

The purpose of this manual is to give technical guidance to personnel from different organisations on oil spill response operations, in particular the UK maritime local authorities and other public bodies who would be involved in responding to oil pollution. This includes guidance on considering response options in oil spill contingency plans and more specific guidance on the technical aspects of shoreline protection and shoreline clean-up. The manual is divided into four parts:

- Part 1 Overview of pollution response in UK waters**
- Part 2 Marine response inshore**
- Part 3 Shoreline clean-up of oil**
- Part 4 Disposal of recovered oil and oily waste**

Part 1 provides an overview of the oil spill response arrangements in the UK and is intended for personnel involved in the preparation of oil spill contingency plans and managing personnel involved in oil spill response activities.

Part 2 describes the techniques that can be used to protect shorelines from the damaging effects of oil pollution. It concentrates on the practical techniques used and the issues that need to be addressed when using booms to protect shorelines and the use of skimmers and other devices to remove spilled oil that has been contained in the booms. This section is intended for personnel who would expect to be involved in supervising protective booming and skimming operations.

Part 3 describes the techniques that should be used to clean oil from different types of shorelines. This section is intended for those who would expect to be involved in supervising beach clean-up operations.

Part 4 describes the techniques for collecting the wastes produced by the recovery of spilled oil and shoreline clean-up with an emphasis on minimising these wastes by careful segregations and the avoidance of secondary contamination. Temporary storage near the collections sites and intermediate, longer term storage is considered. Options for final disposal of these wastes are described. This section is intended for both planners, since the storage and disposal of the large quantities of waste generated by a large oil spill needs careful prior consideration, and for operational response staff in order that they can appreciate the need for waste minimisation.

There are numerous variables at any oil spill and a shoreline clean-up technique that is appropriate for one situation may not be appropriate for all. The techniques described in this manual have been developed using the MCA's experience of many spills in the UK and the experience of others throughout the world, but the MCA cannot be held responsible for the consequences of following the advice contained in this manual without due regard to all the factors involved.

Effective oil spill response will only be possible with suitable preparation. This manual is a contribution to "planning, training and exercising" regime that underpins any successful emergency response.