



Standard Guide for Incinerating Oil Spill Wastes at Temporary Field Locations¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide addresses incineration as a means of waste disposal and specifically discusses incinerating oil spill wastes at temporary field locations.

1.2 The purpose of this guide is to provide the user with general information on incineration as a means of disposal, not to define a rigid set of standards. It is intended as a reference to plan or execute disposal by incineration.

1.3 This guide outlines procedures and describes some equipment that can be applied to a land-based field incineration process. Included in the guide is a description of typical oil spill wastes that can be incinerated; an outline of procedures to select, prepare, operate, and restore a temporary site; and a summary of general site safety considerations.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* Specific precautionary information is given in Section.7

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

2.1.1 *field*—a location designed during an oil spill cleanup for incinerating oil spill waste material.

2.1.2 *incineration*—controlled burning of waste products or other combustible material.

2.1.3 *incinerator*—a device constructed for the purpose of containing a material for thermal oxidization.

2.1.4 *landfarming*—a controlled method of spreading a known amount of oil in a nominally uniform layer thickness onto a designated land area for the purpose of biological decomposition. This decomposition process is accelerated by mixing the oil layer with the top few inches of soil, aerating the soil by occasional plowing and adding fertilizers that include nitrogen and potassium to increase the oil decomposition rate.

2.1.5 *landfill*—a land disposal technique that uses excavated pits to contain the oil spill waste material. The waste is placed in the excavation, covered over, and left to degrade.

2.1.6 *oil spill*—An uncontrolled discharge of petroleum materials into the environment.

2.1.7 *on-scene coordinator*—the person in charge of oil spill countermeasures.

2.1.8 *open burning*—the process of burning a material without the aid of an incinerator.

2.1.9 *portable incinerator*—a device capable of being transported by some practical means to a field location for the purpose of burning combustible waste products.

2.1.10 *recycling*—any disposal method that uses oil spill waste material in some manner other than returning it to a marketed product. Examples are road oiling and direct use as fuel supplement.

2.1.11 *relative viscosity*—the measured viscosity of an emulsion (in any convenient unit) divided by the measured viscosity of the oil.

2.1.12 *reprocessing*—reclaimed spilled oil by some type of treatment technique that returns the oil into a product that can be sold.

3. Significance and Use

3.1 A series of five basic operations are generally required to control an oil spill. These operations are: containment, recovery, transfer, storage, and disposal. A deficiency in any one of these operations can cause the entire cleanup activity to slow down or even stop. For example, recovery operations must be terminated when temporary storage fills to capacity and skimmers are no longer able to offload picked-up oil. In order to minimize any adverse effect that the disposal process might have on the other four operations, proper planning and management of the waste disposal operation is essential.

3.2 One way to avoid a slowdown due to the disposal process is to select a disposal site near the cleanup activity. A convenient site reduces the time necessary to transport the picked-up material from storage to disposal, thus increasing the efficiency of the overall operation.

3.3 Unfortunately all oil spill cleanup locations may not be convenient to established oil waste disposal areas. In remote areas travel time to refineries, landfarms, or approved landfills may be hours or even days away from the spill. Therefore, it may be advantageous to establish a temporary field disposal site near the cleanup operation.

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