

11 HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

11.1 INTRODUCTION

Hazardous substances are any substances which may impair human, plant or animal health or may adversely affect the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems. Well known substances that are hazardous to people or the environment include petrol, pesticides, explosives, acids or radioactive substances.

11.2 ISSUES

1. **Hazardous substances** can have significant and long-term effects on human life and water, soil and wildlife if they are not adequately stored, used, disposed or transported.

Grey District is fortunate that many classes of **hazardous substances** are not used extensively in the District. Nevertheless, the **Council** would like to ensure that the manufacture, use, storage, transportation, and disposal of **hazardous substances** in the District are carried out in an appropriate manner. Potential threats include oil spillage and the escape of **hazardous substances** in manufacturing and extractive operations and during disposal.

11.3 OBJECTIVE

1. To prevent or mitigate the actual and potential effects arising from the storage, use, disposal and transportation of **hazardous substances**.

11.4 POLICIES

1. **Hazardous substances** should be securely contained during their use, storage and transport so as to prevent escape.
2. **Hazardous substances** should be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner.

11.4.1 EXPLANATION AND REASONS

Under the **Act** the **Council** is responsible for ensuring that the potential adverse effects of **hazardous substances** in the District are prevented or mitigated to protect the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems and to ensure the health and safety of the District's residents and visitors.

Secure containment and disposal in an environmentally acceptable manner are critical in achieving the objective.

11.5 IMPLEMENTATION METHODS

1. Compliance with all legislation dealing with **hazardous substances** including the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, Dangerous Goods Act 1962 and Building Act 1991.
2. Provision of rules to control the manufacturing, use and storage of quantities of **hazardous substances** in the District.

DISTRICT WIDE ISSUES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES - HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

3. Objectives, policies and rules in the Regional Council Plans to control the discharge of contaminants to land, water and air.
4. Use of the enforcement provisions under the Act where hazardous substances are manufactured, used, stored, transported or disposed of in such a way that is or is likely to be either noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable to such an extent as to cause adverse effects on the environment.
5. In conjunction with the Regional Council and other local authorities on the West Coast the Grey District Council will encourage and support:
 - a) The establishment and regularly updating of a hazardous substances inventory for the Grey District recording the amounts and patterns of hazardous substance manufacture, use, storage, transportation and disposal in the District.
 - b) Develop methods and facilities for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted hazardous substances and hazardous wastes, including:
 - i) promoting the disposal of hazardous substances at these facilities in a manner that minimises any adverse effects on the environment; and
 - ii) ensuring that any hazardous substances that can not be disposed of safely are totally contained in an appropriate storage facility; and
 - iii) investigate transporting hazardous wastes out of the District.
6. Prepare an emergency response plan, in conjunction with other appropriate agencies, to deal with any spillages of hazardous substances or hazardous waste in the District.
7. Compliance with appropriate Codes of Practice, any regional/national standards or guidelines, and relevant regulations.
8. Increase public awareness on the potential environmental effects of hazardous substances such as through the issue of LIMs and PIMs for known potentially contaminated sites.

11.5.1 REASONS

A variety of methods will be used. Rules in the District Plan will be used to set thresholds for the storage of substances depending on the sensitivity of a particular area. In addition, any new manufacturing processes that are involved in the production of hazardous substances can only be established via the resource consent process. Objectives, policies and rules in the Regional Council Plans control the discharge of hazardous substances.

The Council does not consider that any consent is necessary specifically for the transportation of hazardous substances in the District as this is covered by separate legislation.

The Council recognises that the safe disposal of many types of hazardous substances and hazardous wastes is difficult, and in some cases impossible. Accordingly, the Council will promote safer disposal practices through public education and advice. Use of industry guidelines is also encouraged as well as contingency plans. The Regional Council holds a register of potentially known contaminated sites such as former sawmilling, fuel storage and gold recovery sites and Council will advise of their presence, where known, on documents such as LIMs and PIMs.

**DISTRICT WIDE ISSUES, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES - HAZARDOUS
SUBSTANCES**

The control of **hazardous substances** will only be made possible with a good information base, research, and with the co-operation of people of the District. Accordingly, the establishment of a **hazardous substances** inventory will be encouraged and supported. Liaison with other agencies and educative or advisory methods will be utilised as appropriate. The **hazardous substances** inventory will record the amounts of and patterns of **hazardous substances** manufactured, used, stored, transported and disposed of, thereby enabling the monitoring of **hazardous substances** in the District. Both the Regional Council and the three district councils on the West Coast have responsibilities under the **Act** for the collection, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. The Regional Council will co-ordinate with territorial authorities and others who are involved with **hazardous substances** to develop a regional approach to management and disposal systems for **hazardous substances**.

11.6 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS ANTICIPATED AND MONITORING

Anticipated Environmental Results	Monitoring and Review Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A low level of risks from hazardous substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and reporting on any spillages, pollution or other hazards including use of hazardous substances inventory.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public awareness from the public of adverse effects of hazardous substances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and reporting of any spillage, pollution or other hazardous substances including use of hazardous substances inventory. • Surveys e.g. Ratepayers, commercial ratepayers. • Assess situation at McLeans landfill and other district landfills by reference to site management records and monitoring conditions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a method to dispose of hazardous substances in an environmentally acceptable manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with Regional Council. • Volume of hazardous substances waiting to be disposed of.