Georgia Oil or Hazardous Material Spills and Releases Reporting

Every spill must be cleaned up, whether or not it is reportable. [OCGA §12-8-2]
It is the duty to immediately take all reasonable and necessary steps to prevent injury to property and downstream users of waters of the State of Georgia. [Chapter 391-3-6-.05(3)]

Who Reports:
Anyone who owns or has control of a spilled/released substance

What to Report:
Oil*
Unknown amount
OR
Amount that creates a significant sheen on top of state waters or creates an emulsion or sludge under state waters**

When to Report:
Immediately upon having knowledge of a spill/release. EPA has determined immediately to mean within 15 minutes

Whom to Report to:
Georgia EPD Emergency Operations Center
800-241-4113

* OIL: includes but is not limited to gasoline, crude oil, fuel oil, diesel oil, lubricating oil, sludge, oil refuse, oil mixed with wastes, and any other petroleum related product.
** EXEMPTION: Accidental discharges of oil made by an individual during maintenance of that individual’s personal vehicle or farm machinery shall be exempt.

Who Reports:
The person in charge of a spilled/released substance

What to Report:
Any toxic or taste and color producing substance, or any other substance which would endanger downstream users of the waters of the State or would damage property, is discharged into such waters, or is so placed that it might flow, be washed, or fall into them

When to Report:
At the time forthwith (15 minutes)

Whom to Report to:
Georgia EPD Emergency Operations Center
800-241-4113
or local district/branch office

Who Reports:
Owner or operator of UST system

What to Report:
Spill or overfill of petroleum that exceeds 25 gallons
OR
Amount that creates a significant sheen on state waters

When to Report:
Within 24 hours

Whom to Report to:
UST Program 404-362-2687 during business hours or Georgia EPD Emergency Operations Center 800-241-4113 after hours

This document is intended to provide a brief informational summary of responsibility for spill reporting in accordance with state regulations. It is not intended to be complete legal guidance on the issue. [Revised: February 2010]