

## Toolbox Talk 9 – Ground Contamination

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### What is needed?

Any company operational or emergency procedure for preventing and controlling ground contamination.

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### Estimated duration

10 – 15 minutes

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### The discussion

Unlike the pollution of surface watercourses, ground contamination has a potentially long-term impact.

Ground contamination originates from poor storage, handling and disposal of chemicals and fuels. Even the smallest spill can have an impact on the local area and it is those small spills that can accumulate and cause major environmental problems.

All these problems can be avoided by using good control techniques inclusive of the following points:

- Maintain a general practice of good housekeeping
- Dispose of all waste types into the appropriate containers
- Report any spills immediately and take action using clean up facilities if necessary
- Storage areas and tanks must have adequate bunding around them, 110% capacity of the storage tank / container itself
- Containers and barrels containing substances such as petroleum, oil or chemicals must be returned to the correct storage area at the end of any working day
- Any open containers must be covered to avoid potential spills and vandalism
- Dispose of empty containers and drums in the correct waste facilities as they always retain some liquid and could cause ground contamination.

By following these guidelines, material loss can be minimised as can the threat of ground contamination. It is you as an individual that is responsible for taking care when using materials. Your actions not only have repercussions on yourself but also on the environment.

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### Discussion point

Have an open discussion about the current controls on-site.



## Training register

Date .....

Name of attendee

Signature

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