

# FORT SILL QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

April 2016

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This newsletter provides helpful household and unit tips for protecting the environment and complying with environmental laws and regulations.

## Spill Prevention, Reporting, and Response

Fort Sill has a large number of vehicles and equipment throughout the Post on any given day. In these photos a private trucking company was transporting a 275 gallon tote that shifted during transport and was punctured by other items in the freight trailer.

The Fort Sill Fire Department is the first responding organization in case of a release or spill, however, we all have responsibility for taking certain initial actions and also calling 911.

The initial actions we can take to protect the environment in case of a spill is, if safe to do so, stop and contain the spill. A number of methods can be employed to do this. A container such as a punctured drum could be rolled over so that the leak is on top, sand and dirt can be placed to prevent the spill from traveling further, a drip pan or bucket can be placed under a leaking gas tank or line on a vehicle. The important thing to remember is that all effort should be directed toward preventing the spill from getting into a storm drain, drainage ditch, or body of water. If this occurs, call 911. Note that at Fort Sill most spills are handled at a “shop level” by soldiers and civilian employees with proper training.



***Spills Are Preventable!***

## Stop the Source of the Spill, Contain the Spill, Report the Incident, and Cleanup all Areas Affected

Spills may involve one or several of a vast number of materials and substances used in today's society. Many of these materials and substances have reportable quantities, that if spilled in the amount of the reportable quantity, require

notification to local, state, and federal authorities.

**Important:** it is the responsibility of the Fort Sill Environmental Quality Division to make such notifications, such as calling the National Response Center in case of a reportable quantity release. The only phone call anyone else should make to report a release is to 911. The Fort Sill Fire Department will then assume incident command.

The tote mentioned earlier contained ChrysoProPel 3300, a chemical additive to concrete mixtures for removing water, also known as a plasticizer. Fortunately this particular substance did not have a reportable quantity because of its non-hazardous characteristics.



As you can see, even though non-hazardous, this release made quite a mess which required cleanup. The trucking company had to hire and pay for an environmental spill response company to come on the Installation to complete cleanup of the spill. The Fire Department, Police, Post Safety, DPW, LRC, 30th ADA BDE, and 2-6th ADA BN also responded. **Great Work** by the ADA Units by engaging and utilizing their spill kits to assist in the immediate response of



the spill containment. Their actions were above and beyond in containing the spill! What could have prevented this release??? The tote in the freight trailer was not secured and the driver took a turn too fast, then braked hard, causing the tote that weighed 2,964 pounds to slide completely from the rear to the front of the freight trailer. Remember, always secure loads!

**For further information about compliance with environmental laws / regulations please contact Environmental Quality Division, DPW, 580-442-3266.**

*Contain Spill, Report Spill, Cleanup Spill*