: Communicate the ETP emergency response plan and Train the ETP operator and staff to make sure they understand the procedures to follow in case of emergency situation.



- Update the ETP emergency response plan: contact list to be updated yearly (or as soon as there is a change in the contact information) at least and overall document to be reviewed if there is any change in the ETP.
- Practice the ETP emergency response; an ETP emergency response drill should be conducted once a



Common non-compliances

No awareness about potential emergency situations

The factory has an ETP emergency response plan mentioning only the following natural disasters: earthquake, fire and flooding. In case of any of this emergency situation, the procedure is to shut down the ETP and stop the production. The factory has not identified potential emergency situations more likely to happen and there is no detailed action plan to follow adapted to the different situations that can happen.

