

Spill Incident – Fuel Storage

A significant environmental incident occurred on a Galliford Try site involving the failure of a seal within a Selwood pump. This failure led to the inbuilt fuel bund to overflow and so allowing approximately 40 litres of diesel to escape to the external environment.



Although the fuel tank that supplied the pump with diesel was constructed with an integral secondary containment system the pump and associated pipe work had not been placed within a secondary containment bund. Additionally, the pump and fuel tank had been placed near a culvert and within 10m of a watercourse, which is contrary to guidance issued by the Environment Agency. Consequently, the spilled diesel entered the culvert that resulted in diesel being discharged into a local canal.

As soon as the leak was detected, the fuel tank and pump were switched off and moved to a location away from the culvert. Thereafter, the site team acted responsibly to deploy spill response equipment, call out the Galliford Try emergency spill response contractor (Adler and Allan) and notify the Environment Agency of the spill incident.

What lessons are to be learned?

As a result of this incident all Galliford Try sites should:

- Ensure that all pumps (including Selwood pumps) are in good working condition
- Locate fuel tanks and pumps in a secure location and at least 10m away from drains, culverts or watercourses
- Place fuel tanks, pumps and all ancillary equipment (e.g., hoses, valves) within a secondary containment bund. (*Note: The nature of the bund should reflect the requirement of the project i.e., short duration projects would benefit from a temporary bund constructed from a waterproof membrane and sand whereas a permanent concrete slab and block surround would better suit a long term project*)
- Keep fuel tanks locked when not in use
- Conduct daily checks of all fuel tanks, pumps and all ancillary equipment to ensure they remain in a good working condition
- Ensure any refuelling activities are supervised by a competent person
- Ensure suitable and adequate spill response equipment is available from the start of the project and that site personnel are trained to use the spill kits
- Ensure that a Galliford Try Spill Response Plan (HS&E-FRM-E04-01) is developed, prominently displayed and communicated to all relevant site personnel
- Provide spill response tool box talks to all relevant site personnel using the attached Galliford Try Spill Control tool-box talk (HS&E-TBT-E04-301).

If you require further assistance, please consult with your the Regional Environmental Advisor / Framework Environmental Advisor.

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