

Oil Pollution Incident

Use of the water for recreational activities

Mariners have been advised in LNTM No. 9/2023 that there has been an oil product release to the South of Poole Harbour and that a major incident has been declared. The incident remains ongoing and Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) 'Shoreline Clean Up and Assessment Technique' (SCAT) intensive operation continues.

The UK Health Security Agency has issued the following advice covering 'using the water for recreational purposes' which we wish to bring to the attention of mariners:

"As a precaution UK Health Security Agency advise that the public should avoid going on the beach and using the water for recreational purposes in contaminated areas. If any member of the public gets fuel oil on the skin, they should remove all contaminated clothing and wash the skin, using soap and water, for 10 minutes.

It is likely that people in close proximity to the contamination will be able to smell and taste fuel oil vapours but by removing yourself from the source of fuel oil contamination, any symptoms should start to resolve. It is unlikely there will be any long term health effects from short exposures (e.g. days). Exposure to fuel oils on the skin may result in irritation, drying and cracking. Short term inhalation of vapours (and odour) may cause nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, and respiratory tract irritation. Drinking contaminated water may cause symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.

Anyone who has been exposed to fuel oil and is feeling unwell please contact NHS 111 or seek medical attention from your GP"

'Using the water for recreational purposes' - includes, for these purposes, recreational activities involving a vessel (including small craft such as jet skis, paddleboards, kite surfers, kayaks etc.), hand gathering of shellfish and swimming.

Regular press releases will continue to be issued to news channels and posted on social media platforms.

Mariners are reminded that Radar, AIS, CCTV, Telephone and VHF Channels are recorded 24/7

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Water Sport Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

CAPTAIN BRIAN MURPHY
HARBOUR MASTER

All Local Notices are available on the PHC website:

www.phc.co.uk/leisure/harbour-control/local-notices-to-mariners