



**Remediation and Redevelopment Program**

## Hazardous Substance Spills in Wisconsin

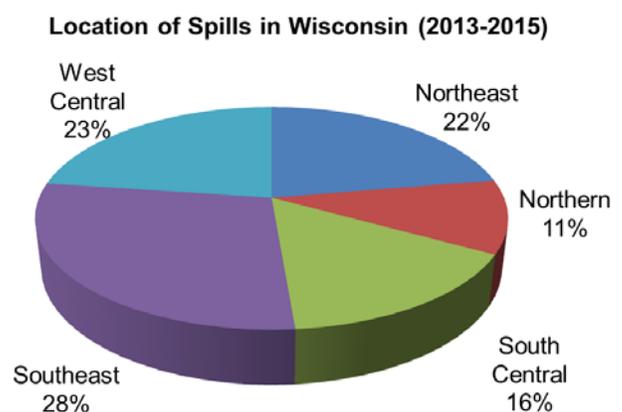
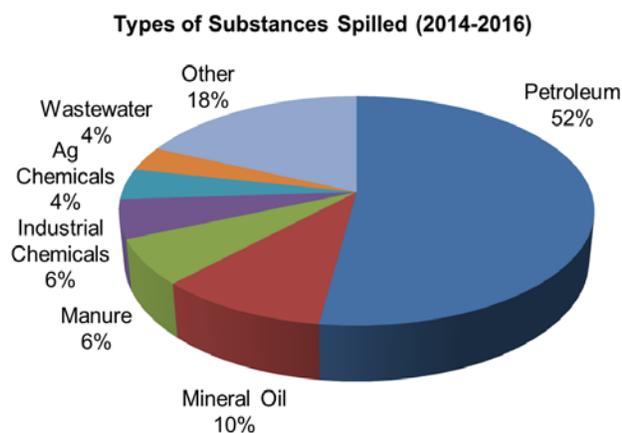
Hazardous substances play important roles in our everyday quality of life – from the natural gas that heats our home, to the fertilizer that keeps our lawn green. When a discharge or spill of a hazardous substance occurs, there is a potential danger to the public and the environment. In most instances, hazardous substance spills must be reported immediately to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) using the DNR’s 24-hour toll-free hotline (1-800-943-0003). Most of these spills require cleanup to protect public health and the environment. For more information on the spills program, visit the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program website [dnr.wi.gov, search “Spills.”](http://dnr.wi.gov, search 'Spills.')

### Where Are The Most Spills In Wisconsin?

Wisconsin averages almost 1,000 spills of hazardous substances every year. The majority of these spills occur in the most populated areas of the state. Twenty-eight percent of all spills occur in the southeast part of Wisconsin where the population is highest, while only 11 % of all spills occur in the less-populated northern part of the state.

### What Substances Are Spilled Most Often?

The most commonly transported materials are petroleum-based substances used to fuel vehicles or heat homes; therefore they have the most potential to be spilled. Petroleum-related spills (including mineral oil) account for approximately 44% of all spills in Wisconsin annually. Other substances spilled include agricultural and industrial chemicals, manure, and wastewater.



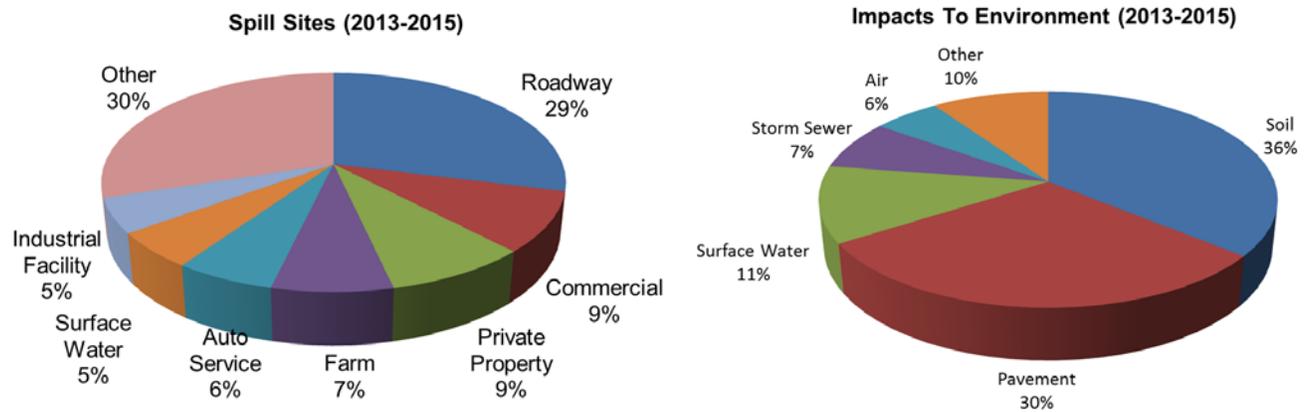
## Where Do Most Spills Occur?

Spills can happen anywhere. The most spills occur on roadways (29%), commercial properties (12%), private properties (12%), and farms (7%)

## How Do Spills Impact The Environment?

Approximately 30% of spills each year in Wisconsin are contained and/or recovered before they impact the environment. The remaining spills can impact the environment or become a public health concern through the contamination of air, soil, and water.

Spills to soil account for approximately 36%, while spills to surface water or storm sewers occur approximately 18% of the time. Spills that could contaminate groundwater are investigated further and cleaned up as necessary.



## Wisconsin DNR Spill Coordinators

[Wisconsin DNR spill coordinators](#) respond to a wide variety of hazardous substance releases, from agricultural manure spills to train car accidents and chemical fires. Spill coordinators work with local fire departments and hazardous materials teams to coordinate response and clean-up activities. The general public is also encouraged to contact a DNR spill coordinator if they have any questions about a release or potential release in their communities.