

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

EXTREME EVENTS AND DISASTERS REPORT 2025



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1. Introduction

Zimbabwe is experiencing an increasing frequency and intensity of hazards, many of which are driven by global climate change, most notably the El Niño phenomenon. These climatic shifts are altering rainfall patterns and raising average temperatures. A clear example is the El Niño-induced drought during the 2023/24 agricultural season, which placed immense pressure on food security and water resources, disrupted livelihoods, and threatened ecosystems, particularly in regions already facing high vulnerability.

This report presents statistical data on extreme events and disasters that have affected Zimbabwe which include hydrological hazards, veld fires and technological incidents. The purpose of the report is to support evidence-based policy decisions, strengthen disaster risk management frameworks, and promote the development of adaptive and resilient systems capable of safeguarding the country's socio-economic development.

The statistics were compiled using administrative data from the Department of Civil Protection Unit, Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe National Water Authority, International Organization for Migration, Police General Headquarters (PGHQ), and the Food and Nutrition Council.

2. Hazard Profile

As illustrated in Figure 1, Zimbabwe is exposed to a wide range of hazards that threaten lives, livelihoods and national development. These include natural hazards such as floods, flash floods, storms, hailstorms, periodic cyclones, droughts, prolonged dry spells, landslides, environmental degradation, veld fires and earthquakes.

In addition to natural hazards the country faces technological risks including road traffic accidents (RTAs), mining accidents, industrial incidents, chemical spillages and pollution. Biological hazards also pose significant challenges with human and livestock epidemics as well as transboundary diseases such as COVID-19. With respect to human–wildlife conflict, Zimbabwe continues to be affected, particularly in communities located near wildlife habitats.



Figure 1: Zimbabwe hazard profile

Source: Department of Civil Protection Unit

3. Fire Induced Disasters

There was a 4.1 percent (**20,378 ha**) increase in the area burnt by veld fires in Resettlement areas: A1 and A2 from **491,219 ha** in 2024 to **511,597 ha** in 2025. For National Parks, the burnt area increased by 14.5 percent (**7,053 ha**) between 2024 and 2025. When considering all land use types, the total area burnt in 2025 (**985,315 ha**), was 0.2 percent (**2,351 ha**) more than in 2024 (**982,964 ha**). (Table 1)

Table 1: Area burnt by veld fires (in hectares) classified by land use, 2024 and 2025

Land use	2025		2024		difference (ha)	% change in area burnt
	Area burnt (ha)	% to total area burnt	Area burnt (ha)	% to total area burnt		
Resettlement areas: A1 and A2	511,597	51.9	491,219	50	20,378	4.1
Safari Areas	154,565	15.7	161,373	16.4	-6,808	-4.2
Communal Lands	102,857	10.4	132,761	13.5	-29,904	-22.5
Resettlement areas: Model A and D	62,977	6.4	64,645	6.6	-1,668	-2.6
Small Scale Farms	66,625	6.8	55,220	5.6	11,405	20.7
National Parks	55,798	5.7	48,745	5	7,053	14.5
Forest	25,004	2.5	23,015	2.3	1,989	8.6
Recreational Parks	2,184	0.2	3,081	0.3	-897	-29.1
Urban	1,257	0.1	2,450	0.2	-1,193	-48.7
Sanctuary	1,361	0.1	284	0	1,077	379.2
Other Land	1,090	0.1	171	0	919	537.4
All land uses	985,315	100	982,964	100	2,351	0.2

Source of data: EMA Fire Report, 2025

The pictorial presentation of the burnt areas is provided in **Figure 2**.

