

**Mildura Rural City Council**

# Stormwater Emergency Response Plan



Compiled by Environmental Services – Mildura Rural City Council April 2004  
Updated 8 September 2010

## *Emergency contact list*

**For any emergency the number to dial is **000****

**The 000 number will then put you through to the relevant emergency Authority.**

**The CFA is the Control Agency and will be the main contact for any spill/ incident that occurs.**

### **Other contacts**

<b>Environmental Protection Authority Victoria</b>	<b>24 Hour No. 1800 444 004 North West Region Bendigo 5438 1000</b>
<b>Department Environment &amp; climate change</b>	<b>5021 8900 Dennis Harvey 0427 437 905</b>
<b>State Emergency Service</b>	<b>132500 Michael Hellwidge mob 0428 147 427</b>
<b>Lower Murray Water</b>	<b>1800 808 830 Keith Neaves 0400 549 257</b>
<b>Mildura Police</b>	<b>000</b>
<b>Parks Victoria Ranger</b>	<b>Rob Mc Glashan mob 0428 315 139</b>
<b>NSW Police</b>	<b>000</b>
<b>Trans Pacific Cleanaway</b>	<b>Paul Timmis 50215077</b>
<b>Goulburn Murray Water – Lockmaster Lock 11</b>	<b>5023 1396</b>
<b>Wentworth Shire Council</b>	<b>5027 5027 Emergency 0428 488 862</b>
<b>Department of Sustainability and Environment</b>	<b>136186 Mildura 50514500</b>

## Emergency Response plan index

<i>Introduction</i> .....	4
<i>Types of Emergency Response</i> .....	4
<i>Emergency Review</i> .....	5
<i>Initial Inspection</i> .....	5
<i>Assessment of substances spill</i> .....	7
<i>Minimising Safety and Environment Risks</i> .....	8
<i>Containment and Absorption Control Measures</i> .....	8
<i>Assessing the Environment Impact</i> .....	8

# **Stormwater Emergency Response Plan**

## **Introduction**

This plan has been compiled to assist in any Emergency situation in the case of a threat to Mildura Rural City Council's Stormwater Infrastructure System.

Threats to Council's infrastructure can come in many forms. The main threat is through the accidental or purposeful release of oil products or dangerous chemicals that could have a disastrous environmental effect on our drainage infrastructure, surrounding property and consequently our receiving waters.

**It is important to note that the role of Mildura Rural City Council in any pollution incident is a support role only. The CFA is the Control Agency supported by SES, Victoria Police and MRCC. This corresponds with the MRCC Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) Part 5 : Response Arrangements.**

This Stormwater Emergency Management Plan outlines the following components as a guide to MRCC employees as a support role:

- **Types of Emergency Response**
- **Reporting and initial Inspection**
- **Assessment of substances spill**
- **Minimising Safety and Environmental Risks**
- **Containment and absorption control Measures**
- **Assessing the environmental impact to surrounding landscape including downstream Impacts**
- **Emergency contact list**

## **Types of Emergency Response**

The type of response will depend on the amount and type of substance (s) that are discharged, the environmental values present downstream and the risk of transmitting the hazard to the receiving environment. Emergency response can be managed using a three tier "Impact Classification System" based on a risk assessment of the potential severity of the environmental impact.

**In all three impact Classifications the Necessary Authorities must be notified. The determining factor is the type of contaminant not the amount.**

**High Impact** – applies to any one or more of the following:

1. Where there is an immediate threat to human life, livestock and property.
2. Where the incident is in a Public Drinking Water Source Area (e.g. the Murray River).
3. Where the incident could cause significant harm to native flora and fauna.
4. Creates an immediate observable harm to environmental receptors.
5. Where it occurs in water catchments that have recognised conservation and scientific values.

6. Where the incident has the potential to contaminate soil or water resources.

**Moderate Impact** – applies to any one or more of the following:

1. Where there is significant ( but not immediate ) threat to human life and property
2. Where the incident is outside any metropolitan or country Public Drinking Water Source Area, but may affect private water supply sources.
3. Where the incident may result in chronic or long-term harm to native fauna and flora.
4. May have a long term ( but not immediate ) observable impact on environmental receptors.

**Low Impact** – applies to any one or a combination of the following:

1. Where there is no perceived threat to human life or property
2. Where the incident is outside sensitive environments.
3. Where the incident poses no immediate or long term threat to environment receptors.

