

- Number and type of igniters used (i.e., handhelds, deployed, and volume of Heli-torch fuel used)
- Environmental conditions for each burn (wind and current speed, directions, and air and water temperatures)
- Collection and labeling of all video and still footage of the burn
- Heading and altitude of the smoke plume(s) (use one of the spotter aircraft to search downwind for any visible smoke and record its location)
- Archiving of all SMART monitoring data
- Volumes of residue recovered (obtain and document a sample of the residue)
- Lengths of fire-resistant boom requiring replacement
- Any complaints obtained (record and investigate them)
- Lessons learned

6.10 BURN RESIDUE

The residue will become more viscous as it cools, and it may solidify. For personnel safety and equipment protection, the burn residue should cool for at least one hour (although under some conditions cooling can occur in less than 20 minutes) after it is extinguished before recovery is attempted. Many skimmers and positive displacement pumps have plastic parts that will melt at temperatures above 160 °F.

6.10.1 Need for Recovery

The burning process removes the lighter aromatics that are usually more toxic components of the oil. The viscous oil residue has the potential, however, to coat and smother biota and kill or injure birds and mammals that come in contact with it. Therefore, the oil should be recovered if possible. If the residue is not a significant volume, it could be kept in the boom for additional burning attempts before removal.

6.10.2 Recovery Techniques

Recovery of burn residue is basically the same as that for any viscous oil recovery operation. The fire-resistant boom generally already contains it. For open water burns, a containment boom or advancing skimmer is needed to collect the burn residue. This can be accomplished with conventional boom and sweeps once the residue cools down. A skimmer should be lowered into the apex of the boom using a crane from a support vessel, or a self-propelled skimmer can maneuver into the open boom area. Care should be taken not to bring a vessel or skimmer into contact with the fire-resistant boom because the boom may be more fragile and more easily damaged after the burn especially if problems occurred during the burn. The wind or current can be used to push the residue into the apex toward the skimmer. Towing the containment boom assists in this procedure by moving the skimmer and remaining oil into the back of the apex.

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