



Environmental Management Services

Chemical Spill Response Case Study

Incident Summary

GPT were called to a customer's site following the spill of hydrochloric acid. A forklift truck driver had double stacked 2 IBC's of 32% hydrochloric acid for transportation. The top IBC had toppled off damaging both IBCs spilling a substantial quantity of acid across the factory floor.

The staff on site had deployed chemical absorbent socks from their emergency spill kit to contain the spill as best as they could, however the spill had caused a large area to become contaminated. The acid was a corrosive and was reacting with the concrete floor giving off noxious gasses creating a hazardous working environment. The area had been evacuated until a thorough clean-up could be completed by a competent contractor.

Spill Response

GPT's health and safety department conducted a risk assessment prior to the team attending site to ensure that appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) & RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment) was utilised by all responders. In this instance acid resistant chemical suits, gauntlet gloves and safety wellington boots as well as full-face cartridge respirators were worn to ensure our responders were adequately protected during the spill clean-up. A decontamination area and waste storage area were established prior to commencement of the clean-up.

Any remaining acid inside the damaged IBCs was pumped to new receptacles. Contaminated solids including wooden pallets and plastic crates were removed allowing the spilled acid to be cleaned.

Any acid which could not be pumped was absorbed using chemical selective absorbents, all areas were wiped over several times to remove as much acid as possible before the area was flushed with water and the wash water collected, removing any residues.

All waste was removed from site and disposed of under our waste carriers licence. The spill clean-up was conducted in a matter of hours minimising downtime for the facility.

