



# Hazardous Substance Spills In Wisconsin

RR-604

November, 2009

Hazardous substances play important roles in our everyday quality of life – from the natural gas that heats our home, to the fertilizer that keeps our lawn green. When a discharge or spill of a hazardous substance occurs, there is a potential danger to the public and the environment. In most instances, hazardous substance spills must be reported immediately to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) using the DNR's 24-hour toll-free hotline at 1-800-943-0003. Most of these spills require cleanup to protect public health and the environment. For more information on the spills program, visit the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/spills/index.htm>.

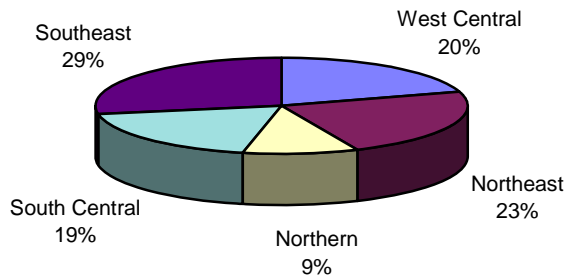
## Where Are The Most Spills In Wisconsin?

Wisconsin averages 1,000 spills of hazardous substances every year. The majority of these spills occur in the most populated areas of the state. Twenty-nine percent of all spills occur in the southeast part of Wisconsin where the population is heaviest, while only 9 % of all spills occur in the less-populated northern part of the state (please see chart below).

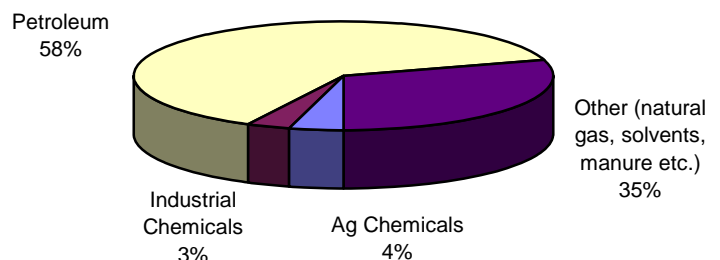
## What Substances Are Spilled Most Often?

The most commonly used substance is petroleum to fuel vehicles or heat homes; therefore it has the most potential to be spilled. Petroleum-related spills account for nearly 58% of all spills in Wisconsin annually. Other substances spilled include natural gas, solvents, manure and industrial chemicals.

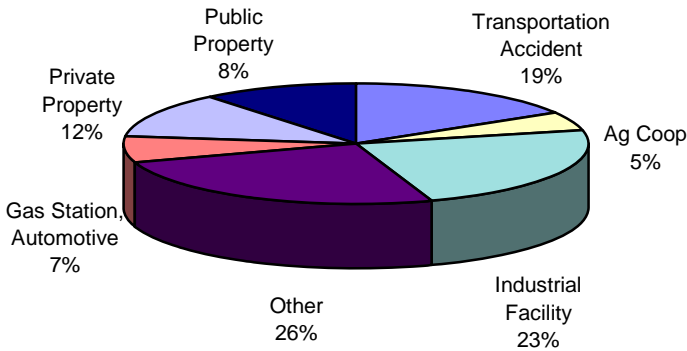
Location Of Spills In Wisconsin



Types Of Substances Spilled



### Spill Sites



### Where Do Most Spills Occur?

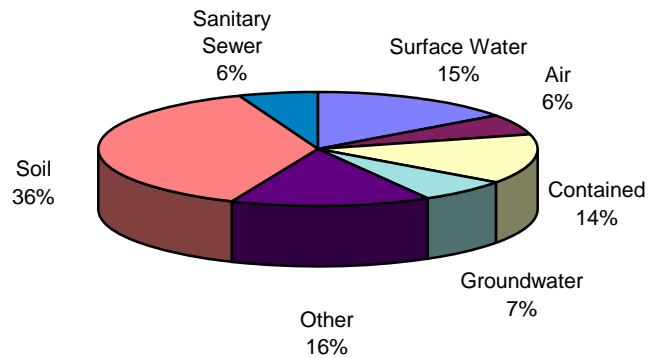
The majority of hazardous substance spills – 49% – occur at industrial-related facilities, automotive-related facilities or on the roadway. Spills at private properties account for nearly 12% of all spills.

### How Do Spills Impact The Environment?

More than 14% of spills each year in Wisconsin are contained and/or recovered before they impact the environment. The remaining spills can impact the environment and/or public health through the contamination of air, soil, and water.

Surface water spills account for more than 15%, while spills to groundwater occur more than 7% of the time. Spills that impact groundwater are investigated further and remediated as necessary.

### Impacts To Environment



### Wisconsin DNR Spill Coordinators

Wisconsin DNR spill coordinators respond to a wide variety of hazardous substance releases, from agricultural manure spills to train car accidents and chemical fires. Spill coordinators work with local fire departments and hazardous materials teams to coordinate response and clean-up activities. The general public is also encouraged to contact a DNR spill coordinator (through the DNR’s Remediation and Redevelopment Program number listed below) if they have any questions about a release or potential release in their communities.

#### Northeast Region

Spill Coordinator Jason Moeller (Green Bay)  
920-662-5492

#### Northern Region

Spill Coordinator John Sager (Rhineland)  
715-365-8959

#### Southeast Region

Spill Coordinator Scott Ferguson (Milwaukee)  
414-263-8685

#### South Central Region

Spill Coordinator Mike Schmolter (Madison)  
608-275-3303

#### West Central Region

Spill Coordinator Thomas Kendzierski (Eau Claire)  
715-839-1604

This document contains information about certain state statutes and administrative rules but does not necessarily include all of the details found in the statutes and rules. Readers should consult the actual language of the statutes and rules to answer specific questions. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request. Please call 608-267-3543 for more information.



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