



Report 07.259
Date 16 May 2007
File ENV/17/02/01

Committee Environment
Author Geoff Ewington, Pollution Control Officer

Pollution Control Report for the period 9 March to 20 April 2007

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

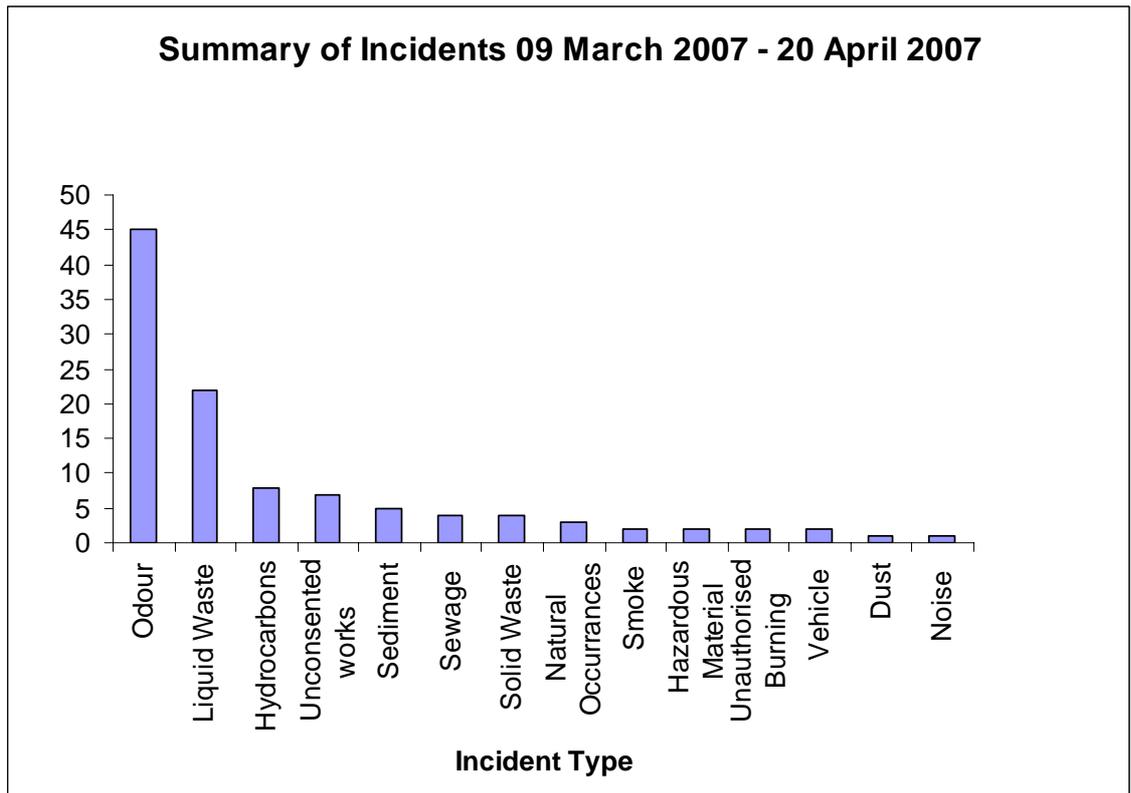


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 9 March to 20 April 2007

Approximately 20kg of coated wire was burnt on the foreshore at Tirau Bay, Porirua. Persons involved intended to burn a large quantity of wire and an infringement notice is being prepared for those responsible.



Air discharges from the Bentley Street Paint Shop in Masterton have been an issue for neighbouring business. Pollution Control had a meeting with the owner and are currently reviewing the source of air discharges on site.



A farmer created a dam for his water take) in the Ruamahanga River. Pollution Control are currently considering our enforcement options.



The Kakariki Stream disappeared after works by Kapiti Coast District Council allowed the water to soak underground. KCDC have installed a lining to provide a temporary solution and are looking into longer term options to ensure the water flows naturally.



Three sewer pipes burst and released raw sewage into the Tyres Stream in Ngauranga. The pipes were fixed immediately and sampling undertaken to ensure bacteria levels were below acceptable levels.



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 minor 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.

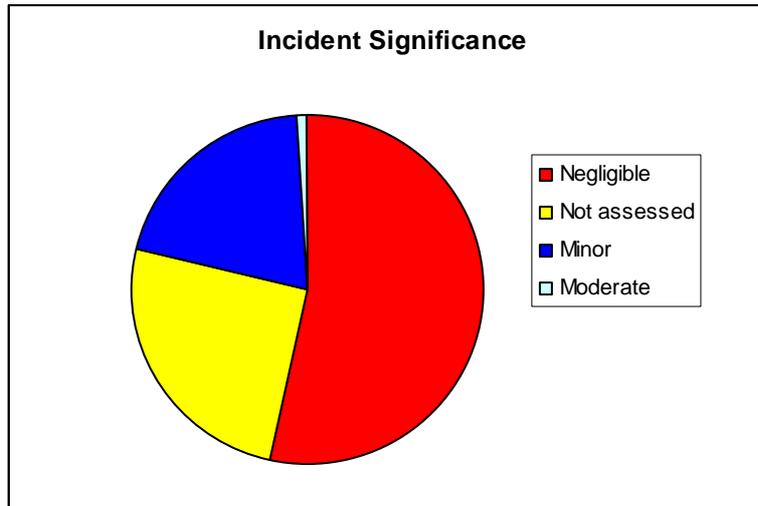


Figure 3: Incident significance for period 09 March 2007 – 20 April 2007

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)	35 Minutes
Yellow (24 hours)	4 Hours
Blue (7 days)	1.7 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	10
Infringement Notices	8
Abatement Notices	5
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

These are summarised in the manager's report (07.249).

5. Take Charge

Grenada North

Pollution Control Officers have completed an environmental risk assessment of business in the Grenada North Business Park. 14 sites are high risk and will have a full Take Charge Assessment.

Prior to the Take Charge Assessments Pollution Control will sample stormwater and sediment in the Takapu Stream to assess the quality of water entering and the extent of contamination of the stream bed.

Pollution Control has issued 3 abatement notices to complete Take Charge Assessments in Drain 6, Paraparaumu. These abatement notices relate to non compliances identified two years ago and are an effective tool to ensure these issues are resolved and we can concentrate on the new Take Charge in Grenada North.

6. Special projects

Waste disposal in the Wairarapa

Pollution Control has noted increasing numbers of incidents relating to disposal of waste material and non-cleanfill material to land in the Wairarapa. Pollution Control will continue to monitor the situation and as always take action in individual cases where appropriate. This matter has been noted in the Manager's report 07.249.

Small Streams and Contractors Workshops

On the 20th / 21st May Greater Wellington will host an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Workshop for Wellington Contractors. The workshop aims to up skill contractors in best practise ESC methods and reducing silt discharges.

A similar workshop on small streams and issues surrounding works in and around streams will be held in June.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. 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:

Geoff Ewington
Pollution Control Officer

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental
Regulation

Nigel Corry
Divisional Manager,
Environment Management
Division

Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary