

Incidents involving hazardous substances reported to ERMA NZ for the period 01/01/09 to 31/03/09

IncidentLevelKey				
0 - Default	1 – Minor	2 - Medium	3 – High	4 - Extreme
Information, seeking report from enforcement agency(s).	No discernable/long term effect on people or the environment. Controls & enforcement action adequate.	Localise short term effect on people and the environment. Controls & enforcement action adequate but may require follow up.	Regional impacting or notable concern. Significant damage to property and people. System/control failure. Public and/or political interest. Enforcement action adequate but will require full reporting.	Permanent widespread environmental damage. Major damage to property and people. Public or political outrage. Enforcement action required and must be monitored.

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
185	01-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		38 Edmonton Road, Christchurch	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Fire	fireworks hydrofluoric acid LPG nitric acid potassium hydroxide sulphuric acid	Christchurch City Council Media
<p>A fire occurred in an area of a chemical freight company yards, which was used to store containers that were leaking or damaged. The weather was very hot the previous day and the products were stored in a metal building. It is believed a chemical reaction caused the fire. The fire was noticed by security at 5:40pm. The Fire Service responded quickly and prevented the fire escalating to a serious incident. Two firemen were injured as they slipped and ended up in the sulphuric acid/hydrofluoric acid mix. They were taken to hospital with burns to their hands (through the gloves).</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
330	01-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Pureora Forest Park, near Benneydale, South Waikato	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Other	vertebrate toxic agent	Media
<p>About 70 endangered short-tailed bats have been accidentally poisoned during DOC pest control. The bats were found at the bottom of a single roost tree, which is home to more than 400 bats. Toxicology testing confirmed that the bats had been poisoned by the anticoagulant diphacinone, which was being used to control rats.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
339	05-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Steyne Ave, Plimmerton, Porirua City	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Spill/Leakages	petrol	Wellington Regional Council
<p>91 unleaded petrol poured down into curb and channel and thus down stormwater drain by a resident from a 20 litre container. Sump sucked out and sorbent pads placed at outlet mouth on Plimmerton Beach by regional council. Classified by regional council as a more than minor environmental impact.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
186	06-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		40 Victoria Street, Dargaville	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling Workplace	Fire	paint paint stripper thinner(s)	Kaipara District Council
<p>A fire in a home decorating store was reported after staff had left for the day. The fire service attended and had to call in support from a number of other stations. The fire was contained to three separate businesses and controlled by early morning. The fire appeared to have started in the paint storage area. Fire safety officers and the police are investigating.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
340	06-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Auckland area	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Other	Insecticide piperonyl butoxide pyrethrum	Public
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Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
226	08-Jan-2009	2 - Medium	
Geographical Location		Port Nelson	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Explosion	acetylene	Media
<p>A Port Nelson engineer was in a stable condition in Nelson hospital yesterday after a tank exploded when he was cutting it with oxyacetylene. He suffered serious burns to his chest, head and right arm in the explosion just before noon.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
227	10-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Totara St, Mt Maunganui, Tauranga	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Other	hypophosphorous acid	Media
<p>An 800 litre container of hypophosphorous acid was stolen from a chemical storage and manufacturing factory. The chemical is highly toxic, corrosive and flammable and has a street value to up to \$10 million. The acid is used to manufacture methamphetamine (P). It appeared the thieves had used a forklift on the premises to lift the plastic container on to the back of a vehicle.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
313	13-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Thames	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Other	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Media
<p>A dog has died from suspected 1080 poisoning after a family trip to a swimming hole near Thames. The family who live nearby were unaware that 1080 had been laid.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
232	14-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		Amberly, North Canterbury	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Fire	LPG	Rockgas
<p>A customer came in to Rockgas as their small BBQ LPG cylinder had flared up with blue half metre flames when he lit it. When the cylinder was weighed the 2 kg cylinder had 2.5 kg of gas in it.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
283	14-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		Amberly, North Canterbury	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Fire	LPG	Rockgas
A Rinnai Infinity heater had flames coming from its vent. The water heater was being supplied from an overfilled 9kg cylinder supplying liquid gas through its regulator.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
285	14-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		Unknown	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	LPG	Other/General
Ongas have had a number (perhaps ten) failures of a "Global" LPG changeover regulator. In one instance at an installation, the diaphragm on the regulator let go and vented the contents of the twin pack.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
511	15-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Beside Omaha Bay Vineyard, Takatu Road, Matakana	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Motor Vehicle Public Place	Spray Drift	sulphur	Public Health Service
Sulphur spraydrift from a vineyard early one morning affects a man driving past in a car with the window open. He feels nauseous and two days later has other symptoms he attributes to the spray. Followup with the vineyard owner by public health and regional council finds no issues with spray procedures.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
503	19-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Fonterra plant, Edendale, Southland	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Explosion	chlorine hydrochloric acid sodium hypochlorite	Department of Labour Media

