

# FORESTRY FACTS



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURAL  
& LIFE SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

No. 4

December, 1995

## Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Fuels, Lubricants, Waste and Spills

Steve Holaday, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources,  
and Jeff Martin, Dept. of Forestry, UW-Madison

### Fuels, Lubricants & Waste

Logging, road building and other forestry activities require motorized equipment. Antifreeze, fuels and lubricants used in machinery can potentially pollute lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.

Planning for forestry operations should include practices to handle solid and liquid wastes generated in the field.

#### ***If A Spill Occurs***

**Report all spills immediately  
to the Wisconsin 24-hour  
Emergency Hotline number:**

**1-800-943-0003**

### Spills

Spills of fuel, lubricants, or pesticides during forest management operations can occur as result of fueling, hydraulic hose breaks, mechanical damage or vandalism.

A spill occurs when a hazardous substance is released into the environment. A **hazardous substance** is any substance which may pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics.

#### **Remember:**

**Proper equipment maintenance  
will prevent many spills!**

***BMPs to help prevent nonpoint source pollution from fuels, lubricants and wastes during forest management activities:***

▲ Use biodegradable lubricants whenever practical. Biodegradable lubricants are less toxic than other lubricants but still need to be disposed of properly.

▲ Maintain equipment regularly. Check hoses and fittings to prevent leaks or spills.

▲ Designate specific areas for equipment maintenance and fueling. Locate these areas on level terrain, a minimum of 100 feet from all streams and lakes.

▲ Collect all waste lubricants, containers and trash. Store them in leakproof containers until they can be transported off-site for recycling, reuse or disposal at an approved site. Call your local DNR office for more information.

▲ Separate all fluids and materials and keep in different labeled containers to avoid creating "hazardous waste" and expensive waste disposal. Call your local DNR office to determine if a waste is hazardous and how to dispose of hazardous waste.

**Remember:**

**It is illegal to dump fuel and lubricants on the land or waters in the state of Wisconsin!**

***BMPs for spills of fuel and lubricants used in forestry field operations.***

**(these BMPs complement specialized training given to persons using pesticides or other hazardous materials.)**

▲ Maintain a spill-containment and cleanup kit appropriate for the materials on the operation. At a minimum, a kit for petroleum products should include:

- plugs and clamps to control a hydraulic line break;
- a container to catch leaking fluid;
- a shovel; and
- absorbent material such as sawdust to absorb fluid, especially useful in the winter when soil is frozen.

▲ If a spill should occur, do the following in order:

1. Protect yourself and others. Wear protective clothing and equipment appropriate for any hazardous materials on the operation. Avoid coming in contact with any toxic drift or fumes that may be released.

2. If you are able, control the spill; stop the leak.

3. If you are able, contain the spill; keep it from spreading. Shovel a dike around the spill. Use absorbent material to soak up fluid. Place a bucket under a hydraulic hose break. Keep the spill from flowing into lakes or streams.

4. Isolate the spill material.

5. Report all spills immediately to the Wisconsin 24-hour Emergency Hotline number:  
**1-800-943-0003,**

6. Contact your local DNR office for disposal guidance.

**Forestry Facts on BMPs are for information only. For details on specific BMPs and their implementation, see the BMP field manual, *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*, DNR Pub. FR-093 2010.**