

Employee Training: Part 4

Agricultural Water Quality: Hazardous Materials



Hazardous materials management and storage may impact water quality on your farm. There may be a larger impact from a spill or leak in hazardous materials far beyond the boundaries of your growing operation.

- **Hazardous Materials Loading, Unloading and Storage BMP's:**
- Handle, store, manage and dispose of all hazardous materials according to all applicable regulations and label instructions.
- Hazardous materials should be stored off the ground and indoors whenever possible. If they must be stored outdoors, they should be covered.
- Make sure that all drums and containers are in good condition, and do not contain rusted-out areas that can leak hazardous materials. They should be securely closed when not in use.

- All spill response materials, or spill kits, should be maintained close to the hazardous materials. Employees must be trained in the use of the spill kit.
- Significant spills of hazardous materials must be reported to the proper authorities promptly.
- If an area containing hazardous materials has the potential to discharge those materials, secondary containment should be used to minimize risk.
- Prior to the rainy season, hazardous materials storage areas must be inspected to minimize problems that can be associated with flooding, standing water, leaking roofs on storage areas and any other factor that could lead to contamination of the water.

Take a look around: Make sure you and any employees that have responsibility for the hazardous materials used on your farm review the storage and handling procedures annually. It is very important that you have a spill kit on hand, and that it contains adequate materials to take care of any immediate problems associated with spills of hazardous materials. If you think you need to install secondary containment because your storage area is in an area that could potentially flood or otherwise cause problems, install it before the rainy season.