



KALAMAZOO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY KALAMAZOO RIVER SYSTEM HAZARDOUS SPILL RESPONSE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This plan summarizes the emergency response for hazardous spill incidents occurring in the Kalamazoo River system. This plan is intended to be used for oil spills or chemical releases which impact or could potentially impact the Kalamazoo River system. This plan is an operational plan, and may be used for pre-emergency planning and emergency response.

INFORMATION

When spilled oil enters water it begins to spread quickly. In flowing water, oil will travel downstream with the current causing even more widespread environmental damage. Oil damages wildlife and its habitats by coating the surface of anything the oil contacts – soil, vegetation, rocks, feathers and fur. The more area contaminated, the greater the environmental injury, the more time needed for cleanup, and the greater the cost. Environmental injury and cleanup cost can be minimized by taking prompt, effective action to contain spilled oil and minimize its dispersion in the environment.

A chemical release into the river may be more difficult to respond to, due to the fact that the chemical involved may be soluble with or sink in water. Depending on the physical properties of the chemical released, strategies such as booming may not be effective.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (K.D.P.S.) emergency response personnel is to save lives, reduce injuries, and prevent or minimize damage to the environment by accomplishing the following objectives:

- Secure the affected area, isolate the hazard, and deny entry of unauthorized persons into the area.
- Identify the hazardous material.
- Provide rapid and effective warning, information, and instructions to threatened populations.
- Stabilize the affected area.

RESPONSE

K.D.P.S. personnel will follow established department policy when responding to Kalamazoo River system hazardous spills.

Specific steps that can be taken to achieve this plans objectives include:

1. Establish Incident Command
2. Determine the exact location of the incident
3. Identify the product
4. Determine size of the spill or potential spill
5. Establish isolation zones
6. Determine the level of response needed
7. Determine if additional resources are required
8. If spill can reach or is in the waterway, begin downstream notifications
9. Establish evacuation routes if necessary
10. Determine medical needs
11. Make appropriate notifications
12. Determine exposures
13. Develop action plan

CONSIDERATIONS

- Much of the area along the Kalamazoo River is private property. The owners/agents of these properties may be able to assist in providing access to the waterway or assist in taking preventative measures.
- Flow conditions in the Kalamazoo River system vary throughout the seasons, based primarily on precipitation and snow-melt. Because of this, pre-planned strategies may not be possible or effective.

NOTIFICATIONS

In the event of an oil spill or other hazardous spill in the Kalamazoo River System the following notifications will be made:

- Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety senior staff (as outlined in K.D.P.S. G.O. 90)
- Kalamazoo County Hazardous Material Team (notification by K.D.P.S. Dispatch Center)
- Kalamazoo County Emergency Management (notification by K.D.P.S. Dispatch Center)

K.D.P.S. POLICY

G.O.-90 Requisite Senior Staff Notifications

G.O.-118 Hazardous Materials Incidents

