

DECONTAMINATION OF PERSONNEL

PRINCIPLE

Before leaving the worksite, response personnel must be 'decontaminated' to:

- ✓ avoid spreading the pollution to surrounding unpolluted areas
- ✓ ensure at least a minimum amount of comfort after each work session (transport, meals...)
- ✓ maintain the efficiency of responders.

The principle is to have the personnel follow a cleaning chain, going from dirtiest to cleanest, on a watertight platform where the washing effluents can be recovered.



- ✓ Carry out rough cleaning in a first tank with water and a non-toxic agent scrubbing with cloths
- ✓ Undertake intermediate cleaning, with a medium pressure washer using warm water and then rinse. Temperature and pressure must be adjusted to obtain a good cleaning effect without causing harm to the personnel (50 bars / < 50°C maximum)
- ✓ Wipe personnel and equipment outside the tanks with cloths and sorbents
- ✓ Collect washing effluents and send them to a storage site
- ✓ Where possible, use vegetable (cooking) oil and soap to clean skin.



- ✓ Don't set up the decontamination area too far away from the response area so as to limit path contamination
- ✓ Don't begin to wash down operators without testing the pressure and temperature of the hose
- ✓ Don't use solvents such as white spirit, gasoline or diesel fuel, or abrasive substances to clean PPE or skin as they are dangerous to health
- ✓ Don't use sorbents to decontaminate personnel without first undertaking rough and intermediate cleaning or this will generate unnecessary waste.



PREPARATION

The storage area for equipment and machinery must meet certain criteria:

- ✓ close proximity to the cleanup site
- ✓ easy access
- ✓ a flat area with enough space away from environmentally-sensitive areas.



- ✓ Choose a relatively flat surface near the worksite
- ✓ Arrange the ground so as to have a slightly sloping surface with a small trench on the lowest side to recover the effluents
- ✓ Lay out the watertight film (or if you are using strips of geotextile, position them so that they overlap either perpendicular to the slope or in the direction of the slope to prevent any infiltration into the ground)
- ✓ Cordon off the decontamination area.



EQUIPMENT

Basic equipment:

- ✓ Plastic liners (or strips of geotextile) to cover the platform
- ✓ Stakes and fluorescent tape to identify the decontamination area
- ✓ 1 tank (1 to 2 m³) and non-toxic washing agent + cloths or sponges for rough wiping down
- ✓ Cooking oil and soap (for hands)
- ✓ 1 hot water pressure washer to wash/rinse
- ✓ Rolls of sorbent (industrial format) for final wiping down
- ✓ 2 open 200 litre barrels (or bins) for solid waste.

Extra equipment:

- ✓ Pump and storage tank for recovered washing effluents
- ✓ A hut to store tools and PPE onsite according to the worksite.

- **PPE:** Overalls, oilskins, boots, gloves, head gear, goggles, and masks. Users are exposed to a lot of dirt, containing potentially toxic particles (spray).

Decontamination area

