

ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS

EXTREME EVENTS AND DISASTERS REPORT 2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

Zimbabwe is facing an increasing frequency and intensity of hazards, many of which are driven by global climate change; notably the El Niño phenomena. These climatic shifts are altering rainfall patterns and raising average temperatures. A case in point is the 2023/24 agriculture season El Niño-induced drought, placing immense pressure on food security and water resources and disrupting livelihoods and threatening ecosystems, especially for regions already grappling with vulnerability.

This report provides statistical information on extreme events and disasters that have affected Zimbabwe including hydrological disasters, veld fires, and technological incidents. The report is intended to inform evidence-based policy decisions, enhance 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 obtained from Department of Civil Protection Unit, Environmental Management Agency, Zimbabwe National Water Authority, International Organization for Migration, Police General Headquarters (PGHQ) and Food and Nutrition Council.

2. HAZARD PROFILE, ZIMBABWE

As shown on figure 1, Zimbabwe experiences a wide range of hazards that pose risks to lives, livelihoods, and development. These include natural hazards such as floods, flash flooding, storms, hailstorms, periodic cyclones, droughts, prolonged dry spells, landslides, environmental degradation, veld fires, and earthquakes. In addition, the country faces technological hazards such as road traffic accidents (RTAs), mining accidents, industrial accidents, chemical spillages, and pollution. Biological hazards also feature prominently, including human and livestock epidemics as well as trans-boundary diseases like COVID-19. Furthermore, Zimbabwe is affected by human-wildlife conflict, especially in areas where communities border wildlife habitats.



Figure 1: Zimbabwe Hazard Profile

Source: Department of Civil Protection Unit

3. FIRE INDUCED DISASTERS

Area Burnt by Veld Fires in 2024 by Land Use

Areas under the Model A1 and A2 resettlement scheme were the most affected by veld fires in 2024, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total burnt area. (Table 1) The pictorial presentation of the burnt areas is provided in Figure 2.

Table 1: Area Burnt by Veld Fires Classified by Land Use, 2024

Land use	Area Burnt	% to total area burnt
Resettlement areas: A1 and A2	491,218.73	49.97
Safari Areas	161,373.24	16.42
Communal Lands	132,761.11	13.51
Resettlement areas: Model A and D	64,645.20	6.58
Small Scale Farms	55,220.36	5.62
National Parks	48,744.82	4.96
Forest	23,014.89	2.34
Recreational Parks	3,081.47	0.31
Urban	2,449.50	0.25
Sanctuary	284.22	0.03
Other Land	170.79	0.02

