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Committee Environment
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Pollution Control Report for the period 25 May 2007 – 13 July 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 154 incidents were recorded during this reporting period, as summarised in Figure 1. Further information about specific incidents is provided in **Attachment 1**.

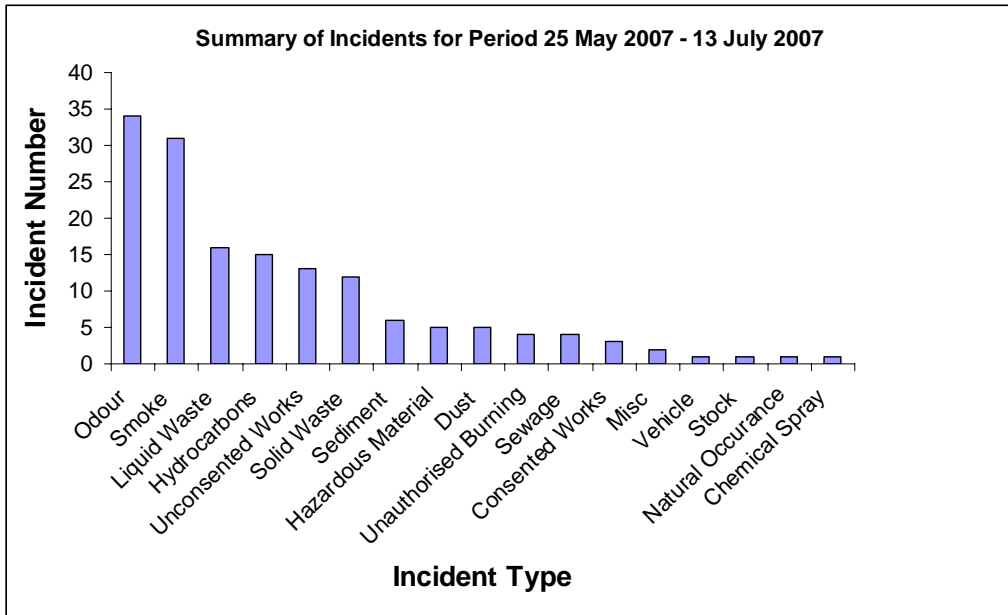


Figure 1: Summary of Incidents for period 25 May 2007 – 13 July 2007

Pollution Control has noticed a large increase in smoke and odour related incidents. These can be attributed to people burning illegal materials in their domestic fires. These types of incidents are relatively frequent but the environmental effects are low.

Significant incidents

Pollution Control was notified of excess building material being dumped into a stream in Wairarapa. The dumping was immediately stopped and the material removed. Approximately 50m of this stream was to be reclaimed before intervention by Pollution Control.



A Mushroom factory is discharging dark brown waste from the mushroom factory into a tributary of the Parkvale Stream in Carterton. Recent enforcement action has required the factory to cease illegal discharges to the stream.



Large scale unconsented roading has been undertaken at Colonial knob (Porirua) and spoil has been placed in tributaries of the Mitchell Stream. Pollution Control are currently investigating the incident with the owner and are considering enforcement options.



3.2 Incident significance

The incidents are assessed for significance as determined by the severity, extent and duration of environmental effects. This ranking is used to track incident trends. The majority of incidents attended were considered to have negligible affects. The incidents categorised as “Not Assessed” are those where officers do not attend the scene, or where officers were unable to assess the severity, extent or duration of environmental effects

