

Principles

Definition

Primary storage sites should be set up on the upper or back beach. The size of these storage facilities will vary with that of the worksite. They can range from a simple daily deposit point for a few dozen to a few hundred kilos (in bulk or packaged in bags, big-bags or skips) to a larger site grouping together these deposit points, to constitute a primary buffer storage point. All these temporary primary storage sites may be identified in contingency plans.

Recommendations

Prevent the pollution from spreading, at each link in the storage chain, and reduce resulting damage to sites by:

- protecting the ground from infiltration and the impact of traffic (tarpaulins, geotextiles)
- effectively managing the available space: assess intermodal transfer operations and the circulation of machinery used for evacuation.

Sort waste at an early stage:

- where possible, waste should be initially sorted on the beach, however it can be difficult to have enough containers, therefore small quantities of polluted waste which are initially sorted are often evacuated in the one container
- otherwise, sort waste in an area where there is enough space and a little more time, i.e. at the primary storage site (sorting and possibly packaging)
- bags or big-bags are very useful (for non fluid pollutant of course) but in order to effectively manage them the contents should be identified using a colour code before leaving the worksite (using different coloured spray paints for instance).

Primary storage site

Identification

If the primary storage site has not been pre-defined in a contingency plan:

- look for a suitable site in terms of sensitivity, proximity and access, with help from local coordinators, response authorities and the relevant State services (environment, waste...)
- call upon the services of a botanist very early on
- accurately define the respective responsibilities of the different parties in the choice, development, use and rehabilitation of the site.

Management

The site will require:

- specific storage areas suited to the different types of waste
- personnel, in particular: at least one person to supervise unloading operations and impose sorting procedures in the different parts of the storage area
- regular intervention of a site maintenance team, in particular when it rains
- site closure outside of unloading hours so that the site does not turn into a dump for all types of refuse
- the organised monitoring of waste entering and leaving the site (type of waste and where possible its average oil content, volume, origin, destination etc.)

Rehabilitation

The return of the site to its original condition implies:

- a contamination diagnosis made by a organisation specialised in ground pollution, possibly decontamination operations, and the approval of the authorities
- in some cases, a botanical evaluation to define a plant cover restoration operation.