#### **Recommended minimum response**

<b>Impact class</b>	<b>Clean Up</b>	<b>Notify Authorities</b>	<b>Review ERP</b>	<b>Environmental Monitoring</b>
<b>High</b>	Immediate	Immediate	Yes	Yes
<b>Medium</b>	Within 4 Hours	Immediate	Yes	Decide on effectiveness of clean up
<b>Low</b>	Within 24 Hours	Immediate	No	No

#### **Emergency Review**

After a significant incident or near miss, a debriefing and an internal review of the ERP and a risk assessment of the workplace concerned should occur. These reviews help to determine how similar emergencies can be avoided and the effectiveness of the ERP. Necessary changes should be made to improve the ERP to help avoid or minimise future incidents.

#### **Reporting the incident and initial inspection**

**If the spill/incident is directly reported to Council the *Control Agency* ( CFA) must be informed immediately. Council will then be directed as a supporting role only.**

**For review purposes and as assistance to the *Control Agency* the following needs to be recorded by Council:**

- Time of spill
- Precise location
- Name of person/organisation reporting the incident
- Weather at the location
- Type of chemical and the amount ( Chemical name, Trade Name or UN number)
- Threats

### *Time of Spill /Incident*

The correct time of the incident is important for any debriefing processes that may be carried out at a later date. The correct time must also be reported as a record for any prosecution procedure that may be carried out as a result of negligence by the offending party.

### *Precise Location of Spill/Incident*

The precise location is necessary to relay to the relevant emergency organisation to attend the spill/incident. The correct map reference / location must be recorded for future reference particularly in the case of a large spill/incident where the EPA needs to be notified. A record of the location needs to be recorded on council's map base for future reference. The correct location is also necessary for future prosecution purposes.

### *Name of Person /Organisation Reporting the Incident*

This must be recorded immediately for emergency response and recording purposes

### *Weather at the location*

Weather conditions could have a resounding affect on the ability to clean up the spill/incident. Extreme hot conditions will add to the danger of exposed oil or chemicals on impervious surfaces. Wet conditions will exacerbate the flow on effect of dangerous chemicals entering the stormwater system and consequently the receiving waters. The weather at the location must be recorded to determine the necessary emergency procedures to be carried out.

### *Nature of Spill/Incident (type of product)*

The *control agency* will need to be informed of the correct type of substance that has been spilt, whether it be powder, liquid or solid and the approximate quantity of this substance so that they can be prepared to deal with it.

If Council Duty Officers or Council Staff are first on the scene they must remain a safe distance from the offending substance . A safety cordon must immediately be established around the spill area and employees of the company where the spill has occurred need to be briefed on Occupational Health and Safety procedures and to stand well clear and upwind of the incident area. **Cross contamination must be avoided.** If an employee of the company or any other person has been contaminated by any dangerous substance, he/she must be isolated to prevent further contamination. Medical assistance will be required immediately this occurs.

### *Threats to Human and Animal Health, Property and the Environment.*

Threats must be immediately ascertained by the emergency authorities attending the incident and the necessary precautions be carried out to minimise the risk.

### **Tasks to be carried out under the direction of the *Control Agency* would be:**

- Staying upwind and up ground of the spill/incident at all times
- Cordoning off the incident area under the direction of Victorian Police Incident Controller to avert traffic away from any potential danger using relevant personnel and signage.
- Threats to animal health are to be minimised by moving them away from the incident area. Local Laws Officers may be called into attendance to assist in this operation.

- If the threat of dangerous chemicals becomes airborne and evacuation of the area in proximity to the spill/incident will be necessary. This will be directed by the *Control Agency* and Victoria Police.
- If the spill has entered Council's stormwater infrastructure the *Control Agency* will need to apply the necessary bunding / absorption material as soon as possible with the assistance of SES and MRCC.
- The Control Agency will immediately notify the relevant Water Supply Authorities if a spill has entered the Stormwater System and threatens the downstream aquatic.
- The necessary media outlets will be informed by the CFA or a delegated Authority of the incident to warn people of any impending danger.
- Occupational Health and Safety requirements

During the initial inspection of a hazardous spill / incident OH &S requirements must be adhered to as follows:

- Determine if possible the wind direction so that Emergency Response teams can respond up wind.
- Determine if possible the nature of the spill, including toxicity and flammability of the substance.
- If the incident is a tank rollover, the substance can be determined by CFA from the UN number on the Hazmat signage.
- Always determine and double check if it is safe to approach a hazmat incident scene.

