National Environment Agency
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Incident Reporting Requirements and Timeline

Presented at: SCIC – Joint Agencies Dialogue Session 2026
Presented by: PCD1
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Introduction

- Pollution Control 1 Division (PCD1) in NEA is responsible for the control of air and water pollution, Hazardous Substances (HS) and Toxic Industrial Wastes (TIW)
- PCD1 officers inspect industrial premises and ensure compliance with pollution control requirements, as stipulated in the Environmental Protection and Management Act (1999) and its Regulations
- During pollution incidents, industrial premises need to implement contingency measures quickly to prevent/reduce impacts and inform PCD1/NEA immediately of any such occurrences
- Timely notification allows PCD1 officers to respond to the site promptly, assess the situation and potential environmental and public health impacts, and work with the company to ensure appropriate mitigation and containment measures are implemented in a timely manner

Types of incidents that are reportable to NEA

Water Pollution Incidents

- **Discharge of trade effluent, oil, chemical, sewage or any polluting matter** into:
  - Land within premises (e.g., outside of dedicated containment)
  - Watercourses (e.g., public drains, canals, rivers, coastal area)
  - Outside of premises (e.g., road, grass, drains)
- **For premises with WP to discharge trade effluent** – any plant upsets or circumstances potentially resulting in **exceedances in trade effluent discharge limits**

Air Pollution Incidents

- **Malfunction or tripping of fuel burning equipment or air pollution control equipment**, resulting in excessive pollutant emissions (e.g., dark smoke / yellow smoke, fumes)
- **Open burning** (e.g., of waste material, horticultural waste)

Fires, Flaring

- **Flaring activities (planned or unplanned)**, which includes:
  - Start-up or shut-down of process units
  - Process upsets
- **Fires within facilities** with potential to impact chemical storage areas, even if not yet affected

HS/TIW Incidents

- Loss of containment involving HS and/or TIW
- Fires potentially affecting HS and/or TIW
- Major breakdown of TIW treatment facilities
- Accident on the road involving HS/TIW with potential loss of containment







Conditions under Written Permission and HS licence

- Written Permission (Scheduled Premises): The occupier shall **immediately inform NEA CALL CENTRE at 1800-2255-632 (or NEA-PCD1)** in the event of any incidents involving hazardous substances, air, and water pollution occurring within or outside the premises.

- Written Permission (Discharge of Trade Effluent): The occupier shall **inform NEA-PCD1 as soon as practicable**, on any plant upsets or circumstances resulting in exceedances in trade effluent discharge quality

- HS licence: Licence/ Permit holder shall **immediately notify NEA upon occurrence** of any incident involving the loss, releases and/or fires of hazardous substances.

Reporting Format and Timeline

- Report via Call to NEA CALL CENTRE 1800-2255-632 or PCD1 officers-in-charge of your premises
- Incidents should be **reported immediately** to NEA upon discovered. Nevertheless, we will consider the time needed by the company to execute the necessary emergency response procedures to ensure immediate safety and containment of discharges

Name of Company	XYZ Pte Ltd
Location of Incident	123 Green Street
Date and Time of Incident	3 Oct 2025, 1105h
Nature of Incident	Discharge of oily wastewater into perimeter drain leading to public canal
Details and Effects	At around 1105h, neighbouring premises informed us of oil sheen in the canal. We checked and realised that our WWTP was malfunctioning, resulting in overflow of oily wastewater.
Possible Cause	Overflow of wastewater treatment plant
Actions taken or planned	Shutdown of wastewater treatment plant Shutting of penstock Containment booms deployed in canal
Contact information	Mr Ahmad (EHS Manager) HP: 91234567

Regulatory Obligations

- **EPMA Section 15(3)**: Any person who causes or suffers any trade effluent, oil, chemical, sewage or other polluting matters to enter or pass into any drain or land without a written permission from the Director-General (whether wilfully or by accident) **must immediately inform the Director-General of such occurrence**. Section 15(5): Any person who fails to comply with subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence.

- **EPM(HS) Regs Section 23(1)**: In the event of an accidental release of any hazardous substance, the consignor or owner of any consignment of a hazardous substance or any person authorized to transport or store hazardous substances shall directly or through his agent or employee **immediately notify the Director-General and Singapore Civil Defence Force**.

Guidelines on Oil/Chemical Spill and Firefighting Water, and Contaminated Run-Off Containment

- **Industries should be aware of the containment infrastructure available at their premises** (e.g., bunds, basins, holding/detention tanks, penstocks, shut-off valves, interceptors)
- **NEA must be informed of any firefighting activity taking place at the facility** affecting chemical storage facilities, including fires extinguished in-house, as firefighting water is a pollution risk
- **Spill, firefighting water, and contaminated run-off containment plans must be activated immediately** to prevent oil/chemicals, foam, or contaminated water from entering public drains, canals, rivers or coastal waters
- **Containment plans must be documented in response plans, kept up-to-date and made available to NEA officers upon request or during site inspection**
- **Recovered spill, firefighting water, and contaminated run-off is to be treated as Toxic Industrial Waste and disposed of through a NEA-licensed TIWCs**







Guidelines on Chemical/Oil Spill and Firefighting Water Containment

To be prepared for incidents, companies should:-

- **Review the adequacy of existing containment systems** for chemical/oil spills and firefighting water contaminated by chemicals
- **Plan and implement additional containment systems**, as needed
- **Conduct regular maintenance and servicing of containment systems**
- **Incorporate firefighting water containment measures into Emergency Response Plans**
- **Develop oil/chemical spill response plans to prevent / mitigate / recover discharge into public watercourses**
- **Conduct emergency exercises involving the use of containment measures**

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Thank you!

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