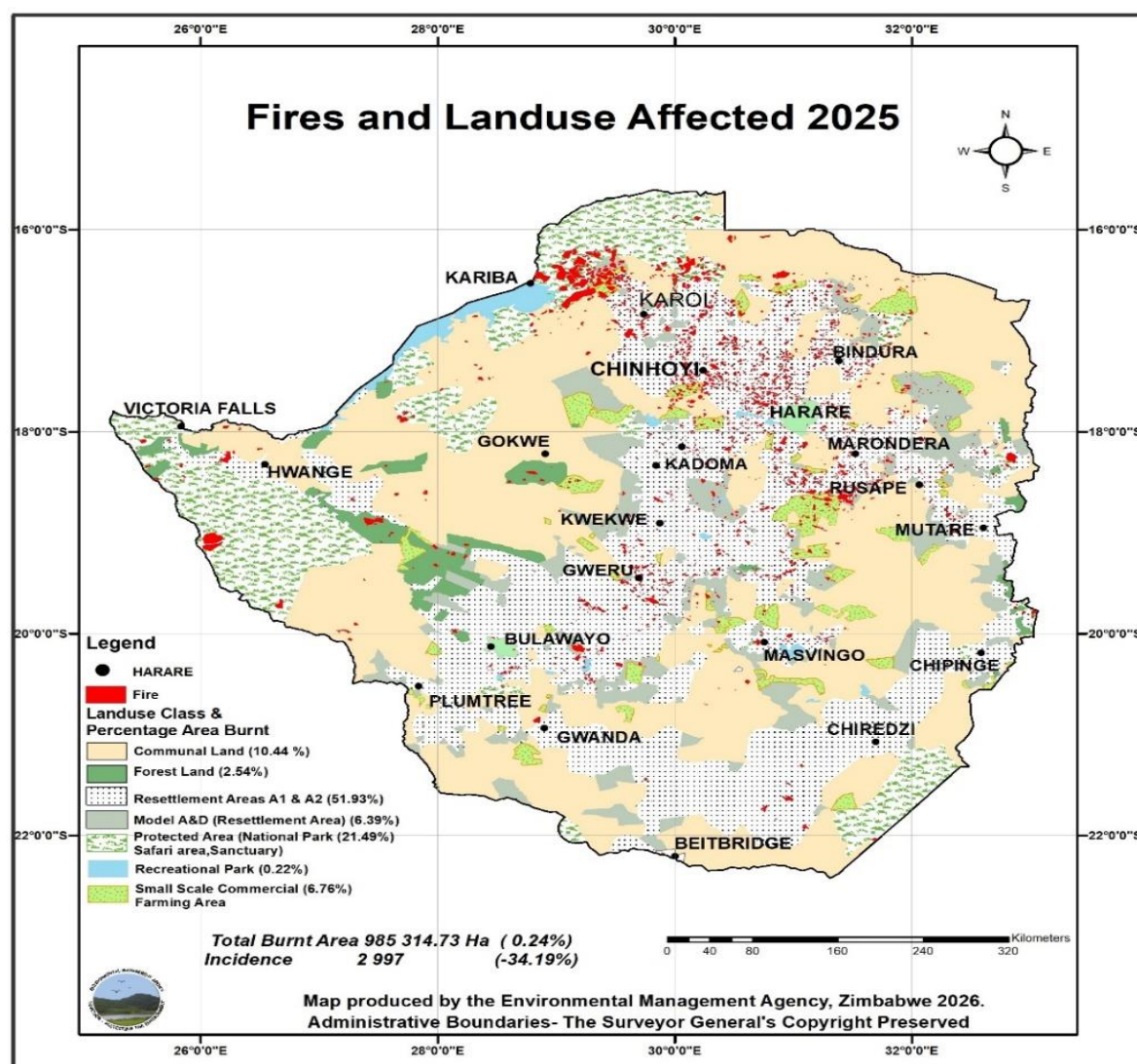


Figure 2: Area burnt by veld fires by land use, 2025

Source: EMA Fire Report 2025

There was a 34.2 percent decline in the number of fire incidents from 4,554 in 2024 to 2997 2025. while the number of deaths remained unchanged at 3. (**Table 2**)

Table 2: Fire incidences and deaths, 2024 and 2025

Issue	2024	2025	% change
Incidents	4,554	2,997	-34.2
Deaths	3	3	0.0

Source: EMA Fire Report 2025

Figure 3. presents the weekly burnt area in hectares between the week ending 5th July 2025 and 28th November 2025. The data shows variations in fire intensity across the reporting weeks with notable peak observed for week ending on 5th September 2025.

