

Environmental Incident Impact Classification

Guidance on Environmental Incident Impact Classification

<u>Environmental Impact</u>	Negligible environmental impact	Minor or minimal impact	Significant impact	Major, serious, persistent and / or extensive impact
	Category 4	Category 3	Category 2	Category 1

Use the following statements to help categorise the specific incident:

Environmental impact

<p>Major, serious, persistent and / or extensive impact includes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long term remediation (more than 6 months) or destruction of property required ▪ Pollution that causes a persistent (7+ days) and / or extensive (>2 km) impact ▪ Pollution involving toxic, hazardous or infectious materials/wastes ▪ Water pollution causing death of 100 or more fish ▪ Unable to continue normal use of a nationally significant area of land and / or water by the public ▪ Closure of licensed potable water abstraction point ▪ Air pollution / land contamination resulting in fatality, serious injury (such as loss of limb or organ) or acute effect on human health ▪ More than 50 complaints in 24 hours ▪ Involvement of the national press ▪ Causing actual harm or damage to statutorily protected site or a European or Nationally protected species or its habitat ▪ Disruption to commercial interests leading to an interruption in production
<p>Significant impact includes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution / contamination of land / water / air that requires short term remediation (between 2 weeks and 6 months) or causes minor (repairable) property damage ▪ Pollution that has an impact over an area of at least 200m ▪ Water pollution causing death of 10 or more fish ▪ Unable to continue normal use of a locally significant area of land and / or water by the public ▪ Closure of a minor unlicensed potable water abstraction (e.g. serving 1-2 households) ▪ Air pollution / land contamination resulting in injury involving the need to attend hospital or effect on human health ▪ More than 10 complaints in one week ▪ Noise complaints that also involved a breach of consent ▪ Involvement of the local press or contact from the local MP ▪ Disturbance to statutorily protected site or a European or Nationally protected species or habitat ▪ Causing actual harm or damage to non-statutorily protected site or a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species or its habitat ▪ Damage to tree protected under a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) ▪ Confirmed spread of an invasive species ▪ Disruption to commercial interests having limited impact on production
<p>Minor or minimal impact includes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pollution / contamination of land / water / air that has no effect on its quality / use ▪ Pollution that has an impact over an area of less than 200m ▪ No effect on the normal use of land and / or water by the public, only individuals or a select group affected ▪ Release(s) to the atmosphere likely to cause only aesthetic impacts e.g. dust ▪ Less than 10 complaints in one week ▪ No press involvement ▪ Disturbance to non-statutorily protected site or a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species or its habitat ▪ Temporary impact on commercial / agricultural activities but no loss of production
<p>Negligible impact includes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spills of less than 20 litres ▪ Flytipping

NOTE. Some incidents may reflect statements in each of the environmental impact categories. In these instances please select the highest appropriate level of impact.

For any additional support or guidance please contact your local environmental specialist.