



SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Department of Environment Ministry of Environment 2 nd Floor, Ken Lee Tower Barracks Street Port Louis	Tel: +230 2126080 Fax: +230 2126671
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RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

A National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) and a local plan for Port Louis are in place. A sensitivity atlas has been produced for the whole island.

The National Plan recognises three categories of spill: -Spills of oil originating from oil company facilities will be cleaned up by the oil companies themselves but overseen by the Harbour Master and Director of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. The Director of the Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment is the Director of the NOSCP. Within port limits the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA), particularly the Harbour Master, is responsible for clean-up operations. For spills that occur outside the jurisdiction of the port authority or the oil companies and within the EEZ, the Director of the NOSCP assumes overall control. The Director will be represented by an On-Scene Coordinator who will be responsible for all planning and field operations. For operations at sea, in coastal waters and on beaches the On Scene Coordinator will be the Commandant of the National Coast Guard (Police Department). Three spill advisory teams are available to assist the OSC: - the Scientific Advisory Team, the Socio Economic Advisory Team and the Strike Force Advisory Team. Their work would be coordinated by the Spill Advisory Coordinator. Details of the role and composition of advisory teams are laid out in the National Oil Spill Response Plan.

RESPONSE POLICY

For spills offshore, monitoring is a priority, unless the coast is threatened in which case containment and recovery is favoured. Only if sea conditions preclude mechanical recovery would spraying of dispersants be considered. Dispersants are prohibited close to coral reefs, within lagoons or in shallow water.

Facilities for the disposal of large quantities of oily waste are very limited and apart from oil/water separation, no definite route for final disposal has been identified.

In the event of a major incident, it is likely that international assistance would be requested.



EQUIPMENT

Government

The MPA operates one tug equipped with dispersant spraying gear capable of operating offshore. Mauritius is to be provided with oil spill combating equipment under a Global Environment Facility/World Bank project. Aerial surveillance could be provided by the Police, Air Mauritius or the Coast Guard. The latter also has an aircraft equipped for dispersant spraying. Non-specialised equipment, boats, heavy machinery pumping gear is readily available.

Private

The oil companies have limited response equipment to cope with small spills at their own installations.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

ITOPF has no knowledge of any significant spills in Mauritius waters.

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety				Oil Spill Response	Compensation					
MARPOL 73/78		Annexes III IV V		OPRC '90	CLC '69 '76 '92			Fund '71 '76 '92		
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Commission de l'Océan Indien (Indian Ocean Commission) together with Madagascar, Seychelles, The Comores and La Reunion.

Date of issue: September 2002

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