

**CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF TRAVERSE CITY  
PART EIGHTEEN - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Chap. 1820. Hazardous Spills Expense Recovery

## CHAPTER 1820

### Hazardous Spills Expense Recovery

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#### CROSS REFERENCES

Abandoned underground tanks - see F.P. 1610.09  
 Air pollution - see G.O. 668.04 and 660.03 (g)  
 Environmental Response Act - see MCLA 299.601, et seq; MSA 13.32(1), et seq.  
 Environmental Protection Act of 1970 - see MCLA 691.1201, et seq; MSA 14.528(101), et seq.  
 Health nuisances - see G.O. 660.03  
 Leaking Underground Storage Tank Act - see MCLA 299.833, et seq; MSA 14.528(261), et seq.  
 Safe Drinking Water Act - MCLA 325.1001, et seq; MSA 14.427(1), et seq.  
 Water pollution - see S.T.U & P.U. 1043.15 and 1062.11

**1820.01 INTENT.**

Surface waters, groundwater, soils, vegetation, and atmosphere inside the City are susceptible to damage from the handling, storage, use, processing and disposal of hazardous material and the expense incurred by the taxpayer as a result of the City or its Designee having to respond in an emergency to protect life, property and the environment when there has been a release of hazardous materials should be recovered from the person responsible for the emergency.

**1820.02 DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended:

1. *CFR* shall mean the Code of Federal Regulations.
2. *Compressed gas* shall mean any material regulated as a compressed gas by the United States Department of Transportation, by regulations found in 49 CFR §§173.300.
3. *Designee* shall mean the Northwestern Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team or such other public or private agency authorized in writing by the City to respond to hazardous materials incidents within the City.
4. *Emergency action* shall mean all of the activities conducted in order to prevent or mitigate injury to human health or to the environment inside the City from a release or threatened release of any material into or upon the environment.
5. *Explosive* shall mean any material regulated as a class A or class B explosive by the United States Department of Transportation, by regulations found in 49 CFR §§173.53 and 173.88.
6. *Flammable liquid* shall mean any material regulated as a flammable liquid by the United States Department of Transportation, by regulations found in 49 CFR §173.115.
7. *Flammable solid* shall mean any material regulated as a flammable solid by the United States

Department of Transportation by regulations found in 49 CFR §173.150.

8. Hazardous material shall mean any of the following:
  - a. Any material listed in the list of toxic pollutants found in 40 CFR §401.15, as amended.
  - b. Any material designated as hazardous material by applicable State law.
  - c. Any compressed gas, explosive, flammable liquid, flammable solid, oxidizer, poison or radioactive material.
9. Oxidizer shall mean any material regulated as an oxidizer by the United States Department of Transportation by regulations found in 49 CFR §173.151.
10. Person shall include any individual, corporation, association, partnership, firm, trustee, or legal representative.
11. Poison shall mean any liquid or gas that is life threatening when mixed with air in small amounts, and shall also include all those materials regulated as poison class A by the United States Department of Transportation by regulations found in 49 CFR §173.326.
12. Radioactive material shall mean any material required by the United States Department of Transportation to have type A packaging or other special protection or closed transport vehicles, under regulations found in 49 CFR §173.425.
13. Release shall mean any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injection, escaping, leaching, dumping or disposing into or upon the environment, which causes danger or harm to the public health or to the environment, including, but not limited to, the release of any material classified as hazardous material by any federal legislation or regulation, by any state legislation or regulation, or by any City ordinance.
14. Threatened release shall mean any imminent or impending event potentially causing but not resulting in a release, but causing the City to undertake an emergency action.

**1820.03 NOTICE AND RESPONSE.**

- a) Any person who has damaged the surface waters, groundwater, soils or atmosphere by the handling or storage of hazardous materials, or who have violated any local, State or federal environmental laws with respect to hazardous materials, are required to immediately notify the City of Traverse City.
- b) The requirements of this Chapter shall not be construed to forbid or forgive any person from using all diligence necessary to control a hazardous material release prior or subsequent to the notification to the City, especially if such efforts may result in the containment of the release or the abatement of extreme hazard to the employees or the general public. Delays in reporting releases due to in-house notification of off-site owners or supervisors shall result in penalties. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to exempt or release any person from any other notification or reporting required by any state or federal agency.
- c) The City Fire Chief or the City's Designee are authorized to direct an emergency action and the clean-up and abatement of any release, or threatened release within the City.

**1820.04 LIABILITY FOR COSTS.**

- a) Any person causing or contributing to the causing of a release or threatened release shall be liable to the City for the recoverable costs.
- b) The following described persons shall be jointly and severally liable to the City for the payment of all costs incurred by the City as a result of such clean up or abatement activity:

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- a. Any person whose negligent or willful act or omission proximately caused such release, discharge or deposit;
- b. The person who owned or had custody or control of the hazardous material or the material at the time of such release, discharge, or deposit, without regard to fault or proximate cause; and
- c. The person who owned or had custody or control of the container which held such hazardous material at the time of or immediately prior to such release, discharge or deposit, without regard to fault or proximate cause.

### **1820.05 RECOVERY OF COSTS.**

- a) The City or its Designee shall keep an itemized record of recoverable costs resulting from a release or threatened release including an emergency action.
- b) The City or its Designee shall submit a written itemized claim to the responsible person for the total costs incurred by the City or its Designee related to the release or threatened release and any emergency action and a written notice that unless the amounts are paid in full within thirty (30) days after the date of the mailing of the claim and notice, a civil action will be commenced seeking recovery for the stated amount plus any amounts occasioned by such suit.
- c) For the purposes of this Chapter, costs of the City or its Designee shall mean all direct and indirect costs and shall include costs of an emergency action and shall include but not be limited to the following:
  1. Actual labor cost of personnel, including workers compensation benefits and fringe benefits;
  2. Administrative overhead;
  3. Costs of equipment operation;
  4. Costs of materials;
  5. Laboratory costs of analyzing samples taken during the emergency action.
  6. Medical expenses incurred as a result of response activities.
  7. Costs of any contract labor;
  8. Costs to supervise or verify the adequacy of the cleanup or abatement by others; and
  9. Legal expenses that may be incurred as a result of the release or threatened release, including actions for recoverable costs pursuant to this Chapter.
- d) Costs recovered related to the emergency action incurred by the City's Designee shall be transferred to the Designee as soon as possible.

### **1820.06. CIVIL SUIT.**

The City or Designee may bring a civil action for payment of the recoverable costs against any and all persons liable under this Chapter. All costs of such suit, including actual attorney fees, shall also be a recoverable cost within the same civil action.

### **1820.07. CONFLICT WITH STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.**

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to conflict with state or federal laws requiring persons causing or responsible for release or threatened releases from engaging in remediation activities or paying the cost thereof, or both.

### **1820.08. NONEXCLUSIVE REMEDY.**

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The remedies provided by this Chapter shall be in addition to any other remedies available in equity or at law and such penalties as provided by law or ordinance.

(Ord. 379. Passed 1-3-94.)

### **1820.99 PENALTY.**

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 202.99 for general Code penalty if no specific penalty is provided.)