

Hazardous Substances (HAZ)

Overview

Hazardous substances are used in many industries and activities in the District. Activities involving hazardous substances have positive effects by providing products and services, but also create risks to those who use them and the surrounding environment. The risks arise from the possible accidental release, fire or explosion of these hazardous substances.

Inadequate storage and location of hazardous substances are the main areas of concern. Where hazardous facilities are located next to coastal waters, waterways, above aquifers, or close to environmentally sensitive areas such as indigenous wetlands or residential areas, the issue of unintentional release of hazardous substances is of special concern. Possible adverse effects of hazardous substances upon the environment include:

- Contamination of water, soil and air.
- Short and long-term damage to ecosystems.
- Accumulation of persistent substances in the bodies of humans and animals, resulting in damage to their health and well-being, including spiritual values held by tangata whenua.

This chapter manages the use, development or protection of land so as to prevent adverse effects from facilities using, storing, transporting or disposing of hazardous substances. Management of the hazardous substances in a wider sense is the function of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

Objectives

HAZ-O1 – Adverse Effects

Protection of the environment from the adverse effects and risks, from activities involving the use, storage, manufacture, transport and disposal of hazardous substances.

Policies

HAZ-P1 – Location

To ensure that hazardous substances are stored and used in locations where any adverse effects on human health, the surrounding natural and physical resources, and ecosystems, and surrounding land use activities are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

HAZ-P2 – Design of Facilities

To ensure that activities involving the use or storage of hazardous substances are designed, constructed and managed to avoid the risk of fire and explosion, and to protect human and environmental health.

HAZ-P3 –Transportation

To ensure that the transportation of hazardous substances is undertaken in a manner that reduces the risk of accidental leaks and spills.

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HAZ-P4 – Disposal

To dispose of hazardous substances waste at specialised facilities to avoid inappropriate release into the environment.

Rules

HAZ-R1

The use, storage or on-site movement of hazardous substances

All Zones

Activity Status: P

Activity Status when compliance not achieved: D

Where:

1. The use, storage or on-site movement of hazardous substances complies with the conditions for permitted activities in Appendix 8 of the District Plan.

HAZ-R2

The movement of hazardous substances between sites

All Zones

Activity Status: P

Activity Status when compliance not achieved: D

Where:

1. The movement is conducted by means of an underground pipeline.