

The various techniques which can be used to dispose of oil and oily debris, collected after major oil spills, are described.

The report is intended to assist individuals and organisations concerned with this problem, including:

- National and local authorities
- Compilers of contingency plans
- Managers of disposal organisations
- Oil spill clean-up supervisors
- Industry personnel.

The nature of the collected material, its transportation and storage, is outlined.

The disposal techniques which are described result (in order of preference) in:

- recovery of oil for re-use, or
- stabilisation of the oily waste, or
- destruction or decomposition of the oil.

Recovery techniques include gravity separation, emulsion-breaking and a variety of washing or extraction procedures.

Oily waste may be stabilised through use in civil works or by a range of landfill procedures.

Destructive techniques include biological degradation or heat treatment (which may permit heat recovery).

Some indication of manpower requirements and costs is given, together with a "desirability rating" for the various methods of disposal (Fig. 3, page 22), although final choice of disposal method will always depend on local conditions and the legal constraints of each case.

Close co-operation is urged between authorities and industry, before, during and after an oil spill, to ensure that collected oil is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable, costeffective and energy-conserving manner.

Recommendations are made for future developments in spilt oil disposal techniques.