



## ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

**ALERT NUMBER: 006/2014**

**ISSUE DATE: 31 December 2014**

### INCIDENT / ALERT DETAILS:

DECC have received a number of PON1's reporting the release of hydrocarbons or chemicals to sea during bunkering incidents which occurred during the hours of darkness, and a number of these releases have gone undetected for extended periods of time. Established causes have included bunkering hose management issues and lack of appropriate controls to enable early detection and minimisation of release quantities.

### INITIAL/ALERT FINDINGS:

DECC inspections have determined that operators implement different levels of controls with regards to bunkering, and offloading where appropriate, of hydrocarbons or chemicals during hours of darkness, namely:

- A number of operators have implemented policies of not bunkering during the hours of darkness, which should eliminate the risk of releases going undetected for extended periods.
- Some operators have sought / implemented new technologies to prevent releases or minimise release quantities should they occur e.g. installation of floating hoses, use of infra-red cameras.
- Other operators ensure additional lighting and/or extra personnel are available.

Operators must ensure that relevant personnel on their installations are fully aware of the additional environmental risks of undertaking bunkering operations during the hours of darkness, and to avoid undertaking these operations if possible. If bunkering operations during the hours of darkness cannot be avoided, then operators must ensure additional appropriate controls are in place to prevent releases or enable early detection to minimise release quantities should they occur. Operators should review controls on a regular basis and utilise new technologies where appropriate.

### Further Information

Any queries relating to this alert should be addressed to:

Energy Development Unit  
Offshore Environment and Decommissioning  
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ABERDEEN, AB11 6AR

Or:

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