



## **HOME HEATING OIL SPILLS**

### **PREVENTION**

- Have your furnace checked every year by a qualified service company or your local oil delivery company.
- Program the 24-hour oil spill hotline numbers (below) into your phone, or post where you can quickly find them.

### **FOR SPILLS**

- Open outside doors and windows to release contaminated air. Turn off forced hot air heating and/or central air conditioning and close or cover the grills. Close the door from the basement to first floor. Use a plastic shower liner or plastic tablecloth to cover all cracks and gaps between the door, wall, and floor.
- Call your local fire department.
- Turn off all flames – pilot lights, stoves, candles, gas fire logs, etc.
- Do not smoke! Put out all cigarettes, pipes, and cigars.
- Do not touch light switches, outlets, radios, stoves, dryers, or any other electrical equipment until the spill is completely cleaned up. These items can cause a spark or get hot.
- Avoid getting fuel oil on your skin and avoid breathing oil vapor for extended periods of time.
- If you must enter the spill area, wear rubber boots, gloves, and protective eyewear. If oil contacts your shoes, try not to track it to other areas.
- Report the spill to Delaware's 24-hour spills hotline at **1-800-662-8802**.

**Poison Control Center 24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-800-222-1222**  
**DPH 24/7 Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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## FOR CLEAN-UP AND RECOVERY

- If the odor is strong in living areas of your home, you may need to temporarily move out until the clean-up is complete. This is especially wise if the household includes young children, the elderly, or people with chronic health conditions. If strong odors in the living space remain a problem, homeowners may need to discard rugs, drapes, clothing, and other items that contacted fuel oil.
- A licensed environmental contractor may be needed if fuel oil has soaked into the soil, entered groundwater, or if a large amount spilled. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control can provide guidance on the type of work you will need. If the person or company causing the contamination can be identified, they may be legally responsible for covering the costs of clean-up.

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