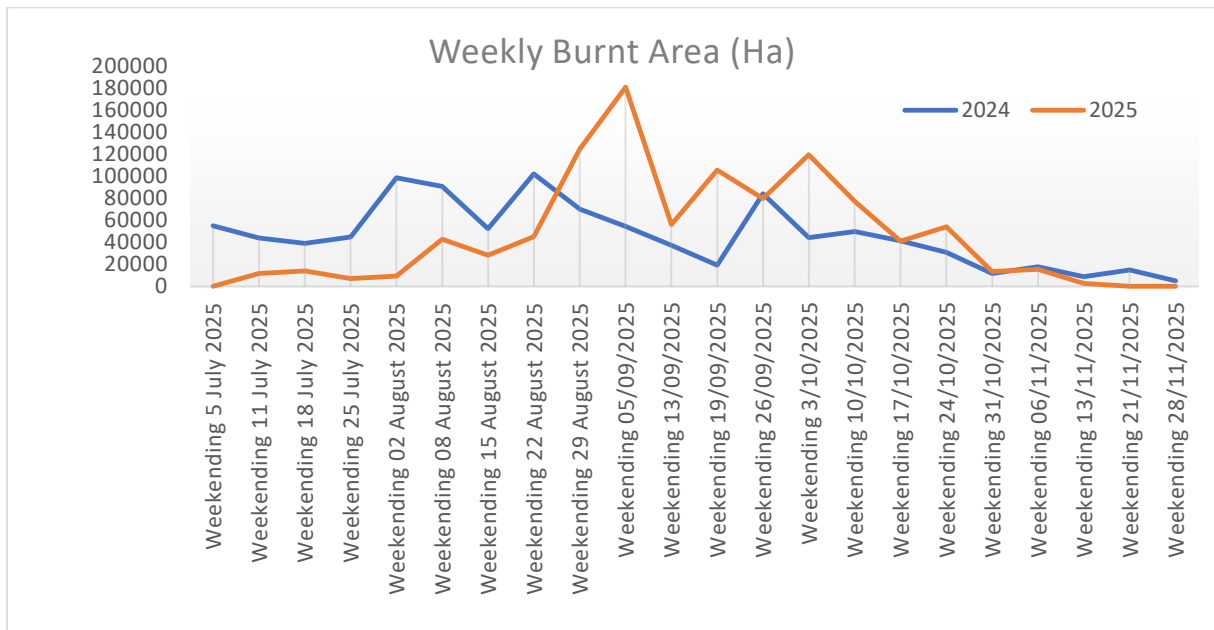


Figure 3: Comparison of weekly burnt area (in hectares), July to November 2025
Source: EMA Fire Report 2025

4. Hydrological Events and Disasters

In **Figure 5** is a spatial distribution of flood-prone areas across Zimbabwe, categorized into four risk levels namely None, Low, Medium, and High. The map shows flooding is not uniformly distributed across the country but is instead concentrated in specific geographic zones. The portion represented in white, falls under the "None" category, indicating the districts have no significant historical record of flooding based on available data.

