

Environmental Incident Desktop Scenario at the University of Wessex

Incident summary:

It is 10.30am on Tuesday 9th October.

The weather over the last two weeks has been persistent rain, with low freezing temperatures over night. It is still raining this morning.

A set of exams have been scheduled this week.

Oily water was noticed across the staff car park last week.

At the weekend the Estates Team cleaned up the car park, retaining any contaminated water in drums which have been stored in the waste oil compound.

Oily water was noticed across the staff car park again this morning by the early arriving Equestrian Centre staff, a much larger amount of oil than last week; they also commented that it was all down the main site road.

The Estates Team investigated the cause of the oil and identified that the local diesel bund was full of oily water and the 20,000 litre diesel tank was leaking into the bund from a hole about halfway up the tank. This diesel tank provides fuel for the sites vehicles, and is the only source of fuel for the sites boilers.

The Silver Command Team has been called together.

Time frame (approximate):

09:30 – tea and coffee's at Henriette Raphael Building (Room 3.17)

10:00 – welcome and introduction to the scenario

10:30 – Introduction to the GSTT Silver Command room and receiving the initial 'incident message'

10:45 – Complaint from exam group about the temperature in the exam halls.

10:50 – Estates Team overheard local member of the public commenting that they had seen oil in the lake and that they had called the EA hotline that morning (they're not sure when though).

10:51 – EA arrive to ask questions about what the University is doing (received call at 09:00), have local lake and Site of Special Scientific Interest. Comm's have noticed Facebook and Twitter communications about the Institution and oil in the lake.

11:00 – Leave the Silver Command Team for a while to ponder the issues and the priorities!

Issues:

- Tank and bund failure,
- Diesel entering open ground, lake and SSSI potentially,

- Exams being disrupted ,
- Environment Agency investigating,
- Public aware,
- Potential Local and National news interest may occur,

11:10 – Power from boilers fails

11:14 – Call from security, reporter is at the front desk.

11:15 – Call from clinical waste management company, accident on road outside Campus due to diesel oil on road. Clinical waste containers with red lids have been spilt across the road.

11:40 – Call exercise to a close and carry out a review