

**Summary of Notification of Incident  
- pursuant to Section 14 of the  
Waste Management and Pollution Control Act**

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**02 Mar 08**

**Department of Defence  
Dispersal of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF)  
RAAF Base Darwin**

**THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON NOTIFYING OF THE INCIDENT –**

Mrs Anne Bradford, Regional Manager Defence Support Northern Territory /  
Katherine

**THE INCIDENT CAUSING OR THREATENING TO CAUSE POLLUTION –**

The fire suppression system (3M FC-3003 Light Water Aqueous Film Forming Foam (6% concentrate) in a hangar at RAAF Darwin activated due to an electrical fault. Substantial quantities of a fire fighting foam used in the suppression system were released in the hangar.

During the clean up effort following the release of foam, some of the foam was carried by the wind from the RAAF Base Darwin into surrounding suburbs, foam was also washed down the base drain, leading to significant catchment areas.

**THE PLACE WHERE THE INCIDENT OCCURRED –**

Hangar 31, RAAF Base Darwin

**THE DATE AND TIME OF THE INCIDENT –**

Initial reports were received at 0845 on Sunday 02 March 2008

**HOW THE POLLUTION OCCURRED, IS OCCURRING OR MAY OCCUR –**

Defence is investigating the incident to better understand the events that led to the foam being dispersed from the hangar. The results of this investigation will allow Defence to enhance and improve its procedures to prevent this type of incident from happening again.

**THE ATTEMPTS MADE TO PREVENT, REDUCE, CONTROL, RECTIFY OR CLEAN UP THE POLLUTION OR RESULTANT ENVIRONMENTAL HARM CAUSED OR THREATENING TO BE CAUSED BY THE INCIDENT –**

Defence has undertaken testing of water and soil samples using a suitably qualified environmental consultant (GDH). The sampling commenced on 03 March 2008 and results are expected to be available within 20 days from that date.