

Appendix D
Spill Investigation, Containment And Cleanup

D.1 INVESTIGATION

Depending on the location of the spill and the type of material, the appropriate department/agency should be notified. This may include:

- Storm drain maintenance, if the spill reaches the storm drain system
- Street and road maintenance, if the spill is in the public right-of-ways
- Sewer system maintenance, if the material is from the sewage system
- Industrial waste inspection, if the material is from industrial facilities
- Fire Departments/"first responders," if the material may be hazardous
- Contractors for hazardous materials, if the material is hazardous

These departments/agencies should determine the nature of the material and the extent of the spill. If any agency determines there is a chance that the spill involves hazardous materials, then the local Administering Agency will be notified. An example of spill investigation procedures is depicted in Figure D-1. Reporting procedures for hazardous substances are discussed further in Section 5 of this Illicit Connection/Illicit Discharge Elimination model program.

D.2 CONTAINMENT AND CLEANUP

Once the nature and extent of the spill is determined, the appropriate departments and field superintendents will be notified to contain and clean up the spill. The three types of cleanup scenarios are (1) hazardous, (2) wastewater, and (3) other non-hazardous materials.

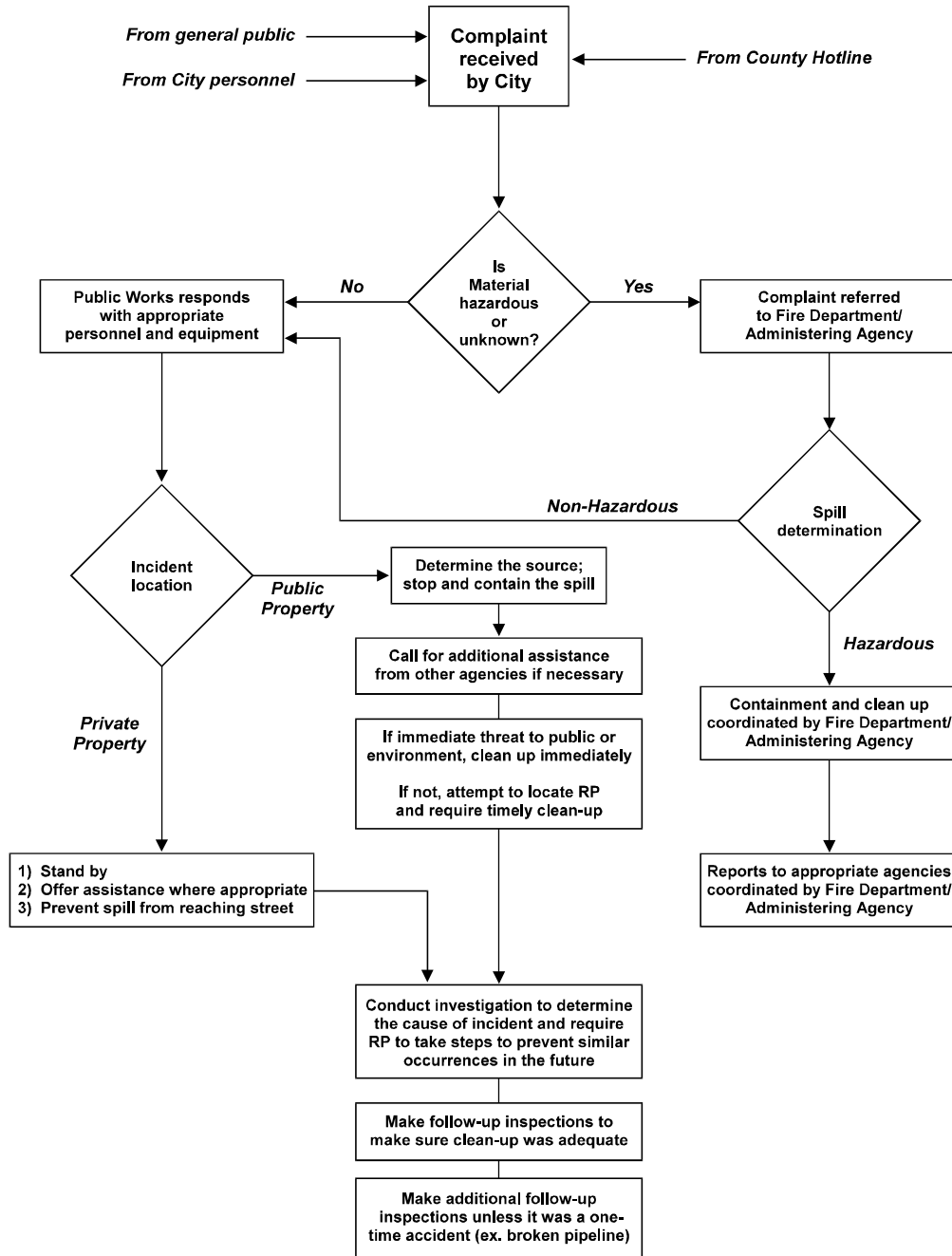
D2.1 Hazardous

Handling procedures regarding releases of hazardous or potentially hazardous substances into the environment are covered in a number of federal and state regulations, including: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and multiple bills codified under Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code. These procedures are well established and are practiced by local hazardous materials response teams - generally a local Fire Department.

Material determined to be hazardous will be contained by the appropriate hazardous material response team. The team will contact an approved contractor for cleanup. Details are contained in the local *Emergency Response Procedures* manual.

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Figure D-1



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D2.2 Wastewater

Field crews responding to a sewage spill or overflow should contain the spill to prevent entry of the sewage into the storm drain system or natural watercourse. This will involve a coordinated effort between the sewer, street, and storm drain maintenance crews.

To the maximum extent possible, sewage should be prevented from entering the storm drain system by covering or blocking storm drain inlets and catch basins or by containing or diverting the overflow away from open channels and other storm drain fixtures (using sandbags, inflatable dams, etc.).

In the event that raw sewage enters a storm drain catch basin, where possible the sewage should be vacuumed or pumped out of the catch basin. If a sewage overflow enters a storm drain channel, where possible the downstream channel area should be blocked, flushed with potable water and the captured water pumped to a nearby sewer manhole. Any time a sewage spill enters the storm drain system and has the potential to reach coastal waterways, the local agency and L.A. County Dept. of Health Services, Bureau of Environmental Protection must be notified (323) 881-4147.

Once the spill is contained, it should be removed and the area disinfected. Every effort should be made to ensure that the disinfectant is not discharged to the storm drain system, using methods such as those described above.

D2.3 Other Non-hazardous Materials

Non-hazardous materials should generally be removed by appropriate crews with knowledge of or jurisdiction over the location of the spill, as indicated in Section D.1. Because the situations and materials will vary widely, procedures will vary as well.

All materials should be prevented from entering waterways to the maximum extent possible. Many materials in sufficient quantities can deplete the oxygen level in receiving waters, or smother benthic communities. Typical examples of these materials include landscape waste, milk, flour, and many other organic liquids and solids or fine powders. These materials should generally be removed by first collecting and/or sweeping up all solids and disposing them in a landfill or other approved location. Liquids should be diverted to an area away from waterways where they may be removed with a vacuum truck or can soak into the ground.