



JOB AID

# **ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW**

## **US**

# Environmental Overview

Our daily work activities can potentially alter environmental balances. By being more aware of this, we can act responsibly to protect our communities, our air, water, land and ourselves.

## Policies and Laws

Our jobs have the potential to cause harm to employees, the community and the environment. Environmental safety and health policies dedicated to understanding environmental impacts, identifying opportunities to improve environmental performance and reducing pollution.

We will conduct our business worldwide in a manner that safeguards the environment, our employees, our customers and the public. We all have responsibilities. **Management** creates programs, trains and rewards employees. **Floor employees** comply with the ESH programs. **Regulatory affairs** monitor progress, report to management and document compliance.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA – 40 CFR) protects human health and safeguards the natural environment. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA – 29 CFR) regulates safety in the workplace, protects the health of America's workers, prevents injuries and saves lives. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT – 49 CFR) regulates the transportation of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.

## How Job Performance Affects the Environment

Make environmental protection an everyday part of your job performance.

Purchasing, ordering and/or stocking large volumes of chemicals or raw materials may trigger reporting requirements due to the potentially catastrophic consequences these substances could have on the surrounding communities if accidentally released.

Process equipment upgrades increase production by making the process more efficient but can generate more toxic air pollutants. Production improvements must consider air pollution emissions and the proper air cleaning devices must be permitted and installed.

Historical waste handling and disposal practices led to the development of some of our country's most stringent laws regarding environmental protection and safeguarding human health. These former waste handling and disposal practices have had and continue to have a detrimental effect on our health and environment.

National Priority List (NPL) Sites are the nation's most hazardous sites identified for remedial cleanup under the Federal Superfund Program. Today's regulations require strict management and tracking of wastes and encourage facilities to minimize their wastes, recycle and reuse. By complying with our waste management policies and procedures for hazardous, special and universal waste, we can keep out of these sites and the costly cleanup involved with them.

If you repair or operate process equipment, you must understand safe job procedures for operating or repairing process equipment and the repercussions of accidental spills or releases from vessels, process tanks, pipes, etc. Human error and inadequate management systems have been the most significant contributing factors to major plant accidents.

## Improving Environmental Performance

Be familiar with your facility air permit requirements. Know safe job procedures for repairing or maintaining process equipment. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper operation and maintenance of air cleaning devices. Know who to notify in case of an emergency. Report to your supervisor if you smell any unusual odors or see any visible emissions.

Know the **wastes** which you normally handle. Keep wastes segregated. Use containers that are in good condition. Place waste in the appropriate container or storage area. Label all containers. Keep lids on containers closed. Be aware of storage time limits. Maintain good housekeeping of waste management areas.

To protect **water** quality, watch for leaks from tanks, piping, drums, etc. Keep containment areas clean. Maintain sufficient spill cleanup equipment. Clean up spills quickly. Do not penetrate containment walls. Cover drains to prevent releases to nearby streams or creeks. Pick up trash and debris.

OSHA Outreach Courses