

# Environmental Standard Operating Procedure 24

## Oil and Fuel Use & Storage On-Site

The majority of Broads Authority work carried out in the field requires use of fuel or oil, for example to power engines on boats, chainsaws, brush-cutters and diggers.

### Aim

To store, transport and use fuel when working on site, in a manner which is safe for the operator, public and the environment, and which complies with legislation.



### Environmental Risks

| Impact   | Likelihood | Mitigation        |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| Harmful effect on wildlife in aquatic habitats     | Low        | Follow guidelines |
| Harmful effect on wildlife in terrestrial habitats | Low        | Follow guidelines |
| Deterioration in water quality                     | Low        | Follow guidelines |
| Fire   | Low        | Follow guidelines |

Applies to Rangers, Operations Technicians, Environment Officers.

11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Standard Procedure

**No smoking in the vicinity of fuel!**

#### Storage:

- Containers should normally be metal, though plastic containers are sufficient for 5 litres or less.
- Make sure the fuel container is in good working condition, clearly marked and has a tight-fitting lid.
- Colour of container is not obligatory, though custom and practice is green for unleaded and black for diesel.

#### Transport:

- Only carry amount of fuel for the day's work, in a suitable container.
- Consider using a drip tray to transport the container in, lined with paper towels.
- The amount of spare petrol carried in a boat (i.e. not including a container already connected to an outboard) is limited to any combination of the following containers: 2 x 10 litre metal containers; 2 x 5 litre plastic containers; 1 x portable petrol tank of suitable proprietary manufacture of up to a maximum capacity of 27 litres. There is no limit for diesel carried in a boat.

#### Refuelling:

- Do not decant petrol in a boat.
- Ensure there is good ventilation.
- Choose a fuelling point away from watercourses where possible, and on a permeable surface e.g. grass, soil.
- Use a spout screwed on to the can or a funnel to reduce risk of spillage.

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### Spillages:

- Keep absorbent materials (such as saw dust, sand) nearby in case of spillage from small containers and machinery.
- Clear up contaminated materials into a plastic bag and dispose of in a bin/ skip.
- In the case of a significant spill into a watercourse (when fuel/oil spreads over 10 metres) inform the Environment Agency Pollution Incident Hotline **0800 80 70 60**.

### Use of small machinery and fuel containers up to 10 litres:

- Chainsaw combi-cans for fuel and chain oil should have non-spill spouts.
- Biodegradable chain oil must always be used in chainsaws.
- Where possible store fuel cans away from watercourses, and in the shade.
- When on site, fuel containers should be at least 4 metres away from sources of ignition, including smokers.

### Use of large machinery and bowzers:

- An oil spill kit must be available on site. If a machine and a bowser are present on site, there must be an oil spill kit located with both the machine and the bowser.
- All bowzers used on Broads Authority business must be double skinned
- If possible, the oil container must be positioned away from any vehicle traffic to avoid damage from collision (Environment Agency, 2011)
- Secondary containment, such as a bund or drip tray, must be provided to catch any oil leaks from the container or its ancillary pipework and equipment (Environment Agency, 2011)

- The secondary containment must be sufficient to contain at least 110% of the maximum contents of an oil tank/mobile bowser (Environment Agency, 2011)
- Where more than one container is stored, the secondary containment should be capable of storing 110% of the largest tank or 25% of the total storage capacity, whichever is the greater (Environment Agency, 2011)
- The secondary containment base and walls must be impermeable to water and oil. (Environment Agency, 2011)
- No drainage valve may be fitted to the secondary containment for draining out rainwater. (Environment Agency, 2011)
- Diggers and other large machinery should contain biodegradable hydraulic oil wherever possible (this should be part of the specification for new machinery, and a rolling programme to replace oil in existing machinery should be drawn up).

### Further Information:

[www.netregs.org.uk/library\\_of\\_topics/materials\\_\\_equipment/more\\_hazardous\\_materials\\_topic/fuelling\\_\\_fuel\\_storage.aspx](http://www.netregs.org.uk/library_of_topics/materials__equipment/more_hazardous_materials_topic/fuelling__fuel_storage.aspx)

[www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petroleum-faqs.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/petroleum-faqs.htm)

[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afaq301.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afaq301.pdf)

[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg227.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg227.pdf)

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001