

MARINA POLLUTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

What You Can Do

Prevention and control of oil and gasoline spills in our marinas is becoming more effective. This is due to improvements in the design and operation of ships, enforcement of standards and navigational procedures, and innovations in clean-up equipment and procedures.

Although smaller spills are easier to control and clean up than large spills, an immediate and responsible response is key to successful oil spill mitigation. To follow are a few thoughts to consider:

ISOLATE THE AREA AND RESTRICT ACCESS

In a spill area, cigarette smoking and running boat motors can turn an environmentally threatening situation into a potentially deadly situation for both human and marine life. Therefore, it is vital to contain the area and restrict access to those involved in the clean up.

IMMEDIATELY DEPLOY SORBENT BOOMS

The ship's spill kit should be readily available and a boom should be

deployed along the deck to prevent oil from getting underneath. Oil will destroy Styrofoam floats and is difficult to clean up when it gets trapped beneath docks. As a result, a boom should be deployed around the outer edge of a spill to entrap it and prevent spreading. Keep in mind: oil can spread from 30 to 60 times its original size in a short period of time.

DISPOSING OF OILY SORBENTS

Oiled sorbent booms and pads must be treated as hazardous material and disposed of properly. They should be put in closed containers and kept out of the sun to avoid spontaneous combustion. To ensure this is handled properly, consider contacting a hazardous waste disposal firm.

ENGAGE SPILL CONTRACTOR AS NECESSARY

While most Marina spills do not require the services of a professional oil spill contractor, be familiar with local contractors in the event the spill gets out of control or is not mitigated in a timely manner.

NOTIFY ALL APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES

The largest penalties for accidental oil discharges are reserved for those who fail to report a spill. A list of required notifications and phone numbers should be readily available. Although this list will vary from state to state, include the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, and Department of Environment Conservation.

WRITING YOUR REPORT

When completing your report, document the date and time of the accident, note the name and title of the individual to whom you are reporting the incident, and write down the incident report number. In addition, be sure to include your name and location, any injuries, the type of oil and an estimated amount spilled, the cause of discharge, and the measures taken to clean up spill.

Final closing thought...

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