



**Report**                **06.623**  
**Date**                 30 October 2006  
**File**                  ENV/17/02/01

**Committee**        **Environment**  
**Author**             **Douglas Tangney, Pollution Control Officer**

## **Pollution Control Report for the period 15 September to 27 October 2006**

### **1. Purpose**

To report on incident response, investigation and audit work undertaken by Greater Wellington's Pollution Control Team in the Wellington Region during the reporting period.

### **2. Background**

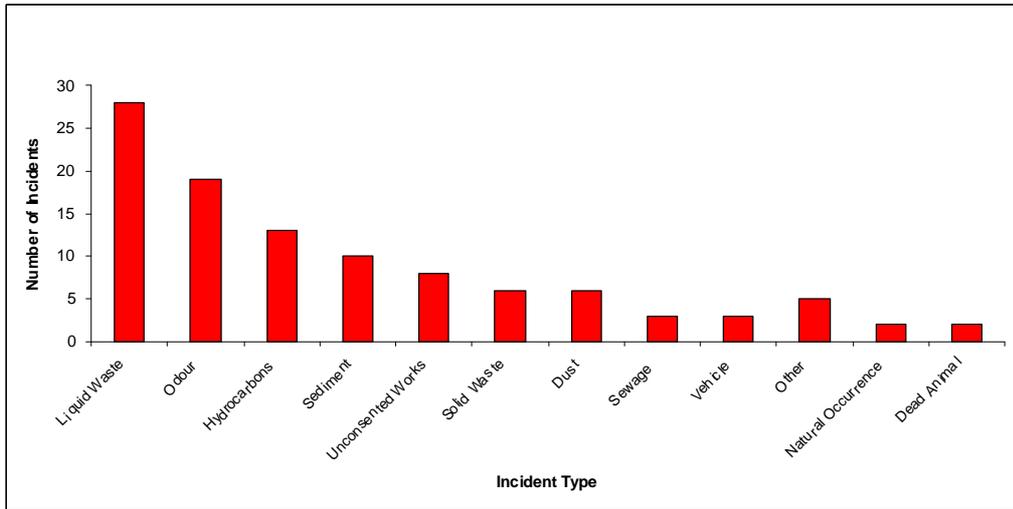
The Environment Management Division manages environmental pollution via the following:

- 24-hour Incident Response service, addressing pollution complaints, environmental incidents and alleged non-compliance with regional plans.
- *Take Charge*, a pollution prevention programme to improve environmental performance and compliance of small to medium-sized businesses.
- Special Projects, which include the development of resource materials, and targeted investigations to establish baseline conditions, track trends, and characterise environmental problems.

### **3. Incidents**

#### **3.1 Incident summary**

A total of 106 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.



**Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 15 September to 27 October 2006**

An infringement notice was issued to a landowner at 102 Takapu Road for unconsented works in a tributary of the Takapu Stream, Tawa



A large diesel spill occurred over Labour Weekend when copper piping was removed from a tank at Riggs Zschokke in Masterton. 1800 litres was discharged to shallow groundwater. Contaminated soil was removed and the Pollution Control team is working with the site to improve containment of fuel.



Drainage works undertaken in a wetland were discovered near the mouth of the Waitohu Stream in Otaki. This incident is currently under investigation.



Approximately 60L of waste oil was discharged into the Seaview Marina from an unknown source. The oil caused significant discolouration of the shoreline and is still under investigation.



### 3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, duration and extent of environment effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible adverse affects. The incidents categorised as “not assessed” are those where officers did not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, duration and extent of environmental effects.

