SOP

Spilt, Misapplied or Lost VTAs

Key point: look after anyone hurt or affected first, then the spill. Do not clean up a major spill yourself. Most VTAs have no antidote, and cyanide has none.

Is it major or minor?

Very toxic or tracked, labelled FATAL or TOXIC, or more than 200 L?

YES: MAJOR

Do not deal with it yourself

- Call 111 and alert Fire and Emergency
- Evacuate and keep people away
- Have the SDS ready for emergency services
- Notify WorkSafe

NO: MINOR

Clean it up safely

- Wear the correct PPE and keep others away
- Keep it out of drains and water
- Follow the bait clean-up steps below
- Dispose of waste following the SDS, then clean PPE

⚠ **Cyanide, 1080, PAPP and other class 6.1A or 6.1B VTAs are major at any amount. Keep cyanide and phosphides dry, as water can release toxic gas. Stay upwind.**

Cleaning up bait

Scoop

Once it is safe, scoop bait into sealed containers and sweep up fine material.

Then wash

Wash the area with plenty of water only after all bait is gone, and only if the SDS allows it.

Keep it out

Keep it out of streams and waterways. Isolate the area until it is finished.

Near water or a drain? Block drains if safe and report it straight away. In Southland, call the Environment Southland 24-hour line. Elsewhere, call your regional council. **0800 76 88 45**

Afterwards

Update records

Record the amount lost and how it was disposed of on the Tracking Sheet.

Report

Under a permission? Tell the issuer within 24 hours if public health could be affected.

Review

Refill the spill kit and fix the cause (good practice).

Who to call

111 Fire, injury or major spill	**0800 764 766** National Poisons Centre, 24 hours	**0800 030 040** WorkSafe, notifiable events	**0800 76 88 45** Environment Southland pollution

Notifiable events include a death, a notifiable injury or illness, and a dangerous spill or release of a hazardous substance. Notify WorkSafe as soon as possible, and do not disturb the scene except to help people or make it safe.

Summary only. Check the label, SDS, your licence, certificate and any permission conditions: WorkSafe guidance on spills and notifiable events; Ministry of Health VTA permission guidelines 2022; MPI adverse event reporting; Adroit Solutions VTA manual; Environment Southland; National Poisons Centre.

Key point: misapplied means the wrong product, rate, place or time, or bait where it should not be. Stop first, look after people and animals, then get advice.

What to do

1. **Stop**
   Stop laying and secure the rest of the bait.
2. **Look after people**
   Anyone exposed: follow the SDS first aid and get medical help straight away.
3. **Protect animals**
   Remove stock, keep dogs out, tell owners and call a vet. Pindone: stock off for at least a month.
4. **Recover bait**
   With PPE on, recover misplaced bait and carcasses. Use your numbering or GPS record.
5. **Work out what happened**
   Product, rate, area, time and weather. Check against the label and permission.
6. **Fix the cause**
   Retrain or change the plan before laying again (good practice).

Who to tell

! NEIGHBOURS	**Bait on someone else's land, or their animals affected** Tell them straight away, and tell your regional or district council.
! PERMISSION	**Under a Public Health or DOC permission** Report incidents and complaints affecting public health within 24 hours, and bait in surface water as soon as possible.
! MPI	**Misplaced application, or poisoned non-target animals** Report an adverse event to the registrant on the label, or ACVM-adverseevents@mpi.govt.nz.

Record it

- [ ] Date, time and how you found out
- [ ] Weather, especially wind strength and direction
- [ ] People or animals exposed, and symptoms
- [ ] Product, HSR number, amount and location
- [ ] Who and what equipment was involved
- [ ] Who you told, what you did, and photos

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Key point: missing VTAs are a risk to people and animals, so act the same day. Check quickly, and if you cannot account for it, report it.

Can you account for it?

Recount, check the Tracking Sheet and bait record, and search. Found it?

YES

Correct the record

- Fix the Tracking Sheet and inventory
- Work out why they did not match
- Move it back to secure storage

NO, OR STOLEN

Report it the same day

- Tell your employer or CSL holder
- Call Police: 105, or 111 if it is happening now
- Ask WorkSafe whether it needs notifying
- Secure the rest of your stock

Have this ready for Police

- [ ] Product name, class and HSR number, with the SDS
- [ ] Where and when it was last seen
- [ ] Signs of a break-in, with photos
- [ ] Amount, container type and pack identifiers
- [ ] Who has had access or keys
- [ ] Bait or station locations, if taken from the field

Also lost or tampered with

Baits or stations

Bait taken from the field: warn nearby people, and tell the permission issuer if you hold one.

Warning signs

Removing signs or baits is an offence. Replace damaged signs and report it.

Your CSL

Tell WorkSafe if your licence card is lost.

Stop it happening again (good practice)

Lock it

Lock and key at all times, and limit who has keys or the code.

Count it

Check the sheet against the shelf at least every three months.

Map it

Number or GPS-map every bait so you can recover it.

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