

How to report diesel spills in Devon.

If you notice a spill in the green area of the map below, it can be reported to:

Devon County Council's Control and Information Room

01392 383329

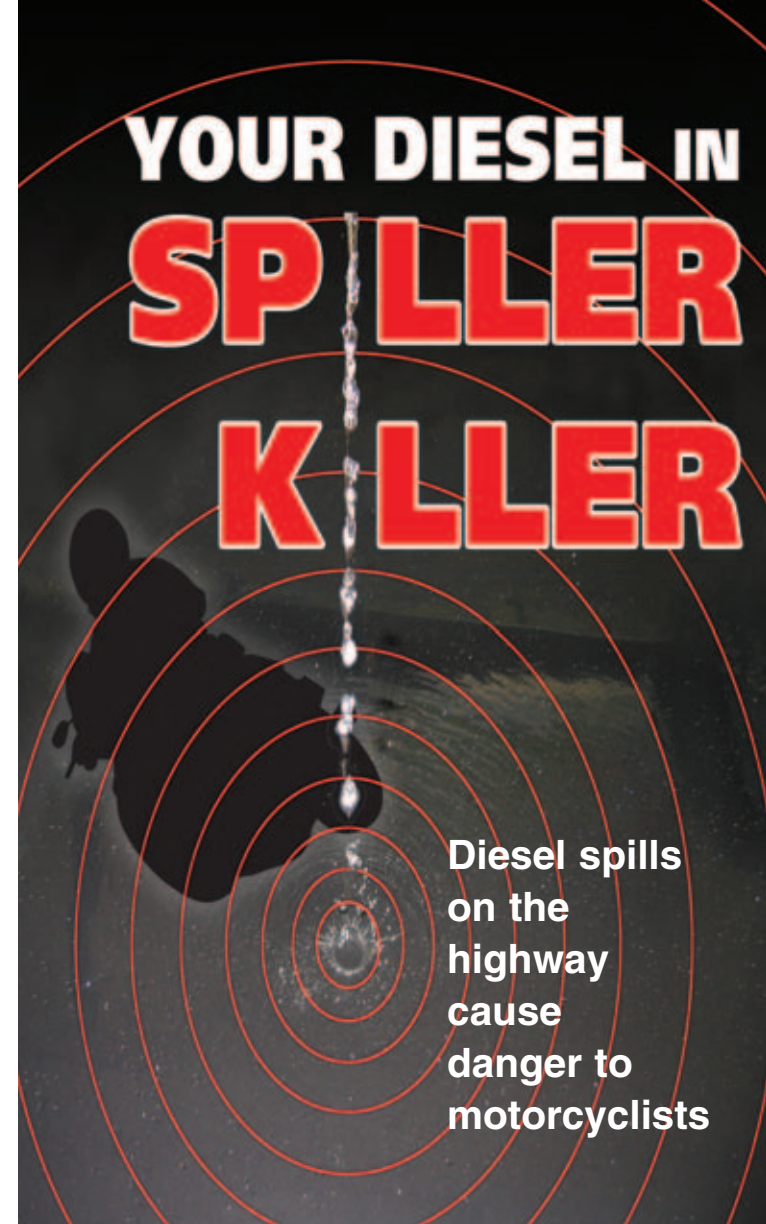
Area covered by Devon County Council



Make sure you can give an accurate location of the spill as this information is crucial. Diesel spills should only be reported if they are around the size of a manhole cover or larger. We are especially concerned where they appear on bends, junctions and roundabouts where they can be particularly hazardous, as motorcycles are most vulnerable in these locations.

This number can also be used to report other highway defects such as potholes.

Remember: If you're using a mobile phone first find a safe place to stop before calling. Don't be tempted to walk into the road to examine the spill closer. There are a number of substances which could be confused with diesel which are considerably more hazardous. Any highway spillage, both liquid and solid, should be treated with caution.



www.devon.gov.uk/roadsafe
email: bikers@devon.gov.uk
telephone: 01392 446124

Published by Environment Directorate, Devon County Council,
Lucombe House, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW

March 2004

**Bringing bikers
out of the blind spot**



Diesel spills: what's the problem?

Diesel left on the highway, by everything from large goods vehicles, buses and tractors to cars, causes a slippery surface which is **hazardous to all road users** - and **potentially lethal to motorcyclists**.

The numbers of vehicles using diesel on UK roads, and the frequency of the spills, has now created a problem that **requires our immediate attention**.

Every year, motorcyclists are needlessly put at risk of death or serious injury as a result of these spills - **but together we can stop this from happening**.

This initiative from Devon County Council aims to provide information to all road users about the threats posed by diesel spills, how they can be avoided and **what we can all do to help to limit this problem**.

What causes diesel spills?

There are three main reasons why diesel spills occur, these being:

- Overfilling or carelessly filling fuel tanks.
- Incorrectly fitted or broken fuel caps.
- Poorly serviced equipment.

Any of these reasons can lead to diesel being spilled onto the carriageway and although each may seem harmless and unimportant at the time can nevertheless potentially cause death or injury to motorcyclists.

How can they be avoided?

With a little common sense and care diesel spills are avoidable.

- Don't overfill your fuel tank. If you do you'll lose the fuel anyway and create a hazard for others.
- Make sure the fuel cap is securely fastened.
- Ensure your vehicle is well serviced. If you see a problem, get it fixed immediately. Nobody wants to waste fuel - less still create difficulties for others on the road while they're wasting it.

As well as causing hazards on the road, diesel also corrodes the bitumen road surface causing longer-term safety problems and adds to the cost of highway maintenance.

If you drop diesel on the highway you could be recharged with the cost of repairing the damage.

REPORT SPILLS

Devon County Council's record for treating diesel spills is good but early reporting is essential if we are to work swiftly and efficiently. The earlier they are reported, the sooner they can be dealt with.

How to spot a diesel spill

There are a number of characteristics that allow you to detect diesel spills on the road:

- Diesel spills have a rainbow effect in wet conditions
- Diesel has a distinctive smell
- The spills are slippery underfoot