



FFC leak response & incident reporting

Recently there have been Fluid Filled Cable (FFC) leaks in the North and South Networks of SPEN, in areas which are environmentally sensitive sites such as areas near watercourses or on third-party owned land. In these high-risk situations, it's important to know what actions to take when a FFC leak occurs.

FFC oil leaks could result in impacts to the environment if the response is not managed.

It is essential to respond quickly and assess the potential risks to receptors such as: designated protected sites, watercourses, groundwater and water abstractions.

Both of the recent FFC incidents were effectively managed, reducing impacts and avoiding enforcement actions on SPEN.

Environmental FFC incident response can include the following:

- Responsible teams need to alert relevant SPEN teams to be aware if there is a possibility of a leak.
- Prioritise leak detection to identify the location of the leak.
- Once the leak is found, contact the relevant parties i.e.
 - External environmental response service partner (RSK)
 - SPEN Environmental teams
 - Regulator for the region (i.e. NRW, SEPA, EA)
 - Use external expertise such as ecologists and hydrogeologists to support incident management
- Manage the risks from the leak and keep key stakeholders informed of progress. This may include actions such as groundwater monitoring & investigations after the initial response.

Recommendations and action points

- Review relevant procedures such as **ENV-04-014** (Environmental Emergency Response and Incident Reporting) and **ENV-04-025** (Land Contamination Management) for handling FFC leak contamination.
- Ensure all incidents and near misses are reported on OneHS.
- Incident investigation should be carried out as required to understand the root cause and implement measures to prevent recurrence. Consider similar risks elsewhere on the network during the investigation.
- Sensitivity checks – These are necessary to confirm the area's sensitivity by examining **UMV internal** or external sites for sensitive receptors and can be obtained from license environmental teams or the sustainability team.
- Take relevant action – if able to, as all employees are responsible for mitigating further impacts of leaks, such as following Spillage Control procedures.



Figure 1: Use of Substation sensitivity map layers to identify areas of high risk can help understand the scope of potential risks of FFC leaks.

Map shows substation: Four Crosses located in SPM. Source: Map_1088



Figure 2: Marine booms help stop the spread of oil. Booms are available in all Spill Kits, which can be found in all operational SPEN vehicles.

Location: FFC Oil leak 5th September 2024, Porthmadog, an area within a SSSI and SAC.