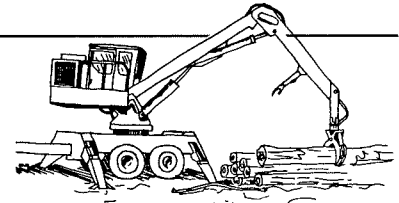


THE LOGROLL

Notes & News for Loggers



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BMP Guidelines and Petroleum Spills

Logging businesses and others in the forest industry spend a substantial amount of time, energy, and financial resources on protecting water quality. The best management practices (BMP) audits performed by the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) show that for the vast majority of logging sites across the state, BMP implementation rates are very high. The success of Virginia's BMP program and the widespread implementation of BMPs to protect water quality is something that the entire industry can be proud of.

When we refer to forestry BMPs for water quality, we typically think

about erosion and sedimentation. However, BMPs also include other measures to protect water from impacts related to non-point source pollution, including preventing contamination of water from things such as petroleum products. A substantial amount of petroleum products are used on logging operations, and it is important to be prepared to respond in the event of an accidental spill. Petroleum products on logging operations can come in many forms including diesel, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, lubricants, engine oil, and other products.

Being prepared for petroleum product spills is an important aspect

of protecting water quality on logging operations. In fact, the VDOF BMP guidelines make some specific recommendations for how logging operations should deal with petroleum products and be prepared for spills. In order for a logging operation to meet all BMP guidelines, they would also need to meet the guidelines related to petroleum products. The BMP Technical Guide recommendations related to petroleum products on log landings (page 49) include: "Do not drain engine fluids onto the ground when servicing equipment. Maintain equipment to control leakage of hydraulic fluids, antifreeze and similar substances. Provide proper storage

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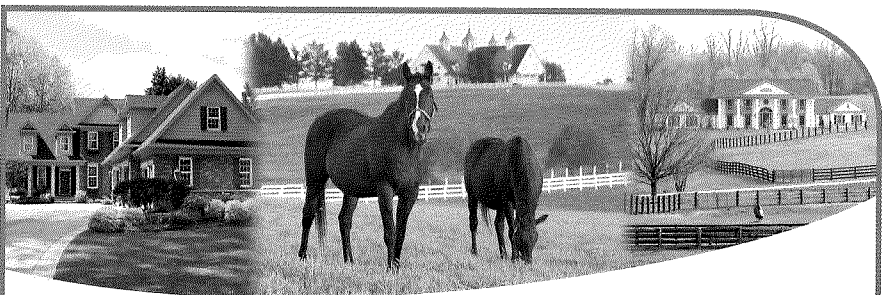


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and removal for fuel and other used oils. A secondary containment structure, such as earthen berms or straw bales, should be placed around stationary fuel tanks." The BMP Field Guide also recommends that log landings "have oil-absorbent mats or material on the landing in the event of fuel oil, hydraulic fluid or lubricant spills."

A number of different spill containment kits and absorbent mats are available from companies such as Breg Environmental (www.bregenvironmental.com), New Pig (www.newpig.com) as well as from many other sources. Spill kits typically include oil absorbent mats as well as socks/booms that can be used to absorb petroleum products and minimize spread of the spill. Some also contain plugs that can be used to temporarily repair punctures in tanks.

In the event of a spill, all spills need to be cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly. If the spill is greater than 25 gallons, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) must be notified of the spill. The contact numbers for the DEQ can be found in the BMP manual.

Hopefully your logging operation will not have to deal with a significant petroleum spill; however, having a plan in place along with the necessary tools to contain and clean up the spill will help to meet BMP requirements and minimize any negative impacts to water quality. 🌿

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