

# Oil and Fuel

## Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program

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### Goal

The goal of the SPCC program is the prevention of oil spills into waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines.

By **Nov. 10, 2010**, certain farms and other facilities must have an SPCC plan to prevent oil spills and a plan for cleanup and mitigation needed following a spill.

If a farm or facility meets the definition of this regulation, it must have a plan.

**Roxanne Johnson**  
Water Quality Associate  
(701) 231-8926

**NDSU**  
**Extension Service**  
North Dakota State University  
Fargo, ND 58108  
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### Who must comply and deadlines

Farms are considered “a facility on a tract of land devoted to the production of crops or raising of animals, including fish, which produced and sold, or normally would have produced and sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products during a year.” (EPA Federal Register/Vol.73, No. 235/Friday, Dec. 5, 2008)

Farms in operation on or before Aug. 16, 2002, must maintain or update their existing SPCC plans by the Nov. 10, 2010, deadline. This assumes that a plan is in place. If a farm operation began after Aug. 16, 2002, a plan must be prepared and in use by Nov. 10, 2010.

### A farm is included if:

- **Oil or oil products** such as gasoline, lube oil, diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, crop oil, vegetable oil or animal fat are transferred, used or consumed **and**

- More than **1,320 U.S. gallons** is stored in aboveground containers or more than **42,000 U.S. gallons** is stored in completely buried containers **and**
- Oil could **reasonably be expected to discharge to waters of the U.S.** or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers and streams. The nature and flow properties of oil when combined with a rain event must be considered.

### NOTE:

- Only containers that are 55 U.S. gallons and larger should be included in the 1,320 U.S. gallon total.
- Additional parcels of land, either owned or leased, may be considered separate facilities for SPCC purposes and need separate plans. Separate facilities are those that are identified or operated as separate facilities by a farmer.

## What do I do if I believe a farm needs a SPCC plan?

A SPCC plan must be prepared and implemented. A plan template is available on the EPA website: [www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/](http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/).

This template can be used to self-certify portions of the SPCC plan if:

1. The farm has less than 10,000 gallons of aboveground storage **and**
2. in the three-year period prior to self-certification, the farm has not had
  - a. a spill of more than 1,000 gallons or
  - b. two spills, each exceeding 42 gallons, within any 12-month period

## Failure to comply

When a plan is required, failure to produce a plan when inspected by the EPA may result in a fine.

## What information is needed to prepare a plan?

- A list of oil containers 55 U.S. gallons and greater, including the contents and location of each container on your farm
- The procedures to be used to prevent oil spills
- The measures installed to prevent oil from reaching water
- The measures to be used to contain and clean up an oil spill to water
- A list of emergency contacts and first responders

## Examples of spill prevention measures that should be implemented and included in your plan

- Regularly inspect above-ground pipes and containers.
- Use secondary containment measures such as dikes or remote impoundments for bulk storage containers. The dike may be constructed of earth, concrete or a double-walled tank.
- Use containers appropriate for the oil storage, such as a container designed for flammable liquids.
- Have overfill prevention for the oil storage containers. This can be an established procedure to fill the containers or measures such as an audible vent or alarm.
- List a local work force or contractors who can help clean up an oil spill should one occur. Contact a local commercial bulk oil dealer for referrals.
- Have hand-drawn diagrams of the farm showing oil tank locations, contents and capacities.

## Additional information

The SPCC rule and templates are available at [www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc](http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc).

**For more information on this and other topics, see: [www.ag.ndsu.edu](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu)**

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