Source: EMA Fire Report, 2024

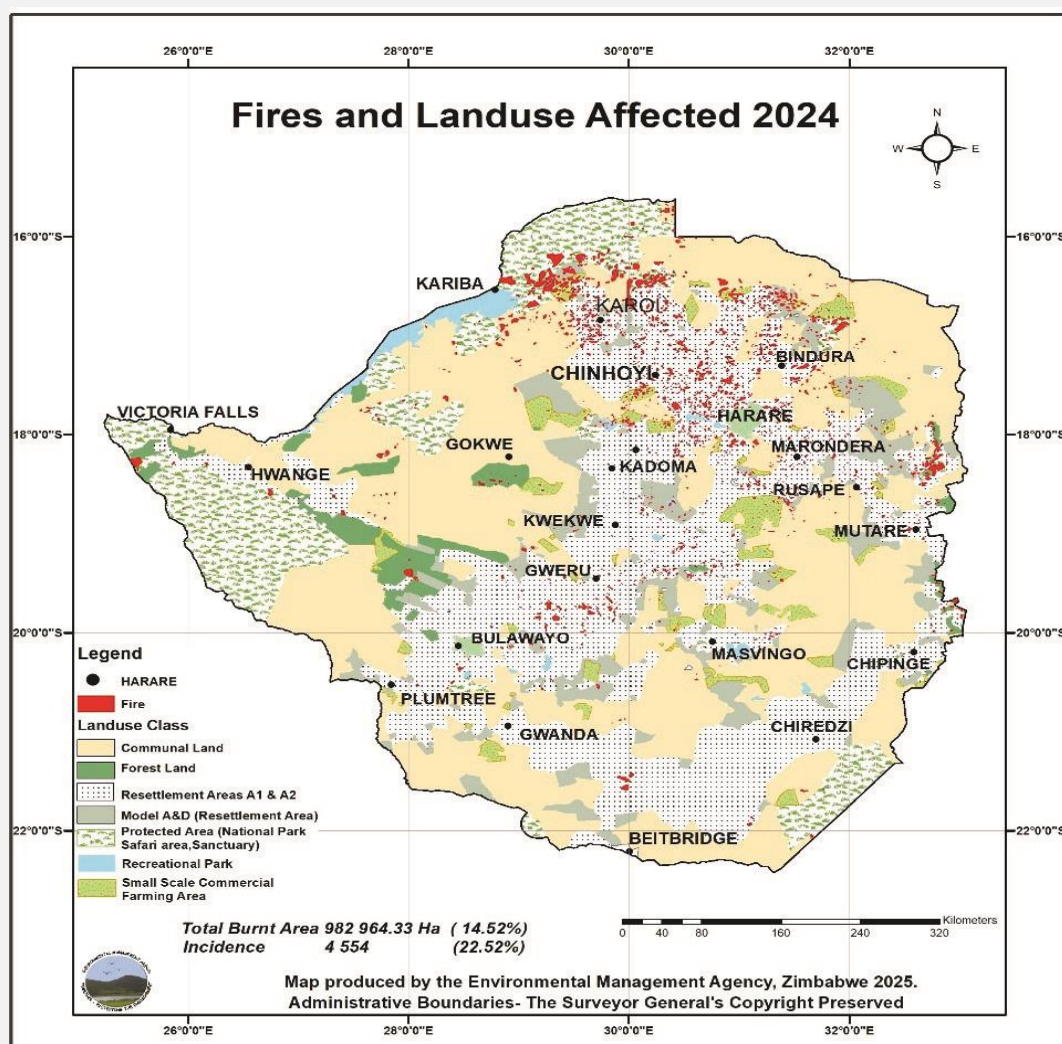


Figure 2: Area Burnt by Veld Fires by Land Use, 2024

Source: EMA Fire Report 2024

The number of fire incidents increased by about 23 percent from 3,717 incidents reported in 2023 to 4,554 reported in 2024. Area burnt also rose by 14.52 percent from 858,361.9 hectares in 2023 to 982,964.33 hectares in 2024. (Table 2)

Table 2: Percentage Change in Area Burnt, Incidences And Deaths, 2023- 2024.

Issue	2023	2024	% change
Area Burnt (ha)	858,362	982,964	14.5
Incidents	3,717	4,554	22.5
Deaths	1.0	3.0	200.0

Source: EMA Fire Report 2024

Figure 3. presents a comparison of the average area burnt per fire incidence during the fire seasons of 2023 and 2024 in Zimbabwe. The data shows variations in fire intensity across the reporting weeks with notable peaks observed in 2024 around mid-July and mid-October.