### **Protective Clothing**

- Cotton Drill Overalls with sleeves buttoned up, gum boots and rubber gloves is the **absolute minimum** protective clothing to respond to pollution incidents.
- Additional protective clothing & PPE is also available from the CFA spill station trailer.
- If unsure, clarification should be sought from the *Control Agency* at the scene as to the nature of the pollutant and the required protective clothing and breathing apparatus to be used.
- **Remember Dead heroes are of no benefit at the incident scene**

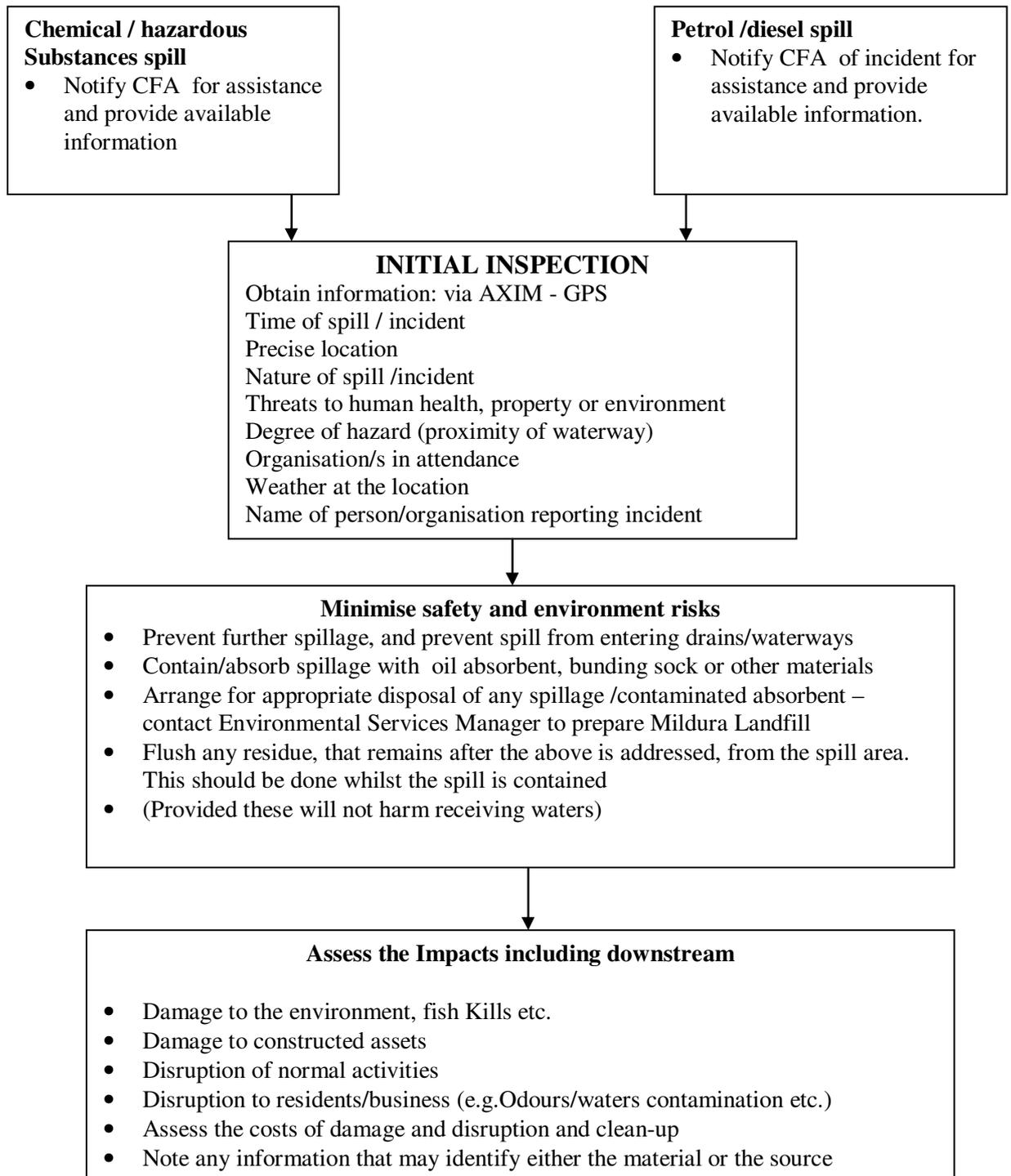
### **Assessment of Substances Spill**

It is important to immediately assess the type of substance and the degree to which it has spilt endangering the surrounding environment.

