

Abstract

Establishing an International Oiled Wildlife Response Equipment Stockpile – The Issues and Highlights

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The success of an oiled wildlife response relies on a combination of factors. In selecting appropriate equipment for a first aid stockpile these must be considered. The primary concern is that the equipment is relevant and necessary for the job; advice must be gained through experts in the field and by interfacing with responders. The stockpile needs to be a combination of specialised scientific equipment and basic equipment that may not be easily accessible in the initial stages of a response in some remote locations. Secondly, the equipment needs to be available 24/7 and capable of being transported quickly to the spill location via any method of transport (land, sea or air). Such flexibility requires optimising space and weight and having mobilisation procedures in place that allow for rapid deployment. The equipment deployed also needs to be received by wildlife experts and responders for a rapid deployment. Ultimately, the development of the Oil Spill Response's stockpile involved creating the right balance between the ideal equipment, ease of transport, speed of deployment and safety. Experience through oil spill responses and exercises have also proved invaluable for the continued development of the stockpile. This paper will explore the challenges and issues that Oil Spill Response faced when putting together their oiled wildlife response stockpiles in Southampton, Bahrain and Singapore.