

# How to handle a spill

Spills of hazardous substances threaten water quality in the lakes and rivers and are potentially harmful to human health. Petroleum products are the most common substance spilled and most spills are minor and can be cleaned up in a matter of hours. However, the impact to water quality in the lakes is partly contingent on a timely notification and response. In order to ensure that spills are cleaned up quickly, the following procedure should be followed.



## **If you are responsible:**

The spill should be reported to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) spill response unit in Ray Brook at 897-1242 during business hours (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Otherwise, you must call the DEC's 24 hour spill response hotline at 1-800-457-7362.

The spill should also be reported to local authorities as soon as possible so that they may determine whether the spill is immediately dangerous and that they may begin containing it. Call either the Fire Department at 523-3211, the Police at 523-3306, or 911 if there is no answer.

You are required by law to report the spill to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), unless the spill meets all of the following requirements. However, the DEC would prefer that any spill be reported, as spills of any size can be dangerous or harmful to water quality.

- The spill is less than 5 gallons; and
- The spill is contained and under control; and
- The spill will not reach water; and
- The spill is cleaned within 2 hours of discovery.

## **If you are not responsible:**

- Do not attempt to contain the spill if you do not know what it is.
- Move away from the area, especially if there are harmful vapors coming from the spill,
- You should report the spill to either the fire department at 523-3211, the police at 523-3306, or 911 immediately, regardless of the substance.

The Mirror Lake Watershed Assn. meets at 5 p.m. every second Monday at the Peacock Park Beach House. Your participation is encouraged.