

## **An Example: On-Site Technical Advisory Service In Action Spill at Oil Storage Terminal, January 2008**

As of June 2007, OSRL/EARL introduced a new service to help our members make crucial decisions in the very early stages of an incident, big or small. OSRL/EARL Members can now call on the services of a Technical Advisor who will be dispatched to the site or potential spill site, free of charge for an initial 48 hours.

The below incident illustrated how our Technical Advisors provided valuable support during a spill response in January 2008.

### **What happened?**

A burst hose released approximately 147m<sup>3</sup> of vacuum gas oil (VGO) into an adjacent waterway during a loading operation at a facility's jetty in Copenhagen at 0145hrs on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008.



A trajectory run on OSIS predicted a shoreline impact in 38 hours on the southwestern coast of Sweden. The Danish and Swedish Navy utilised a total of 10 oil spill response vessels, an aircraft and helicopters for surveillance.

## How did the Technical Advisor help?

- Upon receiving our member's call, OSRL/EARL promptly dispatched operations personnel to provide on-site Technical Advisory service
- The operations personnel arrived in Copenhagen on the evening of 18 January 2008 to assist in the review of the cleanup operation which included:-
  - Explanation of the projected spill trajectory based on OSIS computer modelling
  - Advised the Member on the proper jetty clean-up
  - Relayed Member's request to OSRL/EARL for more resources if required
  - Visitation to shoreline clean-up sites to provide advice
  - Followed Member's instruction to keep in touch with the local authorities

## The Outcome



By 19<sup>th</sup> January when the shoreline was impacted, response had already gone into full swing, supported by the local military and fire service.

Following reports of smooth cleanup operations, OSRL/EARL was stood down on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

## Recovery Statistics

Total released:	Up to 147m <sup>3</sup>
Recovered at sea:	130m <sup>3</sup> of waste product, including sea water
Recovered at jetty:	30m <sup>3</sup> of waste product , including wash down fluids.
Evaporation:	Up to 5m <sup>3</sup>
Estimated shoreline impact:	Up to 25m <sup>3</sup>

To ensure that Member costs were kept realistic for insurance purposes, the OSRL/EARL operations personnel also evaluated the rehabilitation requirements for the vessels and equipment. (not covered by the Technical Advisory service)

The critical early hours often make all the difference to the outcome of a response. OSRL/EARL offers Members the benefit of calling for initial support on site without worrying about the financial implications of taking that decision.

If the spill develops into a full response after 48 hours, then normal response arrangements will resume but by that time the advice offered will have contributed to the most effective response planning. This also ensures the response management team of the best technical approach.

The On-site Technical Advisory support has been used by our Members since June 2007 and has been received as a positive contribution.

For more information on this initiative, please contact our Duty Managers at +44 (0) 23 8033 1551 or +65 6266 1566