

**ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT
PROFORMA**

ALERT NUMBER: 001/2008

ISSUE DATE: 12 November 2008

INCIDENT DETAILS:

Uncontrolled discharge of crude oil to sea from the air discharge vent of a sea sump Wilden pump.

INITIAL FINDINGS:

Findings were that:

1. The pump was found to have a partially blocked inlet from solid debris which passed through the drains system to the sea sump pump pipework.
2. The blockage caused pressure imbalance in the pump, pulling the diaphragm free from its seat and allowing oil to pass to the air side of the pump and out of the vent pipe.
3. The air discharge vented overboard.

Further investigation found that the environmental risk of this design had not been identified.

Learning:

1. This type of drainage pump should be protected from solids that could restrict inlet or outlet pipework or damage the diaphragm.
2. Consideration should be given to the positioning of the air outlet of diaphragm pumps to avoid uncontrolled loss of pump fluids should the diaphragm integrity be compromised.

Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

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