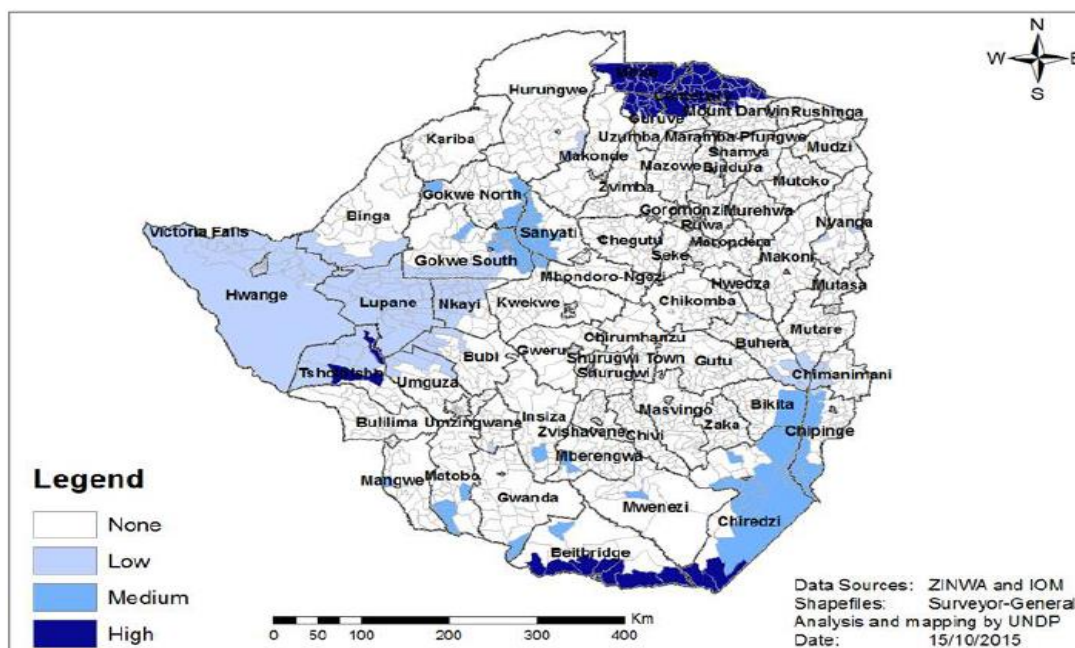


Figure 4: Areas prone to flooding in Zimbabwe

Source: Zimbabwe National Water Authority and International Organization for Migration, 2015

As depicted in **Figure 6**, all provinces experienced prolonged mid-season dry spells in 2024, with **at least sixty percent** of households in the respective provinces affected.

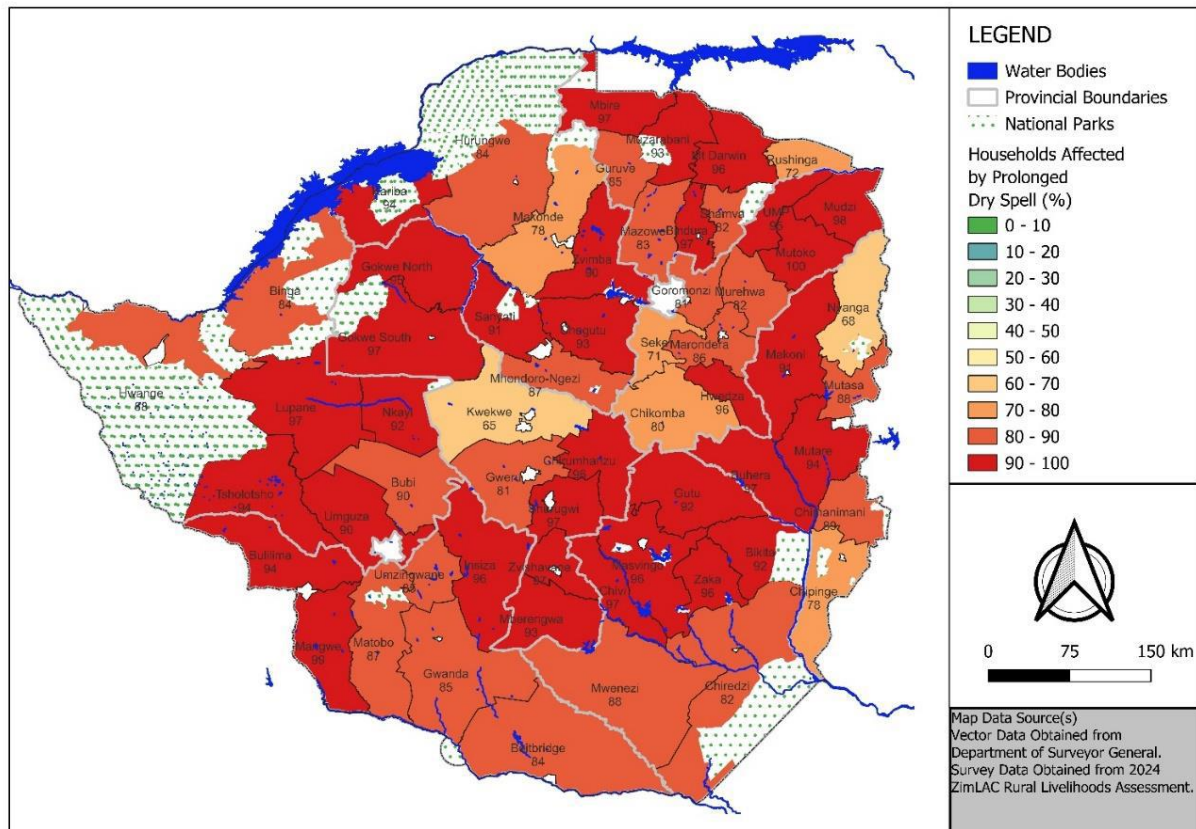


Figure 5: Prolonged mid-season dry spells

Source: Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC), Rural Livelihoods Assessment (2024)

