

## Incidents involving hazardous substances reported to ERMA NZ for the period 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2008

Date of Incident	Geographical Location	Reporting Agency	Level	Substance	Description Of Events	Incident Type	Location Type
01/07/2008	Happy Valley Wellington City	Wellington Regional Council	1 - Low	Hydrocarbons	Hydrocarbons from unknown source affecting surface water in Happy Valley	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
09/07/2008	Service Station, Pioneer Highway, Palmerston North	Department of Labour	1 - Low	LPG	LPG leak detected while carrying out the daily check of the storage tank on site. Fire Service called, site evacuated. Fire service cleared the site for work to carry on and stayed onsite monitoring the leak until the repair person arrived to fix the leak.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace
10/07/2008	Inland Road, 5 km from Lyford on the Kaikoura side	Media	1 - Low	battery acid	An Exide battery truck rolled on black ice. Some acid leaked out but was contained by firefighters and disposed of safely by Exide. The road was reduced to one lane while the scene was cleared.	Spill/Leakage	Motor Vehicle / Public Place
10/07/2008	Vickerman St, Port Nelson	Media	1 - Low	ammonia	An ammonia leak saw part of Vickerman St at Port Nelson closed off. Firefighters were called to a coolstore because of a strong ammonia smell. The leak was small and there was no risk of an explosion according to the senior station officer. Police and the council helped to block off the street until an engineer traced the leak to a compressor in the engine room and fixed it within an hour. St John Ambulance was notified but noone required treatment.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
12/07/2008	Waitemata Harbour	Media	1 - Low	oil	About 30 L of oil was spilled into the Waitemata Harbour from a cargo ship the Mt Travers. The oil was soaked up by the duty officer at the harbourmasters office using sorbent booms towed from a boat. An investigation was under way as to how the spill occurred.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Ship
14/07/2008	Waikato Hospital laboratory	Media	1 - Low	formaldehyde	2 litres of dilute formaldehyde spilled in a cupboard, through the ceiling and down the walls in the clinical services department of Waikato Hospital. The fire service was called and sectioned off that part of the building which was not near any wards. The substance was dilute formaldehyde used to preserve specimens. Three hospital staff took decontamination showers as a precaution and an internal investigation has been launched.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace

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15/07/2008	Supermarket car park, Greymouth	Media	1 - Low	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	A man left his dog in an enclosed ute in a supermarket carpark in Greymouth. When he arrived home the dog was convulsing and vomiting green fluid. 1080 was found in the back of the ute. The owner believes someone opened the back of the ute and threw 1080 pellets in. The dog had to be shot to put it out of its misery. Conflicting reports as to whether the car was unmarked or marked as a West Coast Regional Vector Services car.	Other	Motor Vehicle / Public Place
15/07/2008	Wellington central - coastal marine area	Wellington Regional Council	1 - Low	Hydrocarbons	Hydrocarbons from unknown source affecting coastal marine area in Wellington Central.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
15/07/2008	Countdown supermarket, Hilton St, Kaiapoi, Canterbury	Media	1 - Low	ammonia	Four people were treated for ammonia poisoning at the scene of an ammonia leak. The gas drifted from a nearby coolstore into the Countdown supermarket around 7pm. The leak was due to a faulty compressor according to the Kaiapoi chief fire officer.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace
16/07/2008	Block of flats, St Georges Road, Avondale, Auckland	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A gas leak caused a block of flats to be evacuated in St Georges Road, Avondale. The leak was caused by a contractor not securing a gas meter they had removed from the wall, thus fracturing a pipe. The fire service attended the incident, which occurred around 8:50am.	Spill/Leakage	Private Dwelling
16/07/2008	Coolstore in Bullen St, Nelson	Media	1 - Low	ammonia	Ammonia leaked from a coolstore in Bullen St, Nelson at 3am this morning. Noone was in the building. The leak was noticed by staff at a neighbouring property. Firefighters waited until an engineer fixed the leak.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
17/07/2008	Paihia Road, Onehunga, Auckland	Media	2 - Medium	precursors to methamphetamine	An Auckland garage in which a person died in a fire may have been used as an illegal P lab. Another person in the house was treated for minor injuries and firefighters were decontaminated. The fire scene was treated as a high risk area. The garage was burning well when fire appliances arrived just after 7am.	Fire	Private Dwelling

