



PERSONNEL SAFETY (1-2)

G02/
G03

Risk awareness

All responders must be informed (and team leaders reminded) of the risks that the working conditions present in relation to the pollutant as well as the environment, in particular:

- movements of heavy duty machinery (for lifting or transportation) within the immediate vicinity
- the relief and load-bearing capacity of the ground (cliffs, marshland etc.)
- movements of the sea (surf, waves etc.)

It may be advisable to appoint a health and safety officer.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn, and reminders must permanently be given, especially for operations with real risks of:

- oiling of the skin: wear gloves, boots, cotton overalls, a disposable protective suit etc.
- oiling or harm to eyes during washing operations using pressure washers for example: wear goggles, head gear and a mask to protect the eyes from pollutant spray and fragments of rock, as well as from inhalation of vapours
- harm to respiratory tract: wear a breathing mask suited to the vapours generated by the product used
- rock fall, during response below overhang for example, or rock slide: wear a helmet
- slipping into the water, for instance during operations using a pump suction strainer in the water from slippery rocks especially on exposed sites: wear a life jacket.

The majority of PPE is subject to manufacturing standards defined according to the type of risks to which the operator is exposed (oil, falling, drowning etc.). These standards must be followed wherever the working conditions could lead to these risks.

As well as PPE, all type of clothing to improve personal comfort may also be worn: cotton gloves and underwear to reduce the discomfort of perspiration due to poor aeration for instance.

First aid

First aid is highly recommended, or may be mandatory on certain high risk worksites, and can be ensured by:

- the presence of a first aid kit whose content may be altered to suite the particularities of the site (addition of collyrium in the case of a clear risk of pollutant being sprayed into the eyes for instance)
- the recommended presence among the operators of qualified first aiders (2 per team on high risk sites)
- a list of emergency telephone numbers displayed in case of a serious accidents
- accurate signposting of the worksite from the road (especially for remote sites whose name does not appear on existing maps) so that the emergency services can arrive quickly.

Permanent contact

On high risk sites, all the different team members must be in permanent contact. To do so:

- never leave one person to work in isolation
- provide compatible means of communication, suited to the relief of the ground. Do not simply rely on a mobile phone (which may not work at the foot of a cliff or, as is often the case on remote natural sites, may not have good network coverage.
- position someone at a check point (at the top of a cliff for instance) to ensure permanent contact (visual or voice) and always equipped with a walkie-talkie to rapidly alert the emergency services if need be.

Health and safety

Depending on the particularities of the worksite (size, duration, type of response and dangerousness), labour legislation may come into play and impose certain health and safety measures, requiring the existence of specialised installations in various places:

- at the worksite exit: a decontamination area where heavily oiled PPE is washed down and removed
- near the worksite: toilets (two if it is a mixed team), a sheltered locker room (usually 1.25 m² per person) with a wash hand basin
- at a specified site (which may be further from the worksite and may also serve other worksites): showers.