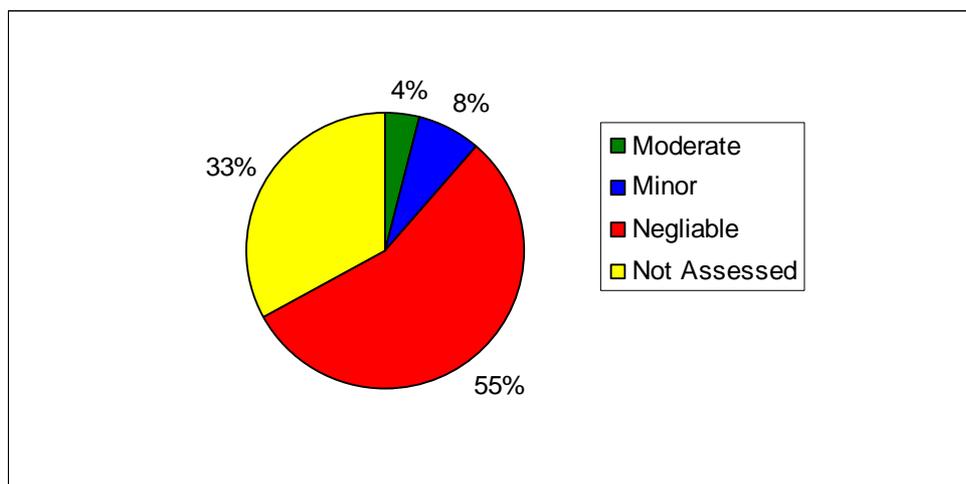


Figure 2: Incident Significance for period 15 September to 27 October 2006

### 3.3 Response summary

The time between receiving an incoming complaint and attending on site (response time) is used as a performance indicator for the incident response service. Table 1 shows that all target response times were met comfortably.

**Table 1: Response time summary**

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	29.7 minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	8.6 hours
Blue (7 days)	2.9 days

## 4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken during this reporting period.

**Table 2: Summary of enforcement action**

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	1
Infringement Notices	7
Abatement Notices	6
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

These are summarised in the manager's report (06.590).

## 5. Take Charge

Audits undertaken in the reporting period:

Site audits were conducted at several sites engaged in the *EnviroSMART* programme.

- Formway Furniture, manufacturing sites: Ngauranga and Gracefield
- Wellington Weed Spray Depots: Petone
- Macaulay's Scrap Metal Recycling: Seaview
- Booker Spalding, clothing manufacture: Petone

A further audit was undertaken by invitation at a Lower Hutt factory involved in a recent incident.

- Bostik NZ Ltd., adhesives manufacturing site: Wingate

Investigations are currently underway to identify tyre recyclers in the region for future environmental audits.

## **6. Special projects**

- Pollution control officers met with Wormald regarding pollution from disposal of sprinkler wastewater during routine maintenance. Wormald are currently preparing a guideline of current disposal procedures and its relevance to the rules administered by the pollution control team.
- Pollution control officers from Wellington and Wairarapa will be attending an enforcement officer special interest group in Dunedin during November. The group is a collection of nationwide pollution control/prevention officers and promotes exchanging of ideas.
- A meeting was held with Wellington City Council and Capacity to establish a reporting protocol for sewer and stormwater incidents. Pollution control will be notified by email of any such events involving Capacity.

## **7. Pollution control annual report card**

The pollution control annual report card is completed (see report 06.632). This year saw 1,368 incidents, a 9% increase from last year.

The number of complaints for most incident types has been trending upward over recent years, with marked increases for incidents involving silt and liquid waste. Odour showed a marked decrease. The decrease is attributed to continued odour control improvements at the key source sites around the region.

Pollution control officers attended 127 incidents where sediment was discharged into stormwater from inadequate erosion and sediment control measures. Incidents involving sediment increased 42% since 2004-2005.

The most significant sediment discharges were from the following developments:

- Ohiro Road (Brooklyn Holdings Limited)
- Sweetacres Drive, Belmont (Barry Hayes property)
- Staithes Drive, Whitby (Staithes Drive Developments Limited)
- Cortina Avenue, Johnsonville (McDonnell Homes)
- Amesbury Drive, Glenside (Best Farms Limited)

## **8. Communication**

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

## 9. Recommendations

*It is recommended that the Committee:*

1. **Receive the report; and**
2. **Note the contents.**

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

**Douglas Tangney**  
Pollution Control Officer

**Al Cross**  
Manager, Environmental  
Regulation

**Nigel Corry**  
Divisional Manager,  
Environment Management  
Division

**Attachment 1:** Incident Response Summary