

## How to clean up an oil spill in a rain affected area using a standard spill kit

This sheet explains the procedure to recover and clean up an oil or fuel spill using only the contents of a standard outdoor oil and fuel spill kit.

### THE SPILL

The spill photographed occurred in a typical laydown yard with a mixture of concrete, bitumen and dirt surfaces. The area was wet from rain and had several large puddles. The spill was a result of an oily water system overflowing, releasing several hundred litres of oily water mixture.

### THE CLEAN UP

The four steps of a successful clean up are:

#### CONTROL THE SPILL

- Ensure the area is safe to enter.
- Be aware of fumes and approach from upwind.
- Wear suitable PPE for the situation.
- Ensure the spill does not continue - close valves, lift drum to upright position, etc.

#### CONTAIN THE SPILL

- Using the absorbent booms found in the spill kit, surround the spill to prevent it from entering drains, sewage systems, pipes and cable ducts. This helps avoid the risk of explosion or further contamination of equipment and the environment. Remove pallets and other equipment from the area.
- Whilst ensuring booms surround the area and corral the spill, flood the area with water and direct the thinly spread spill to a low area in the laydown yard. This technique needs to be handled carefully and be well managed. In our clean up response, the spill was confined by the booms to an area of 3m x 10m.
- Linking the booms together with cable ties, slowly walk from the shallow end of the contained puddle to the deeper section, dragging the booms across the water's surface, thus concentrating the oil into a small area.

#### CLEAN UP THE SPILL

- Leave the booms in the water to absorb more oil.
- Place pillows in the deeper section of the puddle to capture the bulk oil.
- Use pads to finish the clean up by placing on top of any residual floating oil.
- Place all used absorbents into disposal bags for transport by a waste control company.

#### REMEDiate THE SITE

- We found residue of trapped oil in the soil on the outer edges of the spill area.
- This area was covered with Global Peat (a biologically active, biodegradable, oil absorbent) and reclaimed into disposal bags.
- The affected soil was then remediated with a light dusting of Global Peat, roped off and moistened with a mist of water.
- The area was then left to bioremediate over the next few months, with thin layers of peat and water added regularly.

