

Combatting The Unexpected-Chemical Spills and Vandalism

By

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Eliminating any kind of risk associated with an activity is very costly and sometimes impossible. This is especially true when discussing risks associated with unpredictable events, such as vandalism. However, reducing the amount of risk associated with an environmental incident can be accomplished in a cost-effective manner.

In the event of a chemical fire or spill, a facility's preparedness to respond, often determines the amount of damage that occurs. The most expensive and highly publicized incidents involve those in which a company representative could not be reached for several hours, employees were not given direction as to the authorities or companies to contact to remediate a spill or begin evacuation, or employees did not begin remediation activities immediately themselves. Preparation of an emergency preparedness plan along with routine evacuation and spill drills is an invaluable technique for increasing employee awareness of the procedures that need to be implemented during various emergency scenarios.

In the event of a chemical spill, the most useful tool available is a shovel. Immediate response activity is the key to minimizing soil penetration of contaminants and decreasing the risk to the groundwater resources in the area. Contaminated soil can be stock-piled on plastic and disposal can be arranged later, after the immediate threat to the environment, and your pocketbook is alleviated.