

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee	River Hamble Harbour Board
Date:	16 July 2010
Title:	Oil Spill Incident: 20 - 21 June 2010
Reference:	1850
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. Summary

- 1.1. At about 2030 on 20 June 2010, an oil spill occurred at Esso Fawley, on the western side of Southampton Water. The River Hamble Harbour Authority was informed of the spill by ABP Southampton at 1020 the following morning, shortly after they had declared a Tier 2 response. This report sets out the circumstances and the actions taken by the Harbour Authority. It concludes with a brief discussion of alternative scenarios, had the spill occurred at a different time of the day.

2. Background

- 2.1. A significant spill (2 to 3 cubic metres) of 300 Cat Feed oil occurred at Fawley, between Esso berths 4 and 5 at about 2030 on Sunday 20 June. The source of the spill was located and the area was boomed and cleared up by Esso (a Tier 1 response). At the time, the wind was from 140 degrees at 5 knots and the tide off Fawley was 160 degrees at 1 knot. The spill was reported immediately to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) at Lee-on-the-Solent but, in accordance with normal practice for a Tier 1 incident, other authorities were not informed. The following morning (21 June), members of the public complained of finding oil in the water off Meon shore. At about 0950, ABP Southampton declared a Tier 2 response and the River Hamble Harbour Office was informed at 1020. A patrol boat was immediately despatched to check for signs of oil in the entrance to the River, but none was found. The patrol extended its search towards Meon shore and encountered oil off Solent Breezes. At this time, the tide was carrying the oil south-eastwards, away from the Hamble.

3. Actions taken

- 3.1 At 1100, the Marine Director advised the Harbour Authority's Tier 2 responder (Adler and Allan) of the spill. A full tier 2 response was declared at 1115. Adler and Allen deployed and all necessary equipment was on site by 1325 and fully assembled by 1500. It was agreed that the boom should not be deployed across the River unless there was an imminent threat from the oil, but that it should be held on the slipway, ready for immediate use. The Marine Director remained in touch with other authorities throughout the incident and the MCA advised that the slick was unlikely to reach the Hamble. Nonetheless, additional checks were carried out by the patrol boats during the afternoon and early evening. After high water, the threat became negligible and the boom was dismantled and stowed, with the site clear by 2045. Checks throughout the River the following morning confirmed that no oil had entered.

4. Alternative scenarios

- 4.1. If the incident on Sunday evening had occurred two or three hours earlier or later, the outcome may have been very different. For example, a spill at about 1700 could have resulted in oil entering the River at less than one hour's notice (too short a timescale to deploy the boom across the River, even if the Harbour Authority had been informed and sufficient staff had been available on a Sunday). A similar situation could have arisen if the incident had occurred later in the evening (after 2300), but with even less chance of being able to mobilise sufficient staff.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be noted

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None