

Guidance Document

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Environmental Incident Categories

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1 Purpose

This Guidance provides the organisation with examples of environmental incidents.

The Environment Team conduct a weekly review of incidents recorded on the incident database and this ensures correct categorisation.

2 Scope

This Guidance applies to classification of incidents arising from all areas of Rail & Underground's activities.

3 Guidance

3.1 What is an Incident

An undesired event that results in, or under slightly different circumstances could have resulted in, harm to people, damage to property, damage to the environment, or loss of process.

LU category 1 standard [S1566](#) "Monitoring health, safety and environmental performance" provides a definition of major environmental incidents.



3.2 Environmental Incident Categories

Any visit to site by a Regulator such as Local Authority, Environment Agency, Sewage company to carry out investigations should be reported as an environmental incident.

The table below gives examples of environmental incident categorisation.

Environmental Incident Categories	Sub category (specifics) for more detailed analysis	Guidance on classifications – some examples	
		Environmental Incident(s)	Not environmental Incident(s)
Air Quality	Dust	Any incident involving excessive generation / damage by dust e.g.: - Dust being blown on to residential property from construction works - Dust causing air conditioning units to fail	Dust produced as a result of planned work activities which is effectively controlled and does not cause any nuisance or damage
	Fumes (inc. Traffic) / Uncontrolled releases into air	Any incident involving excessive releases to air, e.g.: - Excessive fumes being emitted by generator on site - Discharge of coolant from air conditioning systems	- Fumes being given off from recent painting works - Use of sprays that only affect localised area, e.g. aerosol paint can a) - Gas leaks because they are primarily H&S issue)
Contamination of land	Oil leaks / spills	Discharges / spills or leakages of oil onto land: Hydraulic hose on rail vehicle splits and oil leaks on to ballast.	Small drip from plant on to plant nappy / bund
	Leak / spill – other than oil	Discharge / spill or leakage of other hazardous substances onto land: Glycol container is knocked over and material spills on to the land	Burst water mains (outside of LU property & clean water) causing partial flooding of LU property