

Communiqué

Oil Spill Incident in Watercourse at Pointe aux Sables

1. This Ministry has been notified at around 10:00hrs on Tuesday 02 July 2024 of presence of oil in a watercourse located next to the Pointe aux Sables Public Beach. As per preliminary investigation, an estimated amount of 20 litres of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) has been spilled.
2. Upon notification of the oil spill incident, a team of officers from this Ministry, *Police de L'Environnement*, Special Mobile Force (SMF) and National Coast Guard (NCG) immediately proceeded on-site, where two patches of oil of an area of about 10 m² were observed near the bridge and along the banks of the watercourse upstream. There is no oil observed in the lagoon.
3. The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping; Water Resources Unit; Forestry Service; City Council of Port Louis; Beach Authority; Mauritius Ports Authority; and Solid Waste Management Division, were immediately notified of the oil spill by this Ministry for necessary actions at their level.
4. To contain the oil, the NCG and SMF have deployed a total of 21 metres sorbent booms and some 160 sorbent pads in the spilled area.
5. Water samples have been collected by the National Environmental Laboratory (NEL) both in the watercourse and at sea for analysis; and ambient air screening exercise is also being carried out to detect the presence of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in the neighbourhood of the oil spill incident.
6. As per preliminary enquiry, the spill occurred from one of the garment factories in Pointe aux Sables.
7. The situation is under control.

*Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
(Environment and Climate Change Division)*

Date: 02 July 2024