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
329	23-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
Geographical Location		Pearson Park, Oxford, Canterbury	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Explosion	explosives unknown	Media
<p>Youths brewing up a cocktail of chemical from an internet recipe were injured when a spark ignited a container of powder. Three of the youths suffered ruptured ear drums, cuts, lacerations and bruises. Police said they were lucky not to have been more seriously hurt. The powder had been obtained illegally.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
507	23-Jan-2009	2 - Medium	
Geographical Location		Tokoroa	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Other	methanol	Media
<p>A 22 year old woman is dead after allegedly drinking methanol. The woman had admitted herself to hospital saying she felt unwell. Subsequent tests and inquiries revealed the woman had consumed twice the lethal dose of methanol, supplied to her by a friend, according to police. Police were yet to determine if she knew what she was drinking.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
441	26-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Queenstown Hill	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Spray Drift	glyphosate	Media
Queenstown Lakes District Council aerially sprayed Roundup on Queenstown Hill to kill wilding pines. A resident and friends staying at her house claim to have suffered "really bad headaches, stinging swollen eyes, sore throats and trouble breathing". She had to take two days off work.			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
353	28-Jan-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Forest View High School, Tokoroa	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place Workplace	Spill/Leakages	gas	Media
A major gas leak occurred at the school when a maintenance vehicle hit the gas meter causing it to break off at ground level. The gas was quickly brought under control by firefighters who sprayed water onto the meter to hold the gas down at ground level until it could be isolated. The school year had not started and only maintenance staff were on site.			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
347	29-Jan-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
Geographical Location		Tulloch Street, Dunedin	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	toluene	Department of Labour Media
A drum of toluene being unloaded from a truck was punctured by a forklift about 7:15am. Four fire appliances and the decontamination unit attended the spill and nearby businesses were evacuated. Steps were taken to prevent the solvent from flowing into drains and in doing so seven staff members were exposed to the chemical.			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
352	09-Feb-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Terrace Tunnel, Wellington City	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Spill/Leakages	gas	Media
The Terrace Tunnel was closed this morning after reports of a gas leak. No leak was found by emergency services and the tunnel was reopened a short time later.			

Incident ID 386 **Date of Incident** 09-Feb-2009 **Level** 2 - Medium **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident

Geographical Location Mount St, Nelson

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Explosion	LPG	Media

A man is in intensive care after an explosion in a garage. The explosion which occurred around 9pm was caused by a gas cooker being used in illegal drug consumption. Initially police feared a methamphetamine lab and cordoned off the street keeping neighbours inside, but no lab was found. The explosion burned the door off the garage and the resulting fireball extensively burned the victim. A pool of LPG gas at floor level had ignited according to police.

Incident ID 387 **Date of Incident** 09-Feb-2009 **Level** 1 - Low **Category**

Geographical Location Port Nelson

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Ship	Spill/Leakages	fuel	Media

300 - 500 litres of light fuel oil was spilt from a South Korean fishing vessel while it refueled in Nelson. Nelson City Council said a "tier two" response was activated as the crew were unable to contain the spill. The Council may prosecute the company. It appeared the fuel had spilled through a vent pipe.

