

Oil Spill Response

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Abstract

This paper describes equipment and techniques for responding to oil spills. Various techniques for the containment, cleanup and recovery of oil spills are examined; advantages and disadvantages of each are considered. Along with providing insight for oil [spill](#) response, this paper [discusses](#) environmental factors which can contribute to the success or failure of a cleanup operation.

Introduction:

" Oil is the life blood of our modern industrial society. It fuels the machines and lubricates the wheels of the world's production. But when that vital resource is out of control, it can destroy marine life and devastate the environment and economy of an entire region.... The plain facts are that the technology of oil-- its extraction, its transport, its refinery and use-- has outpaced laws to control that technology and prevent oil from polluting the environment..." (Max, 1969). Oil in its many forms has become one of the necessities of

modern industrial life. Under control, and serving its intended purpose, oil is efficient, versatile, and productive. On the other hand, when oil becomes out of control, it can be one of the most devastating substances in the environment. When spilled in water, it spreads for miles around leaving a black memory behind (Stanley, 1969).

Oil spills, no matter large or small, have long been of concern to pollution control authorities in this country. Due to its destructive nature, once an area has been contaminated by oil, the whole character of the environment is changed. When it has encountered something solid to cling to, whether it be a beach, a rock, the feathers of a duck or gull, or a bather's hair, it does not readily let go (Stanley, 1969). By its nature o...

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