

DECONTAMINATION OF EQUIPMENT

PRINCIPLE

All equipment leaving a worksite must first visit a decontamination area in order to avoid oiling clean areas and to prolong the life of response equipment.

- ✓ Soften and remove the oil stuck to the equipment by spraying and leaving a non-toxic washing agent to take effect
- ✓ Clean the surface of the oiled equipment by washing with water
- ✓ On a less-adhesive substance, use fire hoses or cold water high pressure washers
- ✓ On an adhesive substance, use washers and adjust settings (80° C/100 bars)
- ✓ On a highly adhesive substance, use washers with the same settings and addition of non-toxic washing agents
- ✓ Regularly collect washing effluents and send them to a storage site.

PREPARATION

- ✓ Permanent installation: watertight washing platform (minimum surface area of 5 m x 20 m for a section of boom) with a gutter and an oil separation system
- ✓ Worksite installation: platform made watertight by plastic liners and geotextile, with a trench to recover waste waters.

- ✓ 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:**
 - ✓ 1 or 2 hot water pressure washers (with a non-toxic washing agent if necessary)
 - ✓ 1 or 2 water/fire hoses for rinsing (or for washing in the case of less-adhesive pollutants; be aware of the quantities of water needing storage and settling)
 - ✓ Plastic liners and geotextile to cover the platform.
- **Extra equipment:**
 - ✓ Pump and settling/storage tank for recovered washing effluents
 - ✓ Spraying systems and washing agents to soften weathered oil if necessary.
- **Required amounts of water (fresh water or filtered seawater):**
 - ✓ Pressure washer 1 m³/h.

Be careful of spray caused by pressure washing (wear waterproof overalls, goggles and mask).

Left: Decontamination of equipment

Right: Cleanup of PPE before re-use