Harare Metropolitan Province recorded the highest number of households affected by rainfall (5,093) during the 2024/25 rainy season. Manicaland recorded the highest number of deaths and injuries, while Matabeleland North recorded the highest number of schools damaged. In total, there were 132 casualties due to rainfall related incidents. **(Table 3)**

Table 3: Cumulative rainfall related incidents, 2025/26 rainfall season

	Households affected	People injured	Deaths recorded	Marooning incidents	Houses damaged	Infrastructure destroyed	Schools damaged	Health institutions damaged	Roads and Bridges Damaged
Masvingo	258	10	13	5	181	1 toilet block destroyed, Chipinda and Mutakaya Bridges swept away, 2 farm dams in Zaka. Zvamapere secondary school toilets damaged, Mazungunye, Mutikizizi, Zengeya and Negovanhu primary schools' toilets damaged.	30	-	6 bridges. Most roads need rehabilitation
<i>Mash. West</i>	390		22	1		3 toilets destroyed, Dendera Dam breach [Hurungwe District]		2	Most roads in Mhondoro-Ngezi are damaged. Mudzimu bridge damaged (Hurungwe district)
<i>Mash. East</i>	192	8	5				6	1	-
<i>Mash. Central</i>	131	2	5	1	40	Bridge, Police station was damaged, toilet block, classroom block, borehole.	11	-	1
<i>Midlands</i>	52	4	21	1 (involving 8 people)		Dadaya Training Centre; Hwahwa Prison; Mberengwa Prison; Rio Tinto College;	10	4	5 bridges; 4 roads
<i>Manicaland</i>	510	41	36		59	Destroyed Durawall and Storeroom, Chabata Business Centre- Buhera (disruption of service delivery), 2 toilets, Buhera Civil Registry roofs blown away	8	7	9 bridges; 3 footbridges; 29 impassable roads
<i>Mat South</i>	1,600	4	16	6	11	Makwe Irrigation Scheme Gwanda, 1 butchery, 1 Zaoga Durawall, 4 roads, Dendera & Mushowe dam	20	1	
<i>Mat. North</i>	53		8			6 Inmates Blocks (Khami Prisons)	147		
<i>Harare. Met</i>	5,093	3	1			1 vehicle struck by lightning at park town SDA	2	-	Most roads need rehabilitation
<i>Byo. Met</i>	60	-	5	2	48		3	-	-
TOTAL	8,339	72	132	53	339		237	15	

Source: Civil Protection Unit

5. Technological Disasters

Road Traffic Accidents

A total of 59,928 road accidents were reported in 2025. The fourth quarter recorded the highest number of both accidents and deaths, with 16,327 accidents and 694 deaths, representing 27.2% and 28.7% of the annual totals, respectively. **(Table 4)**

Table 4: Distribution of road traffic reported accidents by quarter, 2025.

Quarter	Number of Reported Accidents	Percent of Reported Accidents	Number of deaths from Reported Accidents	Percent of deaths from Reported Accidents	Number Injured from Reported Accidents	Percent of injured from Reported Accidents
March	12,808	21.4	464	19.2	2,599	22.5
June	15,350	25.6	624	25.8	2,926	25.3
September	15,443	25.8	637	26.3	3,078	26.7
December	16,327	27.2	694	28.7	2,941	25.5
Total	59,928	100	2,419	100	11,544	100

Source: Police General Headquarters (PGHQ)

Between 2016 and 2025, accidents and deaths both reached their highest recorded levels in 2025 at 59,928 and 2,419 respectively. Compared to 2024, 2025 recorded increases of 9.2% in accidents, 15.0% in deaths, and 8.9% in injuries. **(Table 5)**

Table 5: Distribution of road traffic reported accidents by year, 2016 - 2025.

Year	Number of Accidents	Number of Death	Number of Injuries
2016	46,681	1,584	11,605
2017	46,687	1,793	10,461
2018	58,739	1,918	12,487
2019	45,928	1,495	8,904
2020	35,560	1,520	6,920
2021	45,307	1,885	6,669
2022	52,582	2,079	10,611
2023	51,631	2,043	11,241
2024	54,891	2,104	10,597
2025	59,928	2,419	11,544

Source: Police General Headquarters (PGHQ)

6. Hazardous Substances

Hazardous Substance Licences Issued

Hazardous substances include corrosive substances, flammable liquids, gases, as well as solids and toxic substances. These substances are controlled through the use of Statutory Instrument (Hazardous Substances, Pesticides and other toxic Substances) Regulations, 2007). In this regard, hazardous substance license fees are charged to capacitate the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in monitoring, inspection and urgent spillage management.

