

Tow truck industry environmental policy

Licensed tow truck operators should:

- Adhere to all federal, state and local environmental agency regulations and codes of practice.
- Encourage a sense of environmental responsibility among all employees through training, education and communication.
- Dispose of waste in environmentally acceptable ways.
- Pay particular attention to the storage and transport of Dangerous Goods, containment of run-off from damaged vehicles held in holding yards and wash-down areas, and the safety and integrity of any storage containers used to hold liquid waste.
- Be mindful of the effect of heavy vehicles on the environment and promote a policy of regular maintenance and monitoring of emissions for company vehicles.

Guidelines for responsible action

- Ensure that cleanup of fluids from damaged vehicles at accident scenes occurs and is carried out by the appropriate party (e.g. vehicle owner, council, NSW Fair Trading) and if first to the scene take steps to stop fluid leaks from reaching drainage systems and/or report to the appropriate agency (e.g. Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Fire Brigade, Police)
- The Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) has advised that where small amounts of fluid waste are on the tray of a tow truck they can be mopped up with a rag which can then placed in a bin as solid waste provided the rags do not spill any fluid once it has been absorbed.
- For large quantities of fluid, the EPA and/or local government guidelines must be followed. The EPA can be contacted on 131 555.
- Holding yard – you must prevent waste fluids from stored vehicles from entering drains.

For further information contact the EPA on 131 555 or visit the EPA website at;
<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au>

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