

NATIONAL INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

INCIDENT SUMMARY

CORE EVENT DETAILS:

Incident No:	01810981	Reported To:	Jill Rhodes
Date & Time Notified:	27/05/2020 20:10	Date & Time Observed:	26/05/2020 14:00
Reporter Name:	[REDACTED]	Feedback Requested:	N
Reporter Contact Details:	[REDACTED]		

Type of Report:	Fish kill	Suspected Source:	Other/NATURE RESERVE
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Event Details:	<p>Caller has seen approximately 50 - 100 dead fish not seen any that are in distress caller does not know what type of fish are dead but thinks there are carp, perch etc. in the water The site is a SSSI site FISH KILL/Rushall Canal/WEST MIDS</p> <p>Caller thinks there is no disease as far as tell caller thinks that the water level has dropped drastically and with the heat there is more than likely a lack of oxygen All fish are affected Caller cannot see any algae which is usually visible Caller first noticed 26 May around 4 pm Caller is the [REDACTED] and walks around at the same time daily There are not visible signs of pollution that is aware Caller thinks this has never happened in the 4 years they have been [REDACTED] there is no remedial action being taken as there is only the [REDACTED] caller</p> <p>the Nature Reserve is called STUBBERS GREEN NATURE RESERVE post code of the nature Reserve is WS9 8BL</p> <p>Stabbers Green Road classed as Aldridge in Walsall Caller is more than happy to meet anyone who wants to visit to see the fish if they contact [REDACTED]</p>
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INCIDENT LOCATION DETAILS:

Confirmed Location:	Rushall Canal	Incident NGR:	SK 04080 01669
Multi-location:	[REDACTED]	Incident room area:	[REDACTED]
Catchment:	Tame (WMids.Upp) to Rea confl	Local Authority:	WALSALL DISTRICT
Operational Area:	W Mids(Staffs, Warks and West Mids)	Public Facing Area:	West Midlands

INCIDENT ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Initial Assessment By:	Katie Morrison	Date and Time of Initial Assessment:	27/05/2020 21:29:00
Agency Incident:	Y	Event Substantiated:	Y
Non-attendance Reason:	A reason not required	Attendance Priority:	Attend on a risk basis
Attendance Justification:	[REDACTED]	Potential Environmental Impact:	3
Duplicate Report References:	01810994, 01811002, 01811007, 01811061, 01811343, 01811474, 01811559, 01811828, 01812988		

INCIDENT INVESTIGATION & CLASSIFICATION DETAILS:

Investigation Report:

This incident has been reported during the COVID-19 outbreak, the government have enforced social distancing to protect human health.

This incident has been incorrectly categorised as CAT3. This incident is a CAT1

OH EMDO Assessment KM - Contacted the caller [REDACTED] informed that [REDACTED] only saw a couple of dead fish yesterday. It was another person who lives in the area that states that there are 50-100 dead. Whilst on the phone the caller went to the area and confirmed that [REDACTED] could only see a couple of dead fish now 2-6 of them and they were quite far away from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] cannot see 50-100.

[REDACTED] stated that they are on The Swag side of the lakes (The sailing pool side).

The area is a SSSI. Nothing else seen for smelt in the water. No other animals affected.

[REDACTED] will send the photo of a dead fish. They do have large fish in the pools the size of dinner plates.

[REDACTED] will be back at the pools 2pm 28/5/20.

21:15hrs ABC informed.

21:20 fisheries informed. If only a small amount of fish could be a natural occurrence as it is spawning season. They beat each other up and their scales can be removed, which then causes them to die. There could also be a natural algae crash, happens this time of year. Cat3 at this time as reporter cannot see more than 6 fish and could be natural. No signs of a pollution.

21:45 further report from member of the public 01810994 - 10 dead fish, 40 gasping and stream dry. Linked the incident to this NIRS

21:50 email to fisheries officer.

22:15 further report from member of public 01811002 - 10-20 dead. Carp, bream & tench. 30-50 gasping. Feeder stream dry.

23:15 Further report from RSPCA - 01811007 - They received a report from 3rd party. 100 fish maybe poisoned. They will attend at 7am.

Information - The report had been placed onto a facebook page. Photos received from first informant, who gathered the photos from facebook. The photos show around 20 dead fish, the close up photo is of a Bream. ABC, fisheries and land and water officers updated.

GS Land and Water officer update - Historic issues relating to low levels/ fish in distress in the smaller pool adj to Swag

Also Vigo Brook which flows into the Swag at Stubbers Green Rd is heavily impacted by a nearby leaking landfill (Vigo Landfill). Elevated Ammonia in the brook.