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19/07/2008	On the Ben Lomond and Alpine Retreat Boundary, Queenstown	Public Health Service	1 - Low	cyanide	The operator laid Feratox Encapsulated cyanide pellets with the permission of the landowner. He has put out the appropriate signs. A dog has gone missing and the owner saw the signs and thought it may have eaten some pellets. The operator contacted Public Health. They ascertained that he had not applied for "permission" to carry out this operation which is necessary as the area is used as a water catchment for a nearby residential estate. A resident at the Alpine Retreat housing estate complained that bait had been laid on his property. The operator disputes this but was told he should have consulted with them anyway.	Other	Private Dwelling
21/07/2008	College St, Palmerston North	Media	1 - Low	LPG	Firefighters were called to a gas leak around 10:30pm but the gas company had already isolated the leak which stemmed from a cast iron pipe in the street. It was to be repaired the next morning.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
22/07/2008	Dannevirke central business district (High St, Barraud, Denmark and Miller Sts)	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A major gas leak in Dannevirke led to the central business district being evacuated. The leak occurred early in the morning after a digger struck a pressure main. A gas engineer came from Palmerston North and sealed the leak just after 8am.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
23/07/2008	Upper Hutt Central	Wellington Regional Council	1 - Low	Hydrocarbons	Hydrocarbons from workshop affecting land in central Upper Hutt	Spill/Leakage	Other
25/07/2008	Kaiata, 5 km west of Greymouth	Media	2 - Medium	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Ten deer from a herd of 16 died after eating 1080 pellets dropped in a field where they were grazing. The farmer claimed permission was given to drop the 1080 in the bush at the back of their property and the paddocks were to be excluded. Vector Control Services disputed that the pellet drop had missed the intended zone, saying no flight "oversights" had occurred.	Other	Private Dwelling / Workplace
31/07/2008	90 Vanguard St, Nelson	Department of Labour	1 - Low	Hydrocarbons / solvents / spraying vapours / toluene / white spirits	A painter was inside a spraybooth with the extraction fan on. The fan had been on for 15-20 minutes when the metal fan blade fell off coming into contact with a metal mesh guard. This resulted in a spark which ignited the vapour in the fan enclosure flashing back along the floor of the booth and creating an explosion. The spraypainter suffered only singed hands after his gloves burnt off. The booth was extensively damaged and the adjoining room also suffered structural damage.	Explosion	Workplace

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01/08/2008	Defence Force Veteran Services and Ministry of Economic Development, Wellington	Media	1 - Low	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Two packages believed to contain 1080, were delivered to the Defence Force Veteran Services building and the Ministry of Economic Development. The Police removed the first package and the Fire Services decontamination unit the second.	Other	Workplace
04/08/2008	Tarewa Road, Whangarei	Northland Regional Council	1 - Low	LPG	The attendant was filling an LPG gas cylinder. She donned protective glasses and gloves and attached the filling hose to the 9kg cylinder. When she tried to start filling it the cylinder valve leaked, probably as a result of a faulty fitting. There was an escape of gas but the source was quickly shut down. The gas dissipated and the customer left taking his cylinder.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace
06/08/2008	1272 Cameron Road, Tauranga	Tauranga District Council	1 - Low	LPG	Customer went to get his 4.5 kg LPG cylinder filled. He then left it in his car while he went to work. On opening the door he smelt gas and checked the valve was closed, opened all the windows in the car and drove home. He left the cylinder in the garage overnight and took it to Gas Fire Cylinder Services the next day. A technician there determined the cylinder had been overfilled by 1.08 kg. The cylinder was not faulty. The extra gas was taken out and the cylinder returned to the owner.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace
07/08/2008	near the intersection of Mt Albert Road and Alberton Avenue, Auckland	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A digger ruptured a large gas main causing the evacuation of a busy suburban street in Auckland. Mt Albert Road was closed.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
09/08/2008	Kaiwhatiwhati Road, Kaingaroa State Forest	Media	2 - Medium	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Hunter went into the Kaingaroa Forest with his four dogs. He had a hunting permit. The dogs were gone for about an hour. They came back, one vomited and the others ate the vomit. The first dog died at 8pm, the second at 2am, the third at 5:30am and the fourth was shot. The hunter maintains that at least seven other dogs have died around the same time and 18 in the area recently.	Other	Other
11/08/2008	Public walkway, Hokitika	Media	1 - Low	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Owner takes their dog for a walk on a public walkway. 1080 signs are posted but the dog doesn't stray off the walkway. 45 mins later the dog is sick, is taken to the vet and later dies. The father recognises the signs of 1080 poisoning.	Other	Public Place

