

## Incidents involving hazardous substances reported to ERMA NZ for the period 01/04/09 to 30/06/09

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
582	01-Apr-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		42 Matthews Road, Gisborne	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Private Dwelling	Other	cosmetic product	Public Health Service
<p>A woman dying her hair suffered an allergic reaction affecting her scalp, neck and external ear. She suffered itching, stinging, weeping and burning requiring steroid treatment and her head to be bandaged. Subsequently she has secondary infection and ongoing skin problems. Multiple visits to the doctor have been required. It was the first time she had used the particular product, although she has dyed her hair many times before. Suspect ingredient thought to be P-phenylenediamine (PPD).</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
553	04-Apr-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Hastings	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Private Dwelling	Other	chemicals	Media
<p>A Hastings man has been charged with spraying potentially dangerous chemicals around his next door neighbours house. The woman reported a strong chemical stench in her house and called police. They took samples for testing and the woman and one police officer were checked out at hospital and the officer put through a decontamination shower. The man charged lived next door.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
502	06-Apr-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		McCathie Road, Ruakaka	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place Workplace	Spill/Leakages	petrol	Department of Labour
<p>Whilst employees were performing a greasing operation on the ball valve on a fuel pipeline, the grease nipple to the stem was removed as it was thought to be faulty. This resulted in a release of about 80 litres of petrol. The pipeline was stopped and the ball valve closed until a new nipple could be installed. Employee had overalls soaked with petroleum product requiring NZFS decontamination. The road was closed.</p>			







<b>Incident ID</b> 565	<b>Date of Incident</b> 07-May-2009	<b>Level</b> 1 - Low	<b>Category</b> Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
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**Geographical Location** Marfell Park, New Plymouth, Taranaki

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Other	dioxins tetrachlorobenzene trichlorophenol	Media

Drums containing tetrachlorobenzene and trichlorophenol have been found buried under a children's playground by workers laying stormwater pipes. Two drums were found buried two metres down, along with remnants of seven other drums. The Taranaki Regional Council confirmed it had found dioxin levels as high as 3 ppm in the drums, however there were no signs of leaching. The drums were dumped in the landfill in the 1960's by the former Ivon Watkins Dow, who had stopped using the chemicals at least 20 years ago.

<b>Incident ID</b> 556	<b>Date of Incident</b> 13-May-2009	<b>Level</b> 1 - Low	<b>Category</b> Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
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**Geographical Location** Freight depot, Rewarewa Road, Whangarei

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Motor Vehicle Workplace	Spill/Leakages	copper chromium arsenic (CCA)	Department of Labour Public Health Service

Somewhere between 10 and 100 litres of copper chromium arsenate was spilt onto the floor of the trailer being used to transport it, when the lid of a 1000 litre container was not securely fitted. The spill occurred in the trailer offloading area and was contained within the trailer. The building was evacuated and the road closed.

<b>Incident ID</b> 557	<b>Date of Incident</b> 14-May-2009	<b>Level</b> 2 - Medium	<b>Category</b>
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**Geographical Location** Canterbury Meatpacker, Ashburton, Canterbury

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Other	sodium hydroxide	Media

A 63 year old worker received caustic burns in an incident at 10:30 am. The man was flown to Christchurch hospital, where he is being treated for serious injuries.

**Incident ID** 583      **Date of Incident** 14-May-2009      **Level** 1 - Low      **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident

**Geographical Location** 70 Patiki Road, Avondale, Auckland

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	oil	Auckland Regional Council

A 1000 litre bulk container was damaged spilling approximately 150 litres of oil across the yard of a cement manufacturer, into the stormwater drain. Spill Response NZ cleaned up the spill.

**Incident ID** 545      **Date of Incident** 16-May-2009      **Level** 2 - Medium      **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident

**Geographical Location** sand dunes across from Tweed St and Ocean Beach Rd, Mt Maunganui, Tauranga

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Explosion	fireworks	Media

Corruption, fraud, and other illegal activities are common in the construction industry. This is due to the high profit margins and the complexity of the industry. Many contractors and subcontractors are not registered or licensed, and they often cut corners to save money. This can lead to safety hazards and poor quality work. It is important for consumers to be aware of these risks and to choose reputable and licensed contractors.

**Incident ID** 559      **Date of Incident** 18-May-2009      **Level** 1 - Low      **Category** Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident

**Geographical Location** 11 Park Road, Grafton, Auckland

Location Type	Incident Type	Substance Involved	Reporting Agency
Public Place	Spill/Leakages	natural gas	Public Health Service

A natural gas line was cracked on a public road by road workers. The area was cordoned off by police and the fire service and the gas company shut off the gas. A nearby apartment building was evacuated and other nearby buildings notified they may need to be evacuated although this was not required in the end.

