

# IRVING MATERIALS, INC.

"WE'RE PROUD OF OUR WORK"



## SAFETY TOPICS

### SAFETY

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

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#### **For What It Is Worth!**

##### **Nervous Taxi Driver**

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger, apologized to the driver, and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab.... I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

## OIL PRODUCT STORAGE

When I was a kid growing up, Mom always performed spring house cleaning. I dreaded spring for that reason only. I mean everything else about spring was to look forward to; warmer weather, flowers blooming, it is like the earth is being renewed. Except for spring house cleaning what is there not to like about spring! But Mom's annual ritual has stuck with me and I feel a responsibility to clean out the garage, wash windows, etc. After all the earth is being freshened up after winter, my little piece of responsibility needs to at least attempt to match mother nature.



Maybe it is time for all of us to think about a little spring house cleaning. In particular, I would like you to think about cleaning up the oil storage areas around your facility.

There are State and Federal laws telling us how we are to maintain our oil storage areas. The Federal Law requires that we have a "Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure" plan, SPCC for short. The Law changed in 2002 and we are to have new SPCC plans in place by mid-August 2004.

The primary purpose of the law is to prevent oil products from contaminating ground water or surface water. That is an important goal because we all like to have clean water to drink.

I would like for all locations to take some time to clean and spruce up the oil storage areas of your facility. Things to keep in mind:

- Oil products should have secondary containment to prevent oil from leaking into the ground or entering water bodies.
- Oil leaks from oil storage equipment and transfers of oil products should be controlled and cleaned up immediately.
- Possible leaks from fuel tankers should be planned for. There must be a positive means of preventing a fuel tanker spill from entering waters of the US.
- Each oil product storage tank should have a means of preventing over filling.
- Drainage hardware for containment areas must be locked in the closed position except when draining storm water. Storm water drainage must be recorded in a log and should only be performed when the water is free of oil sheen.
- Spill containment and clean up materials should be readily available.
- Regular inspections are to be made of oil handling and storage facilities and equipment. A log of the inspections should be maintained and recorded monthly.
- Most importantly, if a spill occurs, you must be prepared to respond. Think about what could happen and how you would respond. Sometimes things happen. If you spill manageable quantities, clean them up immediately, and for larger spills know who you will call to request help. This information and more is in your SPCC plan. Get it out and do a little spring cleaning on it!
- If you have questions, call Rodney Frederick or me.

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**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

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please sign below as an indication that the material was read:

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## HOW ABOUT PLANNING FOR SEVERE WEATHER

We are headed into that time of year when severe weather can be a concern. We recently had OSHA inspections at two different locations where the inspector was not satisfied with our emergency action plans. **Do you have an Emergency Action Plan?** You should have a plan to cover such emergencies as fire, severe weather, flooding (if applicable), and other site specific emergencies. An example of a site specific emergency could be if your facility is located next to a fuel storage terminal. What would happen if your neighbor had an emergency? Would it affect your operations?

If a site has ten (10) or fewer employees, an oral system of emergency warning may be used. This would apply to the majority of our locations. Even if your site has more than 10 people assigned, at most times fewer than 10 people are actually on site, and everyone is within radio and or loudspeaker contact.

29 CFR 1910.38 is the OSHA standard for "Emergency Action Plans". It is all about having a plan to respond to emergency situations. Again, it has to do with being prepared to respond,

just like an oil spill.

One of the major concerns of the "Emergency Action Plan" is accounting for all personnel during the emergency and immediately after. One of the first questions that emergency responders will ask is; "are all personnel accounted for?". You need to review the plan with all employees and make sure that they understand that they must notify some responsible person before leaving the site.

Many emergencies require leaving the facility. There must be a designated safe gathering place. Everyone must know the safe location to gather. For tornados it will likely be under the aggregate bins or in a similar strong structure as low as possible.

Having 10 or fewer people at your site doesn't mean you should not plan for emergencies. As kids in school we all experienced fire and emergency drills. They are still a good idea! It is all about being prepared.



**Happy Easter!**

**Make Safety Soar in 2004**