Incident ID 508 **Date of Incident** 13-Feb-2009 **Level** 1 - Low **Category**

Geographical Location Port Road, Seaview, Lower Hutt

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	hydrochloric acid	Media

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Incident ID 414 **Date of Incident** 17-Feb-2009 **Level** 1 - Low **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue

Geographical Location Napier Public Library

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Other	epoxy resin	Department of Labour
Workplace			Media
			Public Health Service

On 17 Feb 2009 at Napier Public Library, a spill of epoxy resin occurred. The spill was contained by staff. A member of the public reported the spill to the media. The Department of Labour and Public Health Service were notified. The spill was cleaned up and the area was sealed off. The incident was investigated and the spill was found to be a low risk. The spill was contained and the area was sealed off. The incident was investigated and the spill was found to be a low risk. The spill was contained and the area was sealed off. The incident was investigated and the spill was found to be a low risk.

Incident ID 509 **Date of Incident** 17-Feb-2009 **Level** 1 - Low **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident

Geographical Location Redoubt Overbridge, Manakau, South Auckland

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Motor Vehicle	Spill/Leakages	ammonium nitrate	Media
Public Place			

On 17 Feb 2009 at Redoubt Overbridge, Manakau, South Auckland, a motor vehicle accident occurred. The accident involved a spill of ammonium nitrate. The spill was contained and the area was sealed off. The incident was investigated and the spill was found to be a low risk. The spill was contained and the area was sealed off. The incident was investigated and the spill was found to be a low risk.

Incident ID 512	Date of Incident 18-Feb-2009	Level 1 - Low	Category
Geographical Location		Maclean Park pond, Paraparaumu	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Spill/Leakages	paint	Media
Council contractors spraypainting the kiosk in the pond accidentally leaked toxic paint into the duckpond. Seven white Peking ducks needed intensive rehabilitation to remove the toxic oil from their feathers. The council's team cleaned up the spill with flotation devices and a special vacuum pump and the pond was cleaned and refilled.			

Incident ID 510	Date of Incident 19-Feb-2009	Level 1 - Low	Category
Geographical Location		Viaduct Harbour, Auckland	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place Ship	Spill/Leakages	oil	Media
Around 1000 litres of oil had been dumped in the viaduct harbour. The spill was 50 - 80 metres long and 15 metres wide. A team from the Auckland Harbourmaster's office used a skimmer to clean the oil off the water. The harbourmaster said he had no doubt someone had dumped the oil intentionally in the middle of the night.			

Incident ID 523	Date of Incident 20-Feb-2009	Level 2 - Medium	Category
Geographical Location		Inglewood, Taranaki	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling Workplace	Explosion	petrol	Media
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Incident ID 518	Date of Incident 23-Feb-2009	Level 1 - Low	Category
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Geographical Location Norton Road, Hastings

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Fire	fertiliser fungicide	Media Public Health Service

Pallets of a chemical believed to be a fertiliser, went up in flames at a packhouse and orchard in Hastings. The hazardous substances unit was called after 20 kg of copper based fungicide was found near the fire. There were no houses close to the fire and the wind was blowing away from the housing area. Noone was injured. The remaining copper hydroxide was collected by the regional council for disposal.

Incident ID 517	Date of Incident 24-Feb-2009	Level 1 - Low	Category Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
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Geographical Location Lakeview School, Te Ore Ore Road, Masterton

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	hydrochloric acid	Masterton District Council Media

A pool operator shifting a 200 litre drum of chlorine dislodged a plastic feeding tube from a 20 litre container of hydrochloric acid. The acid continued to discharge onto the concrete floor. The caretaker tried to clean up the spill but was overtaken by fumes. The Fire Service attended, cordoned off the area and cleaned up the spill. The caretaker was taken to hospital but was back at work by the afternoon with a clean bill of health.

Incident ID 520	Date of Incident 25-Feb-2009	Level 1 - Low	Category
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Geographical Location corner of Tyne and Conon street, Invercargill

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	refrigerant	Media

Two people were taken to Southland hospital after being exposed to refrigeration gases at an Invercargill warehouse. Fire and ambulance services were called to the site about 5:15pm. Two people felt slightly unwell and were taken to hospital as a precaution after being exposed to the gases.

