

Oil Pollution Prevention Regulation

The Environmental Protection Agency's Oil Pollution Prevention Regulation is identified as Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 112 (40 CFR 112). It requires that facilities subject to the regulation prepare and implement a plan to prevent any discharge of oil or oil products into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines of the United States. The plan is referred to as a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan.

Why must the University of Illinois have an SPCC Plan?

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign stores over 2,200,000 gallons of oil, including gasoline, diesel fuel, bio diesel fuel, motor oils, hydraulic oil, oil-based coolants, and even cooking oil. The University is required to develop, maintain and implement an SPCC Plan because there is potential at certain campus sites for oil to spill to Boneyard Creek or to the Embarras River, either directly or through campus storm sewers.

What is the SPCC Plan and How is it Implemented?

The SPCC Plan is a written commitment of everything the University will do to prevent and clean up oil spills to water. It includes standard procedures to protect the drains, streams and land areas that collect storm runoff from our campus. Annual training in spill prevention is required by law and is a key component of Plan implementation.

What is the Role of the Division of Safety and Compliance?

The Division of Safety and Compliance (S&C) advises and consults in matters relating to the health and safety of faculty, staff, students, visitors and the environment. S&C is responsible for maintaining a campus-wide SPCC Plan as well as responding to spill emergencies. S&C works closely with campus units to identify and assess oil storage sites and operating procedures. S&C also assists units in correcting SPCC deficiencies.

What about Training?

Annual training is required for University employees and students who handle oil-filled equipment, or dispense petroleum oil, fuel or cooking oil on campus. S&C provides SPCC training to campus coordinators on an annual basis and department specific sessions if needed. Training includes instruction in the correct handling and disposal of oil, the types of spills that can occur on campus and ways to prevent them, and actions an individual can take in case of a spill. Campus SPCC Coordinators must then provide training to their oil-handling employees on an annual basis.

What Must Campus Units Do?

All campus units storing or using oil products are responsible for implementing spill prevention procedures and assuring that operating personnel receive the appropriate training. It is important that campus units inform S&C when storage tanks are installed or removed so that the SPCC Plan can be updated. Some departments may also be asked to correct specific SPCC deficiencies in order to come into regulatory compliance.

For more information please contact the Division of Safety and Compliance at 265-9828.