



Environmental
Management
Services

Hydraulic Oil Spill Response

Initial Incident & Response

During an improperly supervised oil delivery a hose failure caused our client to have a mass release of approximately 20,000 litres of hydraulic oil, the majority of which had entered their storm drainage system.

The drain had an interceptor installed within it to cover the high risk catchment area, however a lack of proper maintenance meant defects had not been picked up which meant the interceptor was unable to contain the oil.

The drain line discharged into an adjacent lake. Our 24/7 response team were immediately mobilised and attended site to undertake the initial emergency response.

When our team arrived on site the delivery vehicle had been isolated to ensure no further oil was lost; however there was still a large amount of oil entering the lake through the drainage system.



Our response team blocked the outlet from the drain, preventing any further oil escaping into lake and utilising the drainage line as tertiary containment.

Large quantities of oil were visible on the water surface and due to flow and wind direction had begun gathering next to the bank at the opposite end of the lake.

Our team decided to complete the surface clean-up of the contaminated area, allowing all oil to naturally accumulate.





An emergency vacuum tanker attended site, emptying the contents of the drain and cleaning it to remove as much residue as possible, before collecting the wash water.

A fence boom was installed around the outlet of the drain and the drain line was reopened. The fence boom was put in place as a precaution to collect any remaining residues from the drainage, although the vast majority had already been removed.

By this stage all visible contamination had now settled against the far bank, we fitted a fence boom around the area to keep the oil contained to a small area.

A weir skimmer ("A" in below photo) and mobile Oil Water Separator OWS ("B" in below photo) were installed to recover the amassed oil.

This proved extremely effective and was regularly emptied by a tanker to remove and dispose of the recovered oil, this was left in place for 10 days, and in all the skimmer and OWS removed approximately 18,000 litres of oil.

Once all of the oil had been recovered the fence boom and skimmer were removed and the OWS was decommissioned.

Following the incident we were engaged to undertake a repair of the interceptor and reviewed their spill procedures which included writing a tanker delivery procedure. The fence boom installed around the inlet was left in place to protect against any similar incident causing damage to the watercourse in future.



* The backgrounds of some of the photos and some elements of the spill have been altered to protect our client's identity.