



**Environmental  
Management  
Services**

## **30,000 litre Glucose Spill Case Study**

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### **Summary**

We were called to a spill following the rupturing of pipework connected to a glucose tank. The tank was not bunded and the spill covered the yard and filled the drains.

The spill occurred out of hours and so went undiscovered allowing the entire tanks contents to spill. Production had to be ceased until the yard was clean enough for a delivery vehicle to refill the tank meaning the clean up had to be conducted within 18 hours.



We were called to an emergency spill response by a major food manufacturer following a release of 30,000 litres of glucose.

The spill had covered their yard and filled their drains. The glucose had been heated in the tank to increase fluidity, however once it discharged and cooled it became extremely viscous slowing its progression through the drainage and subsequently being contained by a separator.

The drain run downstream was inspected to ensure no glucose had been discharged from the separator and the outlet from the drain run was plugged using an inflatable drain blocker to ensure no glucose could migrate off site.

The ruptured pipework was repaired by the client and a replacement glucose delivery was ordered for the following morning. The glucose delivery could not be completed unless the yard was cleared allowing the delivery vehicle access to the tank. If the delivery could not be made the client would have lost tens of thousands of pounds in the loss of production time.



Due to the viscosity of the glucose the only viable way to remove it was by heating and agitating it using a heated jet washer and use a vacuum tanker to pump it away. We arranged for a tanker to attend site and for empty IBCs to be made available to transfer the glucose into, this drastically reduced downtime when the tanker reached capacity.

Our spill response team worked through the night to clear a path for the delivery vehicle the following morning.

Once the delivery was successfully made we completed the spill clean up by hot jet washing the remaining residues and collecting the wash water using the tanker.