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
560	19-May-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Pike River Coal Mine, Atarau, West Coast	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	sulphuric acid	Media
<p>On May 19, 2009, council was notified of a sulphuric acid spill at the coal mine site. Between 400 and 500 litres were spilt after a suction hose detached from a pump causing the acid to siphon out of the tank. The company believes that the majority of the acid was contained in a tank underneath the storage area, however an unknown amount must have entered the settling pond adjacent to the storage area. The pH for the pond is usually around 7 but had dropped to 4.7 below the compliance limit of pH 6 - 9. The pond was discharging at the time and water quality is being monitored by the council.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
561	22-May-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Hyderabad Road, Napier	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place Workplace	Other	LPG	Department of Labour
<p>An LPG cylinder was overfilled and leaked.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
562	26-May-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Broadway north, Stratford, Taranaki	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place Workplace	Spill/Leakages	diesel	Media
<p>A Stratford service station has been closed while specialist contractors track the cause of a major diesel spill into a waterway. Strong diesel smells in the drain led to residents complaining to the Stratford District Council. The owners initially thought it was a one-off forecourt spill which they cleaned up. The clean up included removing 43 cubic metres of soil and vegetation from the drain and neighbouring properties. Diesel and water was also cleaned up by suction tankers. A week later inspectors found diesel was still leaking and closed the service station. The leak is now thought to be coming from a forecourt runoff interceptor tank. It is thought that a very high rainfall may have overflowed the tank. The leaking fuel is being contained and is not a fire hazard.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
581	30-May-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b> Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt			
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place	Spill/Leakages	diesel	Wellington Regional Council
Diesel spill in stream. Investigated by regional council but source of spill not found. Rated more than minor environmental impact by regional council.			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
563	31-May-2009	2 - Medium	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
<b>Geographical Location</b> SH1, Ohakea, Manawatu			
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Motor Vehicle Public Place	Spill/Leakages	sodium hydroxide	Media
A chemical tanker carrying caustic soda crashed about 6am after it swerved to avoid hitting a pedestrian on the road. The tanker contained 16 200 litres of caustic soda, 4200 was pumped into a second chemical tanker that was called in but 12 000 litres spilt into a culvert and soaked into the ground. The spill covered a 70 metre area. Citric acid was sprinkled on the site to neutralise it and the contaminated soil removed to landfill.			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
572	02-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b> Neales Road, East Tamaki, Auckland			
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Workplace	Spill/Leakages	ammonia	Media
A gas detector reading picked up a minor gas leak from a canister at a factory specialising in liquid and hazardous waste treatment and transport. The gas detector in one of the 60 litre storage tanks containing oversized dye bottles full of ammonia showed an unusual reading. The site was evacuated until the leak was found and the canister made safe. The area was cleared within an hour.			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
564	04-Jun-2009	2 - Medium	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Newton St, Mt Maunganui, Tauranga	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Workplace	Explosion	LPG	Media
<p>LPG gas escaped while being used to purge new gas cylinders of all air at a liquid gas business. The gas exploded when it reached a heater in a small office building about 5 metres away and was ignited. The explosion blew all the windows out of the building and burnt a man standing outside by his truck 3 metres away. He was taken to hospital with burns to his hands, forearms and face. The person purging the cylinder was unharmed as the wind appeared to have blown the gas away.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
578	12-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Corner of Tay Street and Dundee Street, Invercargill	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place Workplace	Spill/Leakages	petrol	Media
<p>A service station has closed and its tanks are being ripped up after a suspected fuel leak was discovered. The extent of the leak remains unknown until the underground tanks were removed. The leak was discovered after a discrepancy was found between what was in the tanks and what had being sold. Nearby Otepunu Stream is being monitored for signs of contamination.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
575	13-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - Accident
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Porirua Market carpark, Cobham Court, Hagley Street, Porirua	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Motor Vehicle Public Place	Spill/Leakages	hydrochloric acid	Media Public Health Service
<p>A 20 litre container of 30% hydrochloric acid in the back of a car has leaked and spilled into a car park. The acid reacted with water giving off fumes and leached into the stormwater drains. The area was cordoned off and the acid removed by the Fire Services specialist toxic substances unit. The man who spilled the acid was taken to hospital and five others were treated for inhalation of the fumes. Around 500 people were in the vicinity as the incident occurred about 10 am as the Saturday morning market was finishing.</p>			

Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
577	22-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Ashley Street, Rangiora, North Canterbury	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Public Place Workplace	Spill/Leakages	petrol	Media
<p>A trigger lock at a service station failed when the bowser was was hung up after use, and around 80 litres of petrol spilled onto the forecourt. The petrol leaked across the paved area and into drains and roadside channelling. Absorbent material was laid down and the Fire Service worked with the the council and Environment Canterbury to seal the fuel in the drains and prevent it entering the stormwater system. The fuel was then pumped out by a vacuum truck.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
576	24-Jun-2009	2 - Medium	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Dannevirke	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Private Dwelling	Fire	LPG	Media
<p>An elderly woman is dead after her dressing gown caught fire from an LPG heater.</p>			
Incident ID	Date of Incident	Level	Category
579	24-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Pool Road, Tomorata, Auckland 0974	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Aircraft Motor Vehicle Public Place Workplace	Spray Drift	2, 4 - D herbicide	Public Health Service
<p>A helicopter drenched a school bus with spray when it failed to turn off its spray system when flying across the road. No windows were open but the children and the bus driver could smell the chemical. The chemical involved is thought to be 2,4-D, (to be confirmed by ARC testing). The helicopter also sprayed areas of land that were not supposed to be sprayed.</p>			

<b>Incident ID</b>	<b>Date of Incident</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Category</b>
580	26-Jun-2009	1 - Low	
<b>Geographical Location</b>		Oxford Terrace, Lower Hutt	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Private Dwelling	Other	explosives	Media
<p>Several streets in Lower Hutt were cordoned off yesterday after a resident called police to say he had explosives at his house. The army were called to remove two tubes of power gel.</p>			
<b>Incident ID</b>	<b>Date of Incident</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Category</b>
585	28-Jun-2009	1 - Low	Incident - Adverse Effect - HSNO Issue
<b>Geographical Location</b>		15 Kauri Street, Napier	
<b>Location Type</b>	<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Substance Involved</b>	<b>Reporting Agency</b>
Private Dwelling	Explosion	explosives	Media
<p>Residents were woken at 3:20 am on Sunday by a loud explosion after someone blew up the metal letterbox outside an empty house. The blast smashed windows and sent pieces of shrapnel flying for 25 metres. A 20 cm piece of metal lodged in the house across the road. Police were inspecting the letterbox to determine the type of explosive used.</p>			