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
537	25-Feb-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Tinui, Wairarapa	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
	Spray Drift	chemicals	Wellington Regional Council
Chemical spray from aeroplane affecting air in Tinui, rated moderate significance by regional council			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
519	26-Feb-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		SH1, near Sanson,	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling Workplace	Explosion	LPG	Department of Labour Media Other/General
A gas explosion and fire has badly damaged The Manor Cafe and Restaurant. The manager was at the property when she heard an explosion around 3pm. According to the Fire Service the fire started when two large LPG gas bottles attached to an outside wall leaked and gas accumulated under the building and somehow caught alight. The fire went up the right hand side of the building and into the roof. The entire top story was gutted. No one was injured in the blaze. 12 fire trucks attended.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
522	07-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
Geographical Location		SH1 north of Tirau, South Waikato	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Motor Vehicle Public Place	Spill/Leakages	acid paint	Media
A truck carrying seven tonnes of goods including paint and acids crashed at the Piarere roadworks. Firecrews had to use specialist decontamination gear to unload the goods before the truck was righted with a crane. Fire crews from Tirau, Putaruru, Hamilton, Rotorua and Tokaroa attended and the road was closed for 12 hours.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
524	10-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
Geographical Location		north of Paekakariki, Kapiti Coast	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Train	Spill/Leakages	diesel	Media
Police and the fire service are cleaning up a diesel spill of around 100 litres on the rail tracks. The spill came from a train wagon and has caused delays to commuter services.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
525	11-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		between 12 Chatham Road and 704 Warren Street North, Hastings	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Motor Vehicle Public Place	Spill/Leakages	LPG	Department of Labour
A valve blew in a 9 kg LPG cylinder that was being carried in the back of a car. The cylinder had been overfilled.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
533	16-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		Fitzherbert St, Hokitika, Westland	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Other	chemicals explosives	Media
Three units of a block of flats are cordoned off after police found a large quantity of chemicals used to manufacture explosives and pyrotechnics. A specialist explosives squad was working with police to identify all the chemicals so they could be disposed off appropriately. A 17 and an 18 year old were arrested for unrelated charges.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
532	18-Mar-2009	1 - Low	
Geographical Location		Cooks Ridge, Port Underwood, Marlborough	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Fire	fireworks	Media
A 12 year old boy playing with fireworks started a blaze that led to the evacuation of homes in Waikawa Bay and the destruction of 12 hectares of scrub. The fire came dangerously close to houses with 12 being evacuated but the wind pushed it away. Heavy rain helped douse remaining hotspots.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
534	20-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
Geographical Location		Aviation Avenue, Mt Maunganui, Tauranga	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	acid	Media
<p>About 50 litres of the timber treatment chemical 'Blue Control OC Antisapstain' was spilled at a transport yard early this morning. A 1000 litre container was being unloaded from a truck when the spill happened. The chemical spilt onto the concrete and firefighters used an absorbent material to clean it up and stop it entering the stormwater system. The chemical and about 4000 litres of water used to flush it into a holding drain were then pumped into a tanker for removal.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
358	25-Mar-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
Geographical Location		441 Manutahi Road, Taranaki	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling Workplace	Spray Drift	carbendazim fungicide	Public Health Service
<p>An occupant of a house around which a farm worker sprayed a carbendazim fungicide (X-Spore) complained it gavae him tingling lips and a sore throat. . The fungicide was sprayed from a tractor with a boom spray. The occupant alleged he was covered in the mist spray of the fungicide.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
538	28-Mar-2009	2 - Medium	
Geographical Location		Walsh St, Forest Lake, Hamilton	
Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Private Dwelling	Explosion	methamphetamine (including precursors)	Media
<p>A small shed at the back of a house exploded on Saturday afternoon, leaving the 39 year old male occupant with burns to his hands and arms. Police confirmed that there was evidence of a P-lab on the property. The property has been handed over to Hamilton City Council which has responsibility for the clean up of the property. The injured man is in Waikato Hospital.</p>			