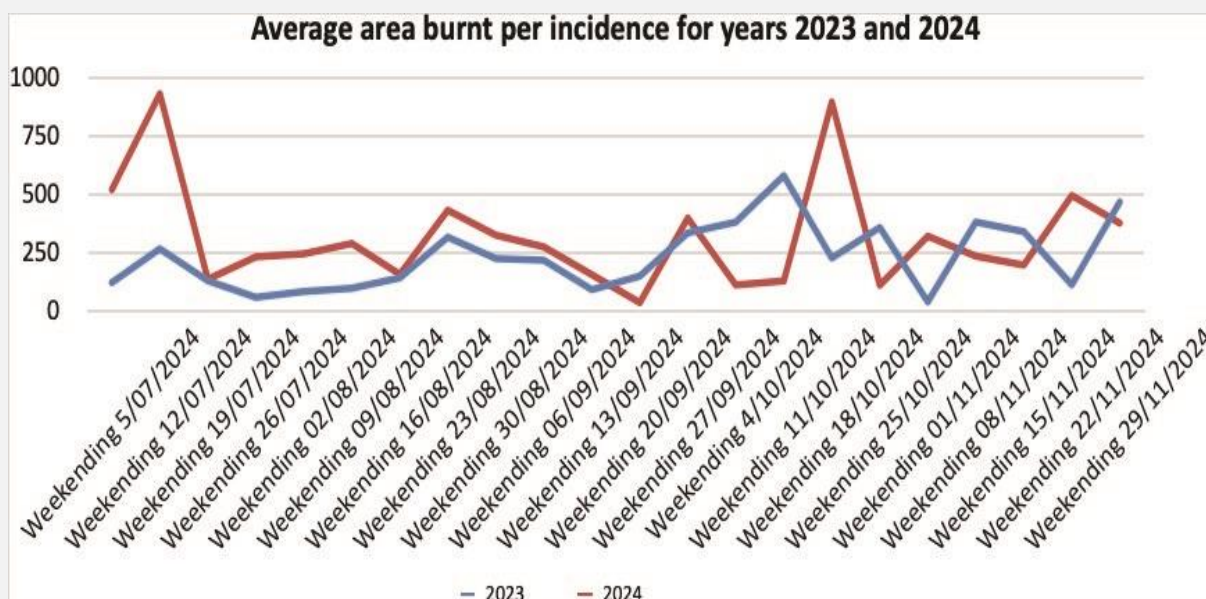


Figure 3: Comparison of average burnt area, 2023 and 2024

Source: EMA Fire Report 2024

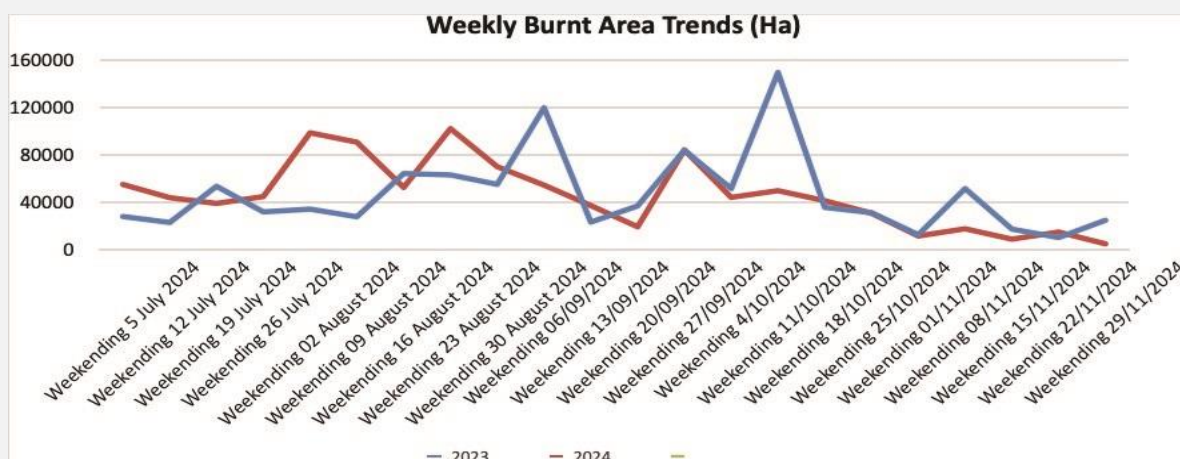


Figure 4: Comparison of weekly burnt area, 2023 and 2024

Source: EMA Fire Report 2024

4. HYDROLOGICAL EVENTS AND DISASTERS

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

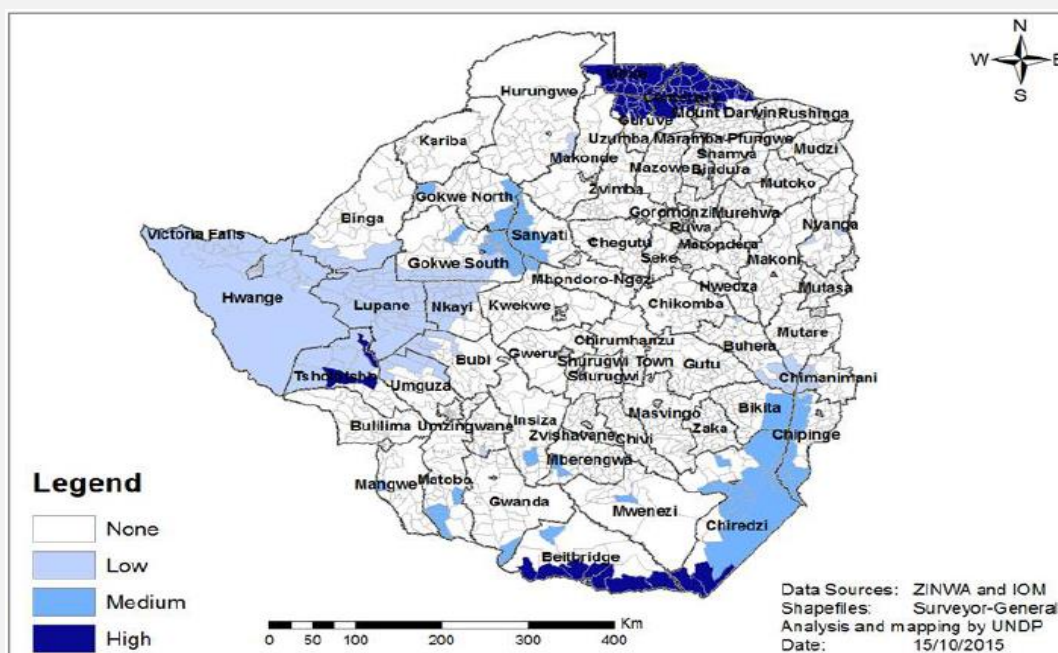


Figure 5: Areas prone to flooding in Zimbabwe

Source: Zimbabwe National Water Authority and International Organization for Migration

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.