Figure 7 shows the number of hazardous substance licenses issued by the Environment Management Agency from 1990 to 2005. The graph shows an overall upward trend over the 16-year period, with notable peaks in 2022, 2024 and 2025.



Figure 6: Hazardous substance licences issued, 2010-2025

Source: Environment Management Agency

Spillages

The number of reported spillages was generally below 30 between 2010 and 2021, ranging from 8 to 26. In 2023, the number more than doubled, peaking at 58, before declining to 55 in 2024 and 38 in 2025. (**Table 6**)

Table 6: Number of hazardous substance spillages during transportation, 2010 - 2025

Year	Number of Spillages
2010	10
2011	20
2012	18
2013	26
2014	19
2015	22
2016	19
2017	24
2018	21
2019	8
2020	19
2021	19
2022	39
2023	58
2024	55
2025	38

In 2023, a total of **21** spillages were reported from various locations. Spillage quantities ranged from **100 litres to 40,000 kg**. The highest recorded single spillage was 40,000 kg of oil and lubes in Harare in December 2023. Masvingo recorded the highest number of incidents at 6. (**Table 7**)

Table 7: Spillages by product and quantity, 2023

Date	Product	Spillages Qty kg	Location
12/22/2023	Oil and lubes	40,000	Harare
12/16/2023	Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion	8,000	Hwange
12/10/2023	Crude Tar	3,000	Beitbridge
11/29/2023	Oil	3,000	Rusape
11/06/2023	Jet A1	6,000	Mvuma
10/26/2023	Diesel	1,500	Masvingo
9/21/2023	Crude Soya bean oil	5,000	Mutare
8/31/2023	Heaxane	34,000	Masvingo
8/21/2023	Engine oil	10,271	Masvingo
7/09/2023	Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion	17,000	Beitbridge
5/28/2023	Hydrogen Peroxide	1,000	Murehwa
5/28/2023	Sodium Cyanide	100l	Murehwa
5/11/2023	Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion	15,000	Shurugwi
5/02/2023	Diesel	2,000	Harare
4/04/2023	Hydrogen Peroxide	1,000	Masvingo
03/29/2023	Jet A1	1,000	Harare
3/23/2023	Palm Oil	2,000	Gwanda
3/10/2023	AN Prills	33,600	Masvingo
2/27/2023	Petrol	5,000	Rusape
2/20/2023	Hydrogen Peroxide	1,200	Harare
2/13/2023	HTH Chlorine	32,000	Gwanda

Source: HeadWest – Qurity Spill Response

Of the spillage quantities recorded in 2024, Petrol and Diesel recorded the highest of **85,696** kilograms. Phosphoric acid had the least spillage quantity of 1000 kilograms. (**Table 8**)

Table 8: Spillages by product and quantity, 2024

Date	Product	Qty (kg)	Location	Total
12/07/2024	Diesel	9,787	Filabusi	85,696
12/04/2024	Diesel	3,000	Gweru	
2/20/2024	Diesel	21,909	Chirundu	
2/07/2024	Petrol/Diesel	51,000	Harare	
11/19/2024	Caustic Soda	5,575	Nyazura	5,575
9/20/2024	Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion	15,000	Zvishavane	15,000
7/08/2024	Sulphur	3,000	Chirundu	3,000
6/26/2024	Phosphoric Acid	1,000	Chirundu	1,000
5/24/2024	Mixed Chemicals	8,000	Bulawayo	8,000
4/16/2024	Soya Oil	2,000	Rusape	2,000
3/28/2024	Nitric Acid	4,000	Karoi	4,000
1/25/2024	Palm oil	20,000	Rusape	20,000
5/21/2024	Cobalt Hydroxide	33,000	Mwenezi	41,000
12/18/2024	Cobalt Hydroxide	6,000	Chirundu	
1/04/2024	Cobalt Hydroxide	2,000	Mutare	

Source: Headwest – Qurity Spill Response

