

As the District 10 Hazmat Manager for the California Department of Transportation we respond to multiple hazmats in our district. We are located in California's Central valley covering eight full counties and part of one more county. We have two major routes that pass through our district and they are Interstate 5 and Highway 99 that carries a lot of truck traffic. We also have several mountain routes that cross the Sierra Nevada. We have six Hazardous Materials Specialist's that can respond to incidents throughout our district.

In the last few years with the Federal Government passing responsibilities to the local County Environmental Health agencies to insure spill sites are cleaned up and now requiring soil samples to verify that the site is in fact clean we are finding more Environmental Health Inspectors wanting soil samples even on the smaller spills such as 50 gallons of diesel for example. The problem we are experiencing is that we can't get the lab results back right away. So we have an excavation site from a spill right next to the highway and cannot leave it without backfilling.

About two years ago we found the Hanby TPH Soil Kit and working with the local Environmental Health Inspectors we tried the Soil Kit in the field on an actual Diesel spill and they were satisfied with the test results so that we could immediately backfill the excavation site.

I've used this kit now in four different counties on several incidents with lab samples also taken that have come back with the same results. Both I and the County Environmental Health Inspectors that have been on these incidents have been happy with the results. I've even been asked to bring the kit to one of our Countywide Multi Agency Team meetings to show it to the team. What we really like is the ability to quickly test and be able to determine the site is clean and get it backfilled immediately so that we can get things opened back up quickly and have the site safe for the traveling public.

Here we are testing in the field after a big rig accident that lost about 75 gallons of diesel.





Testing only takes a few minutes and we can immediately know if the site is clean or if we need to excavate further.

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