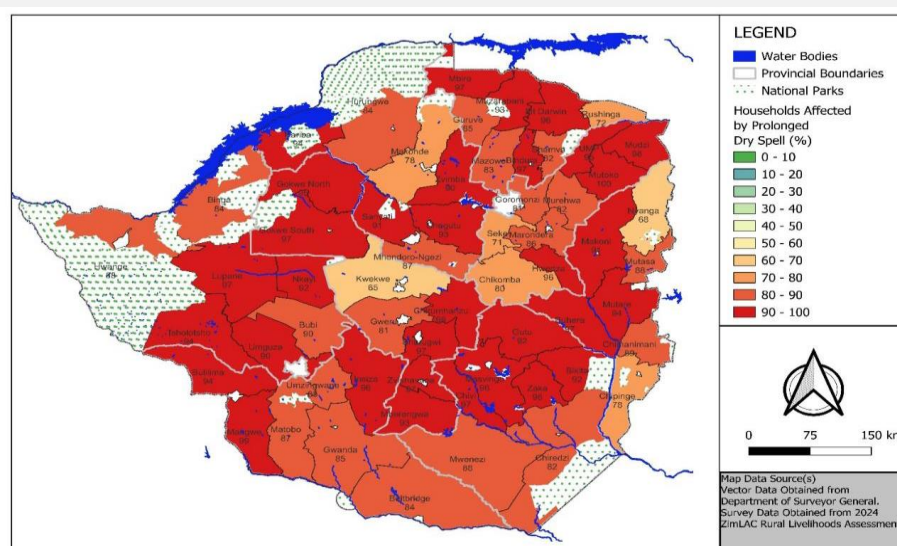


Figure 6: Prolonged Mid-Season Dry Spells

Source: ZimLAC, 2024 RLA

The highest number of households affected by rainfall during the 2024/25 rainy season of 132, was in Midlands province. (Table 3)

Table 3: Cumulative Rainfall Related Incidents, 2024/25 Rainfall Season

Province	Households affected	People injured	Deaths recorded	Infrastructure	Schools damaged	Health facilities		Bill of Quantity US\$
						Damaged	Destroyed	
Harare	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bulawayo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manicaland	51	-	-	4 shops and church	6	-	-	Pending
Midlands	132	-	-	15 ZESA poles	27	2	-	15,342.0
Mash West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mash East	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3,301.0
Mash Central	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	64,236.0
Mat South	13	-	-	1 irrigation scheme	1	-	-	Pending
Mat North	20	-	-	-	6	-	-	10,780.6
Masvingo	30	-	-	-	19	6	-	Pending
Total	246	-	-	24	71	8	-	

Source: Civil Protection Unit

5. TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS

Road Traffic Accidents

A total of 55,645 road accidents were reported in 2024. Harare province recorded the highest number (34,057 accidents), accounting for 61.2% of the total. (Table 4)

Table 4: Distribution of Road Reported Accidents by Province, 2024.

Province	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
Harare	34,057	61.2	450	21.2	4,124	38.6
Bulawayo	4,657	8.4	94	4.4	947	8.9
Mash West	3,339	6.0	286	13.5	987	9.3
Midlands	3,218	5.8	191	9.0	762	7.1
Manicaland	2,631	4.7	218	10.3	971	9.1
Mash East	2,017	3.6	257	12.1	886	8.3
Masvingo	1,659	3.0	194	9.1	640	6.0
Mat South	1,498	2.7	148	7.0	383	3.6
Mash Central	1,466	2.6	195	9.2	581	5.4
Mat North	1,103	2.0	91	4.3	391	3.7
Total	55,645	100.0	2,124	100.0	10,672	100

Source: Police General Headquarters (PGHQ)

Of the 55,645 reported accidents in 2024, accidents that occurred along major highways were 7,225. Harare-Bulawayo and Harare-Mutare highways recorded the highest numbers of 1,595 and 1,561 accidents, constituting percentages of 22.1 and 21.6, respectively. Among the 781 recorded fatalities, Harare-Bulawayo highway had the highest death toll of 152. (Table 5)

