

# Polyethylene Spill Response Checklist

(Plastic Resin, Pellets, Nurdles)

Spring 2020

## STEP 1

### INITIAL RESPONSE and NOTIFICATION

- 9-1-1, Police, Fire, EMS, etc...
- Environmental and regulatory authorities
- NOVA Chemicals' Transportation Emergency Line: 1-800-561-6682

## STEP 2

### SITE MANAGEMENT and CONTROL — Secure the scene and establish hazard control zones

- Initial Isolation Zone:** Barricade the spill area and keep people from stepping in and driving on spilled pellets; do not push pellets deeper into the soil or spread contamination
- Traffic Management Plan:** Develop and implement a plan in consultation with regulatory agencies, responders and/or approved contractors

## STEP 3

### ASSESSMENT — Control hazards and determine the type and extent of contamination

- Hazard Recognition:** Analyze and control hazards (e.g. Site Safety Plan, Traffic Control)
- Seek consultation from Environmental specialists or consultants — dial 1-800-561-6682
- Be on lookout for other contaminants (e.g. dangerous goods, vehicle fuel, engine oils, etc...)
- Clean-up may be a lower priority than traffic movement (rail line, roadway)

## STEP 4

### COMMUNICATION — Notify and keep regular communication with stakeholders

- Landowner
- Regulatory authorities (e.g. Transport, Environment, Coast Guard, responders, etc...)
- Downstream water intake organizations (e.g. drinking water, industry, etc...)
- One-Call — Call or click before you dig ([www.clickbeforeyoudig.com](http://www.clickbeforeyoudig.com))

## STEP 5

### CONTAINMENT and CONFINEMENT — Stop or mitigate the spill, if safe to do so

- Plug holes in packaging
- Close open valves, doors, opening, etc....
- Move/roll containers so that openings are oriented upwards
- Cover or protect storm water drains to prevent resin from entering them

## STEP 6

### GROUND CLEAN-UP — Hierarchy of clean-up methods

1. Vacuum equipment (e.g. vac-truck, portable vacuum, grain auger, approved contractor); identify and control hazards, including static electricity
2. Sweep with brooms into appropriate container (do not sweep pellets into water course)
3. Wash into appropriate containment system
4. Blow away from sensitive areas and into containment system (last resort)

### WATER CLEAN-UP

- Booms to catch floating surface pellets downstream (pellets float and travel with currents)
- Check for pellet accumulation downstream along water banks and coastlines
- Determine appropriate coastline ground clean-up strategies

## STEP 7

### REMEDIATION — Remove contaminated soil

- [Click before you dig.com](http://www.clickbeforeyoudig.com) — Ensure survey has been completed and underground lines identified
- Shoveling into containers
- Scraping with heavy equipment (front-end loader, excavator, etc...)
- Approved transportation company to transport truck loads (e.g. dump truck) or containers of contaminated soil to be disposed at approved facility

## STEP 8

### RESTORATION — Return the environment to its pre-incident state

- Consult with landowner and local environmental authorities
- Analyze new soil prior to delivery and verify/consult with landowner
- Place clean soil where contaminated soil was removed
- Install approved native plant habitat where plants were removed, contaminated or damaged

