

The Woodlands Fire Department Operational Guidelines

SR-07 – MOTOR VEHICLE FLUID SPILLS

1.0 PURPOSE

To maintain firefighter safety and health and responsible environmental protection when handling motor vehicle liquid fluid spills.

2.0 SCOPE

This procedure establishes guidelines for handling liquid fluid spills from motor vehicle(s). Common fluids include gasoline, diesel, coolant, motor oil, transmission fluid, battery fluid, etc. Spills of a quantity that are beyond the capability of a single company's resources and spills with a potential for adverse environmental impact are not addressed in this guideline. Such incidents should be referred to the appropriate Hazardous Materials response guideline.

3.0 SAFETY

Priority must be given when establishing a safe work area for personnel and apparatus. Consideration will be given to eliminating any ignition sources in the immediate area. Apparatus and personnel will position away from the immediate spill area.

4.0 PROCEDURE

The type and quantity of the fuel spill must first be established. If the spill meets the criteria established above, the following will be followed:

- 4.1 Size-up and hazard control of the scene will be completed upon arrival. Appropriate electronic monitoring may be required. A hot zone will be established. Consider TWFD Hazardous Materials Response Team for assistance.
- 4.2 Personnel will wear the appropriate level of protection for the given conditions.
- 4.3 Hydrocarbon spills on any roadway or driving surface will be mitigated using an acceptable hydrocarbon emulsifier and water.
- 4.4 Absorbent materials such as oil-dry, pads, or booms may be used when necessary; however these materials must be disposed of properly by the party responsible for the spill/clean-up. Contaminated materials will be left on scene with an informed representative of the facility or transporter who has an environmental plan which addresses hazardous waste disposal. At no time will contaminated materials be taken back to the station.