If it is a chemical/ hazardous substance the necessary Emergency Authorities must be briefed on its content and the degree of area covered by the spill. This will enable them to have the appropriate equipment to deal with the situation.

Refer to Stormwater Emergency Response Flow chart

# Stormwater Emergency Response Flowchart



**All incidents must be reported immediately to the CFA (phone 000) if any hazardous substance of any amount flows or has the potential to flow into any waterway, either directly or via Stormwater Infrastructure especially if it is upstream of any water treatment plant intake**

## Minimising Safety and Environmental Risks

### *Prevent further spillage*

It is important to prevent any further spillage with any resources available at the time. The relevant organic material should be used to prevent the spill from entering and travelling within drains to prevent pollution of waterways. The *Control Agency* will supply portable bunding or other material to help absorb and contain the spillage. MRCC staff to assist as directed by the *Control Agency*.

### *Appropriate disposal*

Once the spillage has been contained disposal of the contaminated absorbent is necessary at a designated landfill site making sure that the loads are covered during transit. Any residue from the spill area can be flushed provided it is not washed down Council drains that will consequently harm receiving waters. The *Control Agency* attending the incident will advise on the correct procedure. MRCC to contact Environmental Services Manager - Mildura Landfill to prepare for any contaminated waste(solids). All contaminated liquids to be recovered by Mildura Liquid Waste or other approved EPA licensed operators.

### **Assessing the Environmental Impact to Surrounding Landscape including Downstream Impacts**

Once the spill has been contained and the clean up completed it is necessary to assess any damage to the surrounding environment including (if any) impacts to the downstream aquatic.

This can be done in the following categories:

#### *Site Access*

If site access is restricted, then consult the MRCC Manager of Building and Park Services who will contact other local authorities prior to removing trees or native vegetation. Refer to attached Appendix B – Indigenous Riverine Vegetation requirements (Melanie Bell email)

#### *Damage to Constructed Assets*

Some buildings and their foundations may be affected by any sudden infiltration of chemicals, oil, diesel or any other offending substance. An immediate examination of the buildings affected by the spill/incident is required for reconciliation and insurance purposes and is to become part of the debriefing process. Building assessment to be undertaken by MRCC Building Surveyor.

Roads, footpaths, kerb, channel and nature strips also need to be properly assessed for any damage that may have occurred. An immediate program of temporary resealing such as sand or screenings must be carried out on affected areas to minimise the risk of further damage and as a safety precaution in trafficable areas. Damage to lawn, plants and trees must be assessed for damage and reported to the Environmental Services Manager so that they can instigate a replacement program.

#### *Disruption of Normal Activities*

Any spill /incident can cause disruption to normal activities to be informed by CFA. These include:

- Disruption to the operation of the business concerned where the spill/incident occurred
- Disruption to the local community in terms of being evacuated due to a serious incident or just the inconvenience of not being able to carry out normal everyday duties as a householder/ business operator.
- Disruption to traffic flow and the inconvenience of not being able to access your own property if the incident is considered serious enough to cordon off traffic.
- If there is disruption to river traffic the Control Agency will advise MSB and local paddleboat operators as well as the Lock Master.
- The concentration of a number of MRCC staff in the one area can have an effect on the execution of normal activities this staff were originally assigned to.

It is imperative that through the debriefing process disruption activities be analysed to come up with a best practice method that would lessen the impact on the surrounding community as a whole and to help lessen the burden of disruption for everyone concerned.

#### *Disruption to Residents/Business Operators*

Apart from the disruption of normal activities there can be the problem of odours and water contamination. Residents / business operators must be briefed on any dangers associated with this by CFA. Personal contact by Emergency Services, Police and employees of MRCC will be needed in most cases, not just as a public relations exercise but a real means of communicating to the community concerned the dangers of further contamination that may occur and the correct safety measures to follow.

#### *Assessing the Costs of Damage, Disruption and Clean up*

This is an important process to be carried out by all parties concerned to evaluate the damage that the spill/incident has had on the community.

