

Duty to take action to respond to harm caused by pollution incident

The following section is from the EPA Registration A13c document:

Under section 31 of the Act, if a pollution incident has occurred as a result of an activity (whether by act or omission) and the pollution incident causes or is likely to cause harm to human health or the environment, a person who is engaging in that activity must, so far as reasonably practicable, restore the affected area to the state it was in before the pollution incident occurred.

So, what does this mean?

If a pollution event is occurring it is important that you stop the continuation of the event from occurring, if it's safe and practical to do so.

An example of this may be finding a small leak in a container and placing that container in some sort of containment capture and stop the release of material to the environment.

Clean up the area or make good, to restore the area to its pre-effected state.

The material that is cleaned up will most likely require specialist disposal.

You can contact an accredited consigner such as Circular Resources Australia to assist in appropriate disposal.