

Section 21

Hazardous Materials Emergency Response

21.1 Scope

This section applies to all Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) facilities that store and use hazardous substances. This section should not be confused with 29 C.F.R. 1910.38, *Emergency Action Plans*.

21.2 Responsibilities

21.2.1 Area Office Managers and Facility Managers

21.2.1.1 Shall use the criteria outlined in paragraph 21.4.2, *Emergency Response Plan*, to determine if Reclamation facilities require an Emergency Response Plan as prescribed in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 C.F.R. 1910.120, *Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response*. Area Managers shall contact their local environmental protection specialists for guidance when available.

21.2.2 Local Safety Professionals

21.2.2.1 Shall assist facility managers and supervisors who use or store hazardous chemicals or substances in determining the relevant criteria in OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120 and OSHA 1910.1200.

21.2.2.2 Shall assist supervisors in the development and review of local Hazard Communication and Emergency Response Plans, upon request.

21.2.3 First-Line Supervisors

21.2.3.1 Shall develop and maintain written Emergency Response Plans, when required, and update at least annually. The local hazardous material coordinator or local safety professional will review the Emergency Response Plans at least annually.

21.2.3.2 Shall provide employees with training to understand their responsibilities within the Hazard Communication Plan and Emergency Response Plan.

21.3 Training

21.3.1 Initial

The supervisor must provide training to employees with potential exposure to incidental releases of hazardous substances to meet the requirements contained in the Hazard Communication Standard, OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200, *Hazard Communication*.

21.3.2 Emergency Response

Supervisors will provide training for employees who participate, or will participate, in emergency responses in accordance with OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120.

21.4 Safe Practices

21.4.1 Incidental Release

Reclamation defines an incidental release as a release of a hazardous chemical or substance which does not pose a significant safety or health hazard to employees in the immediate vicinity or to employees assigned to clean up the incidental release. An incidental release does not have the potential to become an emergency within a short time frame. Incidental releases are limited in quantity, exposure potential, and toxicity.

21.4.1.1 Examples

- Hazardous substances stored in very small quantities that do not pose a significant safety and health threat based on the volume or toxicity.
- Hazardous substances easily contained by employees in the immediate vicinity that are cleaned up using absorbent materials without posing a threat to the safety and health of employees.
- Employees readily repairing, or safety staff repairing, a small leak at a later time (i.e., the safety and health of the employees are not threatened if the employee does not initiate an immediate response).

21.4.2 Emergency Response Plan

OSHA 1910.120(q) requires emergency response plans for situations involving hazardous substances or chemicals, including the following:

- emergency responders coming from outside the immediate release area,
- the evacuation of employees in the immediate area,
- potential conditions that are immediately dangerous to life or health,
- a serious threat of fire or explosion, or
- high levels of exposure to toxic substances.

21.4.2.1 Requirements. Reclamation facilities requiring employees to respond to hazardous substance releases or spills that meet the above criteria must also adhere to the provisions outlined in OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120(q). Supervisors and managers must contact their regional industrial hygienist if they feel they have employees or conditions that would warrant adherence to OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120(q).

21.4.3 Area and Facility Manager Decision Guide

21.4.3.1 Exempt Facilities. Reclamation facilities that do not contain hazardous substances or hazardous chemicals of any kind are exempt from Federal OSHA requirements prescribed in OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200, as well as OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120.

21.4.3.2 Small Quantity. Reclamation facilities that maintain small quantities of easily-controlled hazardous substances or chemicals (e.g., gasoline, cleaning products or solvents, oils, lubricants), are required to adhere to the requirements prescribed in Reclamation Safety and Health Standard Section 33, *Hazard Communication Program*, and OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200. Federal OSHA CPL 02-02-073 defines small quantities as pint size or less.

21.4.3.3 Highly Toxic Chemicals. Facilities that store or use highly toxic chemicals known to be an immediate threat to life or health shall adhere to the requirements outlined in Reclamation Safety and Health Standard 33, OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.1200, and OSHA 29 C.F.R. 1910.120(q), *Emergency response program to hazardous substance releases*, based on the criteria outlined in paragraph 21.4.2 of this section.

21.5 Definitions in Appendix K and References in Appendix L