



BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

Freeport-McMoRan
Health and Safety

Acid Spill Drill

Preparation is key when it comes to workplace safety.

Responding effectively to potential hazards demands more than a plan – it requires practice and readiness. At Bagdad, safely managing acid spills includes proactive measures to test emergency response plans through simulations that identify and address hazards and operational constraints that might impede timely and effective emergency response measures.

When handling acid, the risk of exposure or mechanical failure is inherent. Trucks that deliver acid to Bagdad hold approximately 3,000 gallons of 98% acid. If a spill occurs, every second is critical in mitigating potential harm from acid exposure.

To help ensure Bagdad is prepared, its safety team collaborated with the local Williamson Valley Fire Department to conduct an unannounced drill. To prepare for the exercise, the acid dock and tanker truck were first washed down. The fire department then positioned their water tanker and hoses to mimic an acid spill. The acid truck operator wore a full acid protection suit and called for help when noticing the spill, and a mayday call was initiated by Bagdad employees. The fire department responded to the mayday call and simulated the shutdown of the emergency systems on the acid truck to stop the flow and contain the acid spill.

In any hazardous spill situation, best practices are to ensure the availability of proper Personal Protective Equipment and easily accessible Safety Data Sheets for emergency responders arriving at the scene. Regular drills coordinated with local emergency services, and a commitment to preparedness help bridge operational gaps and ensure a more streamlined response during an emergency. Additionally, these exercises empower employees and emergency response personnel to respond efficiently and decisively during an emergency.

Talk with your local fire department and schedule a time and place for a drill. Safety is a shared responsibility and through collaborative efforts, continuous drills, and a steadfast commitment to preparedness, the workplace is safer for all.



Arizona State Mine Inspector 1700 W. Washington Suite, 403, Phoenix, AZ 85007
Paul D. Marsh pmarsh@asmi.az.gov (602) 542-5335

