Spill Contingency Plan

The ultra-warm Arctic ca. 90 million years ago

Introduction

Our project to study the geological record of the Arctic involves use of small mountaineering-style camps. We use a small white-gas stove for cooking, and will have a 5-gallon container of white gas in the field. It is our understanding that this very small quantity of gas is not large enough to require reporting, but we do so here for completeness. The following describes a required spill contingency plan in the extraordinarily rare case that there should be a spill.

Response organization

Professor John A. Tarduno is PI on the project. He will be in the field and is the key person associated with handling of the white gas. While in the field, he can be reached through the Canadian Polar Shelf Project. Otherwise, he can be reached at the University of Rochester (telephone 585-275-5713; email: john@earth.rochester.edu)

Action Plan

Containment. The white gas is stored in a rugged plastic container supplied by the Canadian Polar Shelf Project. We propose to store this container is a plastic tube, capable of holding the entire 5-gallon volume. This tub will thus serve as a secondary containment.

Actions in event of a spill. Because our activities are critically dependent on the availability of the white gas, the Canadian Polar Shelf Project will be contacted immediately to arrange for replacements and any clean-up (if needed, see below). Supplies will be delivered to the site by helicopter (from Eureka).

Spill reporting. Following the "Guidelines for Spill Contingency Planning, Appendix B-3: Immediately Reportable Spill Quantities", should we somehow have a spill involving the entire 5 gallon volume, this volume is far below quantities for reportable quantities. We note that at all times the white gas is kept more than 200 ft from water bodies. Nevertheless, we are aware of spill reporting documentation and have appended the reporting form to this plan.

Spill Clean-up. As noted above, we feel the secondary containment tub will prevent contamination of the environment. In the event of a spill or failure of the primary containment container, white gas from the tub will be transferred to new empty containers. In the extraordinary rare event of failure of both the primary and secondary containment vessels, we will consult with the Canadian Polar Shelf Project and arrange to remove any contaminated soil around the spill site if needed.

Training

All field party members will be trained with respect to the environmental concerns of use of white gas, including the need to daily inspect the primary and secondary containment vessels, and the need to keep the white gas greater than 200 ft from any water body.