

Oil pollution incidents in Jersey – 2008

1. Number of pollution incidents, 2007 - 2008

The total number of pollution incidents reported to Environmental Protection in 2008 (111) almost doubled from 2007 (65). The number of reported oil pollution incidents again almost doubled (33 in 2007, 56 in 2008) (Fig 1).

The proportion of oil pollution incidents occurring in each year (2007 and 2008), remained constant at half (51%) of the total number of pollution incidents.

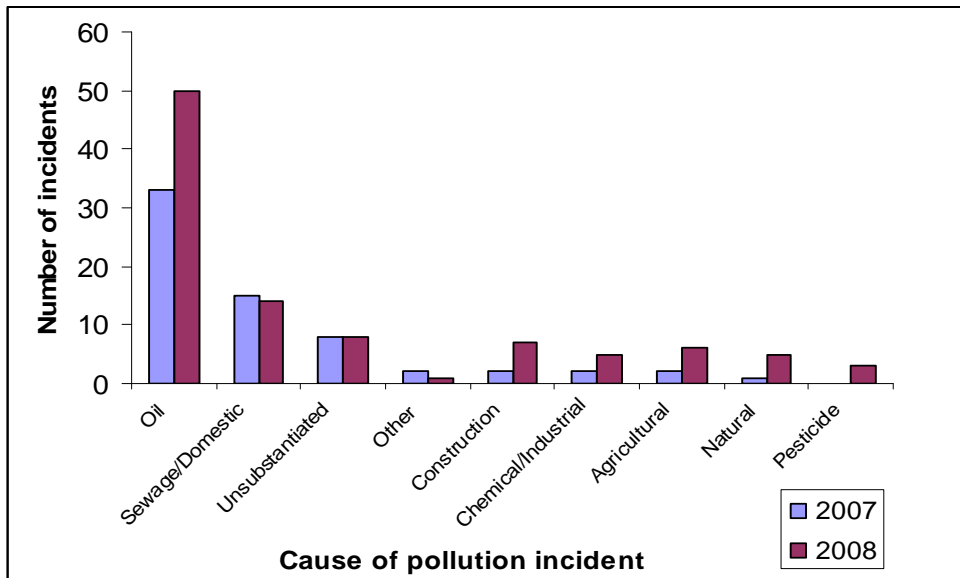


Fig 1: Total number of pollution incidents by category – 2007 and 2008.

2. Causes of oil loss

The main identified cause (6 incidents) of oil pollution in 2007 was from splitting plastic tanks (Fig. 2), either through degrading of the plastic or manufacturing faults, increasing to 10 incidents in 2008. The second most frequent cause in 2008 was from oil loss from underground pipework (8 incidents), which has increase substantially from 2 incidents in 2007, where as oil loss from above ground pipework has remained constant (Fig. 2).

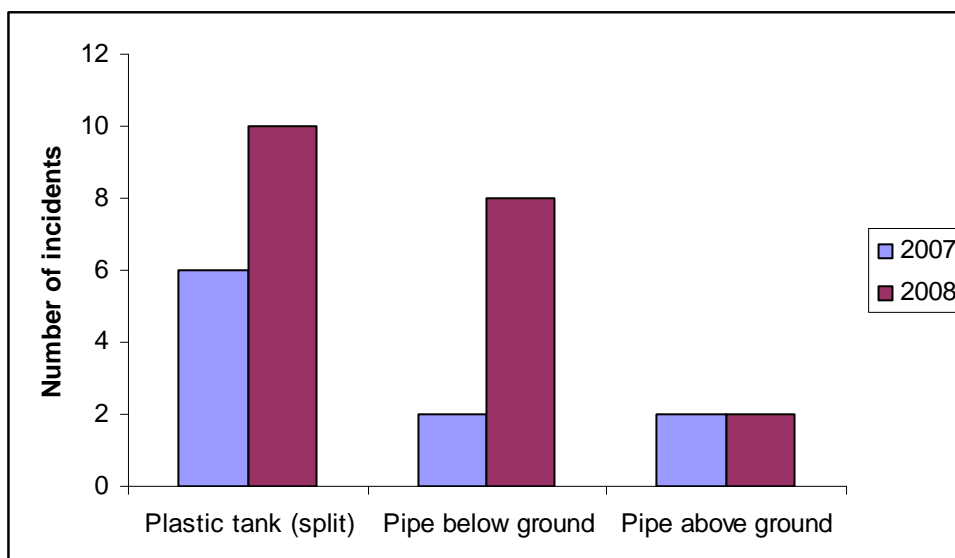


Fig 2: Causes of oil loss – 2007 and 2008.

3. Total quantity of oil lost

Between 2000 and 2008, the total number of recorded oil incident was 444, (annual mean of 55 oil incidents per year) with an average of 960 litres of oil lost per incident. In 2007, the total number of reported oil related incidents was 33, with an average of 300 litres of oil lost per incident. In 2008, the total oil lost (9880 litres in 2007 and 14700 litres in 2008) and the number of incidents increased substantially, which reduced the average oil loss per incident to 265 litres.

4. Preventable oil pollution incidents

The number of preventable oil pollution incidents was assessed in 2007 and 2008. The results clearly show that the majority of oil pollution incidents which occurred in both 2007 and 2008 could have been prevented, had the correct pollution prevention measure been in place. The number of preventable incident increased in 2008 (Fig 3).

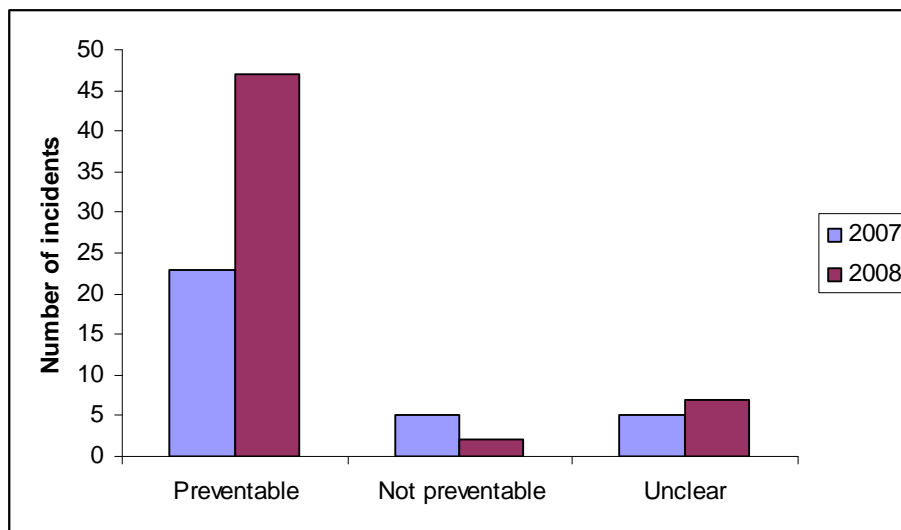


Fig 3: Preventable pollution incident, 2007 and 2008

5. Summary

In 2008, like 2007, oil related incidents accounted for over half of all incidents. However, the total number of incidents reported to Environmental Protection almost doubled. It is felt that the launch of the Oil Care Campaign and the Oil Care Group has heightened awareness, contributing to this increase in the number of reported pollution incidents in 2008.