**Spill kits should contain:**

- Gloves (nitrile, at least; foil barrier laminate better)
- Tyvek® coverall
- Goggles
- Temporary storage container for spill
- Sorbent pads and/or socks
- Loose absorbent (SlikWik®, vermiculite)
- Sweeping compound
- Warning sign or caution tape
- Dust pan or small shovel (plastic preferable)
- Small broom
- Permanent marker (for marking spill container after clean-up)

**Forms of Sorbents**

- **Booms:** cylindrical shape; vary in length and width
- **Socks or mini booms:** cylindrical shape; vary in length and width
- **Pillows:** rectangular in shape; used for medium size spills
- **Pad and rolls:** flat sorbent sheets of various lengths can be used to line shelves, catch leaks under machinery and clean up spills

**Universal sorbents:** designed to absorb any liquid; they will absorb aggressive liquids such as acids and bases as well as non-aggressive liquids and solvents, such as anilines, water-based fluids, gasoline and alcohol; made of polypropylene or expanded silicate materials.

**Petroleum sorbents** ("oil-only sorbents"): designed for absorption of oil and/or petroleum-based liquids; these sorbents are hydrophobic (will not absorb water or water-based liquids); can be used in maintenance applications for hydraulic and engine oil cleanup; made of polypropylene or treated cellulose.

**Maintenance sorbents:** absorb non-aggressive liquids commonly found in manufacturing and maintenance operations (coolants, lubricants, oils, cutting fluids); will pick up water-based as well as oil-based fluids; made of recycled materials, such as cotton, wool, cellulose or corn cobs; can also be made of polypropylene or any combination of the materials listed.

**Sorbent capacity:** the amount of weight the sorbent will absorb in relation to itself (e.g., absorbs 12 times its weight) or the liquid capacity of the sorbent (e.g., absorbs 8 gallons). Because all liquids don’t weigh the same per gallon, the weight capacity of the sorbent actually varies from liquid to liquid. A more accurate way to assess the sorbent capacity is by its liquid capacity.

**Spill Response**

**ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST!!**

**When in doubt the size of a spill:**

- The spill is too large for a local clean up,
- The spill migrates off-site, and/or
- Requires emergency response regardless of the circumstances surrounding the release

**Incident Release**

- A release of a hazardous substance
- Does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity
- Does not have the potential to become an emergency

**Incidental Release**

- A release of a hazardous substance
- Requires emergency response regardless of the circumstances surrounding the release

**Pesticide Spill Guide**

- Emergency response planning for pesticide spillage
- Pesticide spill response
- Pesticide spill emergency response

**Contacts:**

- Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) 255-8200
- CALS Occupational & Environmental Health (OEH) 255-0485
- NYSDEC Spill Notification Hotline 800-457-7362

For additional copies or information contact the CALS OEH offices or go to http://oeh.cals.cornell.edu