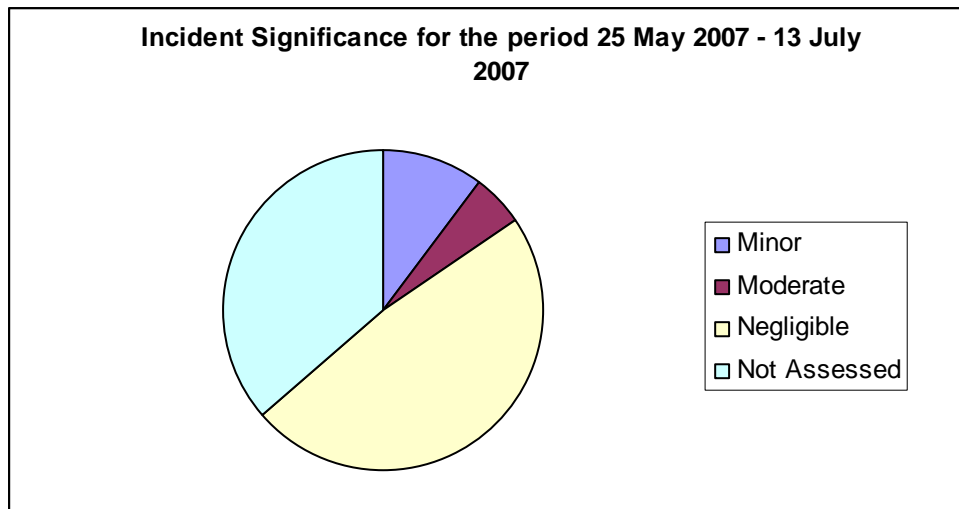


Figure 2: Incident Significance for the Period 25 May 2007 – 13 July 2007

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 within the target response time.

Table 1: Response time summary

Target response time	Mean response time
Red (60 minutes)	51
Yellow (24 hours)	11
Blue (7 days)	4

4. Enforcement action

Table 2 summarises enforcement action taken by Environmental Regulation during this reporting period.

Table 2: Summary of enforcement action

Regulatory tool	Number issued
Advisory Notices	6
Infringement Notices	6
Abatement Notices	2
Enforcement Orders	0
Prosecutions (& information's laid)	0

Summary of Infringement Notices

- 5 June 2007 - Two infringement Notices were issued to Graeme Hodder of Featherston for breaches of Resource Consent regarding application of dairy shed effluent to land and water.
- 13 June 2007 - New Zealand Fish Products were issued three infringement notices for breaches of discharge to air consent, namely an offensive and objectionable odour beyond the boundary of the property in February, March and May 2007.
- 6 July 2007 - M & M Construction were issued an infringement notice for contravening a resource consent for stream works at King Charles Drive, Upper Hutt

Summary of Abatement Notices

- 14 June 2007 - An abatement notice was issued to Aurora Enterprises Limited to remove illegal erosion protection structure in a tributary of the Waiwhetu Stream in Naenae.

13 July 2007 - Kerry Richardson of Wainuiomata was served an abatement notice for an illegal structure which diverted the Moores Valley Stream. He was required to authorise, mitigate the effects of or remove the structure.

5. **Take Charge**

The Pollution Control team are continuing audits in Grenada North. The initial area assessment identified 62 sites in the storm water catchment, 32 of these sites were considered to pose a medium to high risk to the storm water network and Takapu Stream. Approximately half of these site audits have been completed. We will continue the audit and also conduct re-visits to assess compliance.

Five abatement notices were issued to take charge sites in Drain 6 (Paraparaumu) for non compliances discovered during the initial audits. It has been over two years since the issues were first raised and this enforcement action was necessary to establish compliance. Only one site has outstanding issues from the abatement notice.

The Take Charge programme in conjunction with IAG will undertake audits of 41 Panel and Paint Shops in the Wellington Region (including Wairarapa) to assess compliance with the Resource Management Act. IAG is the insurer for Panel and Paint shops in the region and has informed its members they must be fully compliant by mid 2008. The programme will start with a road show in Wellington, where Pollution Control will outline the objectives of the Take Charge programme.

Pollution Control have participated in eight Envirosmart audits. Currently seven of these sites have achieved Bronze status, indicating the site is fully compliant with Regional Plans and the Resource Management Act.

6. **Special projects**

Pollution Control has developed an information guide for landowners titled “Watercourses and You”. The guide outlines landowner responsibilities, watercourse management and Resource Consent requirements. It is intended to reduce illegal works in streams and rivers and inform landowners.

Following the Environmental Regulation led roll out of *Muddy Waters* workshops in Wellington & Wairarapa, Pollution Control presented *Muddy Waters* topics to students at Buchanans Digger School.

Pollution Control participated in an emergency exercise at the Chevron Terminal in Seaview. The exercise included a full response from the Fire Service and used foam to extinguish a ‘fire’ on one of the bulk



fuel tanks. Officers participated in the pre exercise brief, the exercise and de-brief. The exercise raised a number of issues should a real event occur at the site (or one similar) and was valuable experience for the team ensuring closer working relationships with the Fire Service.

7. Communication

No further public communication is necessary for this report.

8. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report; and***
2. ***Notes the contents.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Incident Response Summary