

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE: TM 6

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1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the roles and responsibilities in connection with implementation of the response to an environmental incident.

2.0 SCOPE

All activities of the Bereavement Service conducted at its offices, and all sites they are carrying out activities on.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

It is the ultimate responsibility of the Head of Service to ensure sufficient and appropriate measures are adopted and employed throughout the organization to prevent the occurrence, and/or mitigate the effects, of environmental incidents.

Senior Bereavement Service Officers are responsible for coordinating the response to an environmental incident.

4.0 REFERENCES

Pollution incident response WI 1

5.0 DEFINITIONS

Harmful Substance – a substance either prohibited from being emitted/discharged to a receiving medium (atmosphere, ground or water) or a substance released in sufficient quantities to cause environmental pollution or damage.

Environmental Incident – the release, either accidental or malicious, of a harmful substance, for example:

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- Chemical or oil spillage
- Accidental release of a harmful substance to the sewerage system
- Accidental release of a harmful substance to a local watercourse
- Major incident – an incident requiring the involvement of a regulatory authority due to the volume or toxicity of the harmful substance released.
- Minor incident - an incident not requiring the involvement of a regulatory authority.

6.0 PROCEDURE

A suspected or detected environmental incident will be immediately reported to the Senior Bereavement services officer.

The Senior Bereavement services officer shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that any release is contained within the depot boundary or site and that harm to human health and the environment is minimized, both within and beyond the depot/site boundary.

In the event of an incident occurring, the Senior Bereavement services officer will take all reasonable measures to ensure that any environmental damage is appropriately remedied.

Wherever spill kits or other materials have become contaminated due to their use in an environmental incident, they will be disposed of in accordance with relevant waste regulations.

The Senior Bereavement services officer, will, with appropriate advice where necessary, determine whether the incident is 'major' or 'minor'.

All major incidents will be reported to the relevant regulatory authority as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Following an Environmental incident a full report shall be completed by the Senior Bereavement services officer and sent to the Head of Service as soon as practicable.

7.0 DOCUMENTATION

There is no documentation for this procedure

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