

Spills



What happened?

On August 16, 2005 a contractor's delivery truck leaked approximately one gallon of oil. Several GSFC employees observed the leak, but did not report the spill. One employee reported the spill to a supervisor, who then notified the environmental support contractor. The environmental support contractor responded to the scene and cleaned up the spill. Security was never notified of the spill. Had the spill not been cleaned up, it would have entered the storm water system, possibly resulting in a Notice of Violation, penalty and/or fine from the Maryland Department of the Environment or the Environmental Protection Agency.

On May 28, 2006 a tow truck responded to an overheated automobile on center. Soon after the arrival of the tow truck, the driver noticed a hydraulic fluid leak from his vehicle. The driver requested assistance from GSFC personnel in a nearby building but didn't receive any. As the hydraulic fluid puddle grew in size, the tow truck driver attempted to prohibit traffic through the hydraulic fluid release. The employees refused to yield and drove through the puddle, thus increasing the level of effort required to clean up the release. After two hours, the security police were notified and the spill was subsequently cleaned up by the environmental support contractor.

Why do I care about spills, even small ones?

- Oil-based spills can ignite and harm GSFC personnel, damage GSFC and personal property and interrupt normal center operations
- Hazardous spills can adversely impact human health or the environment
- Small spills if left unchecked may become large spills

What should I do if I see a spill?

If you discover an oil or hazardous substance release (or any type of emergency):

- Protect yourself and those in the vicinity from the hazard
- **Call Security Operations Center (SOC) by dialing 911** from on campus (301-286-9111 from off campus) or radio Facility Operations Center (FOC) from a Goddard issued radio

003-2006

June 5, 2006

For additional information, please contact Joe Hunter, x6-0466