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12/08/2008	Jean Batten School, Mangere, South Auckland	Media	1 - Low	unknown	Three children were admitted to hospital after suffering swollen eyes and rashes at Jean Batten School. All three children were treated for an allergic reaction. The children reacted to an unidentified substance, now believed to be beads on a lei.	Other	Public Place
12/08/2008	Corner of Aintree Avenue and Ascot Road, Mangere, South Auckland	Department of Labour / Media	2 - Medium	ammonia	An employee in a storage building was lifting a cylinder filled with ammonia using a forklift when during this manoeuvre a valve broke off at the end of the cylinder causing ammonia to leak from the cylinder. It is believed the cylinder may have contained up to 1 ton of pressurised gas. The building was evacuated and the road closed. One person was suffered serious harm.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
15/08/2008	Gorge Road, Queenstown	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A faulty pressure valve on a pipe between the plant and gas bottle filling area caused a leak at the Rockgas Depot. Adjacent buildings were evacuated. The leak released the equivalent of a 9kg bottle.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
19/08/2008	Aquarius Drive, Rotorua	Media	1 - Low	LPG	Gas leak from a ruptured gas line at a property in Aquarius Drive, Rotorua. No one hurt.	Spill/Leakage	Other
21/08/2008	Angle St, Onehunga	Media	1 - Low	fuel	Staff were welding in an area above where fuel was drained from vehicles. A spark landed in a open drain and then ignited the holding tank containing 200L of fuel. That erupted into a fireball and the fire spread throughout the building. No injuries occurred to staff. Runoff from the fire was contained by a new \$1 million interception system.	Fire	Workplace
23/08/2008	Kaingaroa Forest, Bay of Plenty	Media	1 - Low	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	Four dogs die from suspected 1080 poisoning. Owner was hunting despite a trespass order against him.	Other	
24/08/2008	15 Peck St, Lower Hutt	Hutt City Council	1 - Low	LPG	The resident had his LPG cylinder filled and once home, reconnected it to the heater and pressed the ignition button twice. A large fireball exploded from the heater. The resident's arm was thrown away from his body, the clock blown off the wall and the access hole to the ceiling blown open. The resident's hair, pants and jacket were ignited. He managed to get out the door and use the garden hose to extinguish himself.	Explosion	Private Dwelling

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25/08/2008	Hobill Ave, Wiri, Manakau	Media	1 - Low	resin	A chemical spill behind a factory in Manakau sparked a warning for nearby residents. People were ordered inside after two people suffered headaches after the spill about 11am. A Fire Service spokesman said a resin being stored in drums had the potential to be explosive if it mixed with air. Firefighters stabilised the drums by cooling them.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
25/08/2008	Hunua Road, Papakura, South Auckland	Department of Labour / Auckland Regional Council	2 - Medium	copper chromium arsenic (CCA)	A storage tank failure in a chemical storage and decanting facility allowed 1500 - 1800 litres of copper chrome arsenate to leak out of bunded areas and into the environment. It migrated under the building, through surrounding soils affecting at least four adjacent properties, into local drainage systems and the storm water drain. CCA also entered Hays stream. The Auckland Regional Council is concerned that a large quantity of CCA may remain in the soil underlying the building and possibly in surrounding soil. Soils impacted by the initial spill include storage yards and driveway areas used neighbouring properties. CCA levels in these areas may pose a risk to site workers. The ARC is continuing to monitor the cleanup with the company involved.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
26/08/2008	Porirua Central	Wellington Regional Council	1 - Low	hydrocarbons	Hydrocarbons from workshop affecting land in Porirua Central.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
29/08/2008	Rutherglen, West Coast	Media	1 - Low	1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate)	An 18 month old dog has died supposedly from consuming 1080. The owner believes she may have eaten a possum. The Kaiata drop of 25 July included Rutherglen. The Regional Council Chief Executive said the 1080 drop followed all regulations and it was well notified with warning signs. The owner of the dog had a 400m buffer zone around his property (rather than the usual 100m) according to Vector Control Services manager, as they had also had a dog killed by 1080 last year.		Other
31/08/2008	Rahotu, West Taranaki	Media	2 - Medium	LPG	A woman is in intensive care in hospital with burns to her head and hands after a gas bottle was set alight at a party. Police were called about 1:50am and are investigating. It appears to be a party trick that has gone wrong and a man has been arrested. The Fire Service attended but the fire had already been put out. The man involved has been prosecuted by police.	Fire	Private Dwelling