Insurance assessment will play a major role in this assessment and the full cooperation of all those concerned is necessary.

The cost in terms of material value and the labour content must be factored into a final report as part of the debriefing process. If MRCC resources are required to assist, the MRCC Coordinating Officer is to capture all plant, labour and material costs used on site by creating an MRCC Private Works Job Number.

In terms of damage to assets and environment, MRCC Asset Development needs to assess any damage and collate their findings to determine reinstatement measures. This would include roads, footpaths, naturestrips, parks and gardens, kerb, channel and drainage infrastructure.

Other Authorities that have assets in the vicinity must also be consulted by CFA to ascertain any damage that was the direct or indirect result of the spill/incident. The other Authorities being:

- Lower Murray Water
- Powercor
- Telstra or equivalent
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Parks Victoria
- Lock Master – Lock 11
- Adjoining property owners

- Local Residents

*Damage to the Environment Including the Downstream Aquatic*

One of the worst scenarios would be the flow on effect of damaging chemicals/oil spills into the MRCC drainage infrastructure that would eventually contaminate any downstream receiving waters. A particular event of pollutants flowing into the Murray River upstream of the intake for the Lower Murray Water treatment plant would have disastrous effects on Mildura and the surrounding community.

The spill must be reported to the CFA (phone: 000) by MRCC Fat Controller (after hours) and by the Stormwater Management Officer (during work hours) for their assessment. As Mildura is on the border to NSW the EPA at their Buronga Regional Office would be the nearest point of contact ( see contact numbers at front).

**Conclusion**

It is important to note that Mildura Rural City Council plays a subordinate role in any spill or incident that affects the environment and the general community. The *Control Agency* is the CFA who would be contacted in the first instance when an emergency situation occurs.

**For example: Murray River Oil Spill**

**CFA NSW – Control Agency for river Murray**

**CFA Victoria – Control Agency for stormwater drains, open stormwater channels and drainage basins located on the Victorian side of the Murray River**

## APPENDIX A

### Relevant 'Exemptions' under the NVR controls

a) **Emergency Works** - If the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation is necessary for emergency access or emergency works by a public authority or municipal council.

b) **Utility Services** - For the removal, destruction or lopping of the minimum extent of native vegetation necessary to maintain public utility services for the transmission of water, sewage, gas, electricity, electronic communications or the like.

There is no need to provide an offset planting site and due to the fact that it is not on Council managed land it would be very difficult to ask this of a private land holder anyway.

c. **Revegetation** - There is no need to revegetate the area due to the Exemptions above and the burning will have removed the vegetative trash to allow the common reed to re-establish. The river banks holds together and does not significantly erode in the clean up process - as the common reed is often planted as protection against erosion - there is no need to stabilise the bank. In the short term the site needs to have time to recover itself through natural processes.

### 3. Ongoing maintenance of drain.

- A formal agreement needs to be struck with the private landholder for ongoing maintenance of the access track and drain such as an easement on the land title.

## Appendix B

### Lower Murray Water

#### Source Contamination Response - General

***Incident Description:*** Raw Water Source Contamination

***Detection:*** External notification / internal monitoring / report

***Report:*** Report to GMTS/MSR as soon as able

#### ***Response:***

1. Shut off source supply to filtration plant.
2. Confirm source of report and quantify type and extent of contamination. Ascertain severity and possible duration.
3. Secure existing storages
4. Decide on demand management requirements
5. If severe contamination or possible loss of supply to consumers, CEO or GMTS to notify Municipal Emergency Response Co-ordinator (MERC) and notify Department Human Services
6. Notify principal affected users
7. Implement demand management as determined
8. Commence public awareness program
9. Monitor raw water source until threat passes
10. Monitor demand management against supply capabilities to ensure minimal potable supply of water to Authority's customers.
11. If duration of water source contamination will be an extended period of time, inform MERC that alternative supply arrangements need to be initiated.
12. Operate system to maintain integrity for sanitation (depending on whether the contamination constitutes a health risk upon topical exposure, the water may only be suitable for toilet flushing), fire fighting etc.
13. Contact Goulburn Murray Water and examine possibility of dropping weir pool of river as a flushing mechanism. Examination could also include the introduction of possible flushing flows from the next up-stream weir pool.

14. If activated provide support to Municipal Emergency Management Plan as required.

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