Table 5: Distribution of Accidents Along Major Highway

Major Highway	Total Distance	Number of Accidents	% of Major Highway Accidents	Average accidents per Every 5 km Stretch	Number of deaths	Number of people Injured
Harare-Bulawayo	443	1,595	22.1	18	152	412
Harare-Mutare	266	1,561	21.6	29	141	323
Harare-Beitbridge	581	1,057	14.6	9	122	431
Harare-Chirundu	355	851	11.8	12	77	282
Bulawayo-Beitbridge	323	556	7.7	9	49	196
Harare-Mukumbura	253	372	5.1	7	63	218
Bulawayo-Victoria Falls	438	347	4.8	4	47	160
Harare-Nyamapanda	185	302	4.2	8	53	131
Mutare-Masvingo	302	298	4.1	5	53	190
Bulawayo-Plumtree	98	286	4.0	15	24	54
TOTAL	3,244	7,225	100.0	11	781	2,397

Source: Police General Headquarters (PGHQ)

From the 55,645 reported accidents in 2024, fatal accidents accounted for 1,682 cases of which 367 were recorded in Harare province and 224 in Mashonaland West. (Table 6)

Table 6: Distribution of Accidents by Type

Province	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
Harare	367	3 076	30 614	34 057
Bulawayo	85	701	3 871	4 657
Mash West	224	510	2 605	3 339
Midlands	139	346	2 733	3 218
Manicaland	175	479	1 977	2 631
Mash East	196	300	1 521	2 017
Masvingo	144	310	1 205	1 659
Mat South	110	132	1 256	1 498
Mash Central	163	273	1 030	1 466
Mat North	79	204	820	1 103
Total	1 682	6 331	47 632	55 645

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.

In Figure 7, the year 2022 recorded the highest number of hazardous substance licences issued by the Agency of 4,644.

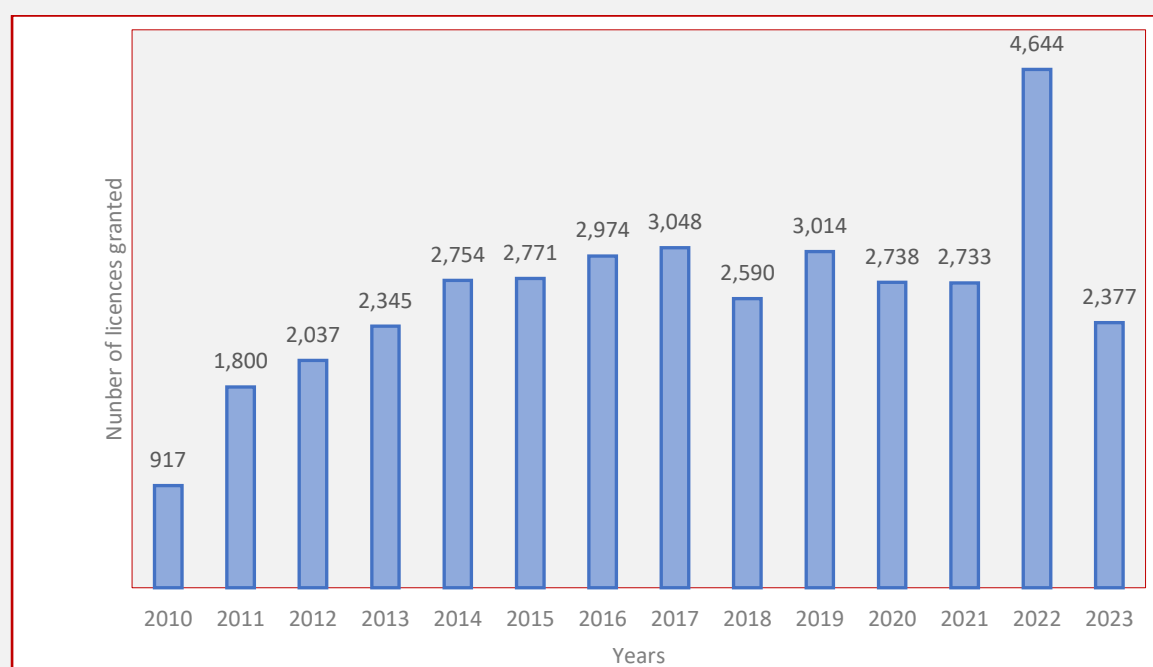


Figure 7: Hazardous Substance Licences Issued, 2010-2023

Source: Environment Management Agency

Spillages

There was a continual increase in the number of spillages recorded during the years 2021 through 2023, from 19 to 39 and finally to 58, respectively. (Table 7)

Table 7: Number of Hazardous Substance Spillages During Transportation, 2010 - 2023

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

The highest quantity of spillages (40,000 kg) recorded in 2023, was from Oil and lubes, Table 8.

Table 8: Spillages by Product and Quantity, 2023

Date	Product	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	Hexane	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 spillages 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 9)

Table 9: 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