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02/09/2008	Bowenvale, Christchurch	Media	1 - Low	diesel	A heating fuel tanker overturned when reversing onto a steep driveway. 10-20 litres of diesel spilt but was contained by the driver using a spill kit. An ECan spokesperson said no diesel entered the stormwater system.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
02/09/2008	410 Victoria Street, Hamilton	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A substantial gas leak caused the evacuation of an inner city office building. Firefighters were called to the building just after 9am when staff reported a strong smell of gas. 30 people were evacuated and nearby streets cordoned off while the leak was repaired.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
03/09/2008	Blenheim	Media	1 - Low	unknown	A truck was pulled over after police noticed something spilling out the side. The Fire Service was on hand to clean up the powder which is used in fire extinguishers. The load was secured and the truck went on its way.	Spill/Leakage	Motor Vehicle / Public Place
03/09/2008	Shape Technologies, Clarence St South, Addington, Christchurch	Christchurch City Council / Media	1 - Low	trichloroethylene	A problem with a degreasing bath caused a chemical reaction in a powder coating plant. When the day shift came on in the morning the bath was turned on as usual. The operator noticed it was not working properly and had a burnt smell. He topped it up and turned it off. An hour later it started producing a thick white cloud and the factory's 80 staff and five nearby streets were evacuated. Eleven people were taken to hospital but all were later discharged. Symptoms included eye irritation, sore throats and coughing. It is believed that the aluminium built up in the bottom of the bath and reacted with the trichloroethylene producing a toxic, corrosive gas cloud.	Other	Workplace
10/09/2008	Kaimanawa Street, Palmerston North	Department of Labour / Media	1 - Low	xylene	A drum of xylene was punctured by a forklift at a freight yard. The liquid spilled on to the truck, the truck's load and the ground. One person was taken to hospital suffering respiratory distress. Firefighters cleaned up the spill with absorbant material. The air was reasonably still so the vapours did not travel far.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace
12/09/2008	Pahoia, near Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty	Media	2 - Medium	hydrogen cyanamide	200 gum trees and 200 acacia trees die due to suspected spraydrift from HiCane being sprayed next door. Trees have bent trunks and defoliated branches. This has occurred each Spring for a number of years. Exact date of incident unknown.	Other	Private Dwelling
13/09/2008	The Warehouse, Gore, Southland	Media	1 - Low	LPG	The Warehouse was evacuated after two gas bottles in a car boot were leaking in the carpark. About 50 people were evacuated from the store and the road blocked while the area was sprayed with water to disperse the gas.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place

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15/09/2008	Mungavin Avenue, Porirua	Department of Labour	1 - Low	petrol	A staff member observed petrol spilling from a petrol tank of a car while it was being filled. The line was immediately sealed and the Fire Service notified. The spill was minor, about 12 litres and was contained on site. No one was injured. The vehicle petrol tank was found to be faulty.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place / Workplace
16/09/2008	Randwick Road, Lower Hutt	Department of Labour	1 - Low	petrol	A worker noticed a strong smell of petrol in the warehouse. The building was evacuated and the Fire Service contacted. The petrol had come from a motor vehicle being stored and had flowed under a dividing wall into an adjacent warehouse building. It pooled under pallets loaded with laminated panels.	Spill/Leakage	Motor Vehicle / Workplace
16/09/2008	Killybegs Drive, Albany, Auckland	Media	1 - Low	LPG	A Telecom contractor was taken to hospital with burns after rupturing a gas line. He was using an LPG fuelled blowtorch and the gas ignited as the torch was too close to the gas line. The gas bottle also caught fire. The flames reached two metres high. The contractor had a burn the size of two palms according to the fire station officer, who also said a fire blanket would have protected the gas pipe.	Fire	Public Place
17/09/2008	Rakanui Road, Taupo	Media	1 - Low	pesticide(s)	A spill of about 2.6 m3 of toxic pesticide closed Rakani Road for nearly five hours. A driver noticed a leak in a container and pulled over near the Mainfreight depot around 11:30am. Three fire crews attended and policed helped evacuate all areas within a 300m radius of the truck.	Spill/Leakage	Motor Vehicle / Workplace
23/09/2008	Phillipstown school, Christchurch	Media	1 - Low	solvent(s)	Three intermediate pupils fainted, one banging his head as he fell, when toxic fumes drifted from a factory into a Christchurch school. The whole class felt unwell. The fumes had a strong solvent smell. The factory involved voluntarily stopped operations after the incident.	Spill/Leakage	Public Place
29/09/2008	Alach Street, Greerton, Tauranga	Tauranga District Council	1 - Low	LPG	LPG leaked from a automotive LPG tank on a bus, which was parked in an outside yard. The leak was noticed by a police officer around 4am and the fire service contacted. They were unable to attend to the leak and brought in a mechanic. He reduced the leak which was coming from the bleed hole on the ullage/bleed valve but was unable to stop it fully. The bus was driven to a safe location later that morning and the tank emptied. The cylinder was removed and sent for examination but no fault was found. The conclusion was it was a deliberate act of vandalism and steps were being taken to upgrade the tanks with valves that could not be opened by hand.	Spill/Leakage	Workplace

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29/09/2008	Sammaree Place, Kerikeri	Department of Labour	2-Medium	LPG	The Fire Service was called to a premises where a person had been burned as a result of a fire involving gas bottles. A gas hose blew off a handpiece for a gas torch being used by a roofer and the burning hose caused significant burns to an employees arms and legs.	Fire	Workplace