Hypothesis:

- Natural occurrence - fish spawning
- Natural occurrence - algae crash
- Natural occurrence due to weather - lack of oxygen for the fish, also may have dried up the feeder stream
- Feeder stream maybe blocked
- Ammonia from the local landfill
- other source of pollution

28/5/20

9:30 ABC, ADM, Fisheries, Land and Water and EMDO - Update

Covid 19 restrictions - 1st priority is keeping EA and people safe. Due to this at this time no attendance.

Advised was categorised at Cat3 due to visual update, can confirm now CAT2 as per Cics, with the potential of CAT1.

Actions:

Facetime warden

Contact the council who own the pools

Check who regulates landfill - Previous incidents

Consider coms

09:28 Further report from public - 01811061. 1 dead fish and 20-30 gasping.

10:30 updated from RSPCA- approx 30-50 dead, water clear, no signs of pollution. Public not happy no EA. Anglers trying to remove fish and place into the other pool. Advised to stop. Concerns for other animals like dogs going into the water. Fish are dead near to the edges. A lot of people on site. Not in RSPCA remit.

Spoke to angler on site:

Approx 100 Bream dead. Inspected them, they have white spots on their heads which would suggest they are spawning. Spawning can cause death as they beat each other up and descale.

10-15 carp dead - suspect oxygen crash.

The stream was not flowing into the pool as it was blocked. This has now been unlocked and is flowing again.

Suspect due to lack of fresh flowing water and the heat, this could have caused an oxygen crash.

There is thick silt in the pool, but is clear

Fisheries and ABC updated. Highly likely a natural occurrence, but unable to rule out pollution at this time.

12:25 Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council contacted ref 502536

13:30 spoke to installations team. They will speak to Enovert re their leachate. They have a new system in place to remove their leachate from Highfields and Vigo landfills. They will check the area to ensure it is not them.

14:00 Council now on site 01811180 & Other linked incident - 01811343. They have small aeration units. They want advice on larger units and removal of the dead fish. Fisheries to contact them.

Confirmed 100 dead fish and distressed fish. Counsellor also site, Local business will pay for recovery from community fund

16:00 01810875 Linked to incident - Informed that the council were not present.

Phoned the council they advised that the small aerator was not sufficient so left and will return tomorrow with larger unit

29/5/20 - call from an informant the fish are being moved by anglers into another pool. Barns Lane pool. Advised her to call this is an incident.

Fisheries and enforcement informed - due to Covid 19 response very limited. updated ABC

01811559 - Further update - the ammonia levels are high in a linked pond, Severn Trent contacted.

17:00 spoke to council for an update they have left. They have been unable to get aerators big enough to have an impact, they have left the site and will await funds from community fund and will then return. They have cleaned the sluice and cleared away the dead fish.

17:10 update from Severn Trent who confirmed that there is a pollution in the linked pool, Barns Lane Pool and is feeding the Swag. Build up upstream from the pond. Lids missing. 15mg Ammonia, They are removing the blockage. They will start the clean up and will aerate. Severn Trent have Council contact details.

Updated ABC, decision made with ADM for EA not to attend. Severn Trent and Council to deal.

The area is a highly populated place, concerns regarding Covid 19, keeping staff safe. Negative press towards EA during this incident, which could increase contact. Other factors linked to this incident natural occurrence and pollution. Work with other agencies.

Further Update from Severn Trent - They have had a conference call. The Swan pool is 0.06mg. The other pool - The swag has dead fish. They have ordered 3 aeration units and requested an ecologist to attend site. These will arrive tomorrow (30/5). They are arranging tankers to attend. One will arrive tonight, the other maybe the morning.

ABC updated.

30/5/20 - 8am - Severn Trent have an aerator will be on site at 9am and they will take samples. Spoke to Severn Trent who confirmed that they are tankering out the pollution.

10:00 - Photo of aerator on site.

12:30 Update Severn Trent - Source - Collapsed drain on old factory site next to the pond. The building is derelict. Struggled to gain access so tankering off from nearby. They will gain access later today.

They have 2 tankers on site, 2 aerators on site, only seen 10 dead fish. They are taking samples for Ammonia and Oxygen. They have requested that the local facilities close at this time. Ecologist on site to ensure they do not disturb water volume too much.

31/5/20

Protective Marking : PROTECT

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13:30 Update from Severn Trent. They have 8 aerators in place. Bricks and Debris removed from sewer. They have banded off the pollution. The bund is at SK0392901952
The whole of the Swag was affected. Ecologist is in attendance. 16 dead fish altogether since they arrived. No other animals affected.
They have created a full story board.
Reading at 12:20 AM 12.3 so is dropping

ABC updated.

16:35 Email sent to Natural England.

GS 1/6/20
Update from SvT - blocked sewer on private land (derelict factory), now cleared. Tankers removing polluted water from ditch/ stream.
NH3 levels in the Swag itself were 12mg/l yesterday, now approx 6mg/l.
SvT aerating - DO levels ranging between 15- 60%, advised SvT to continue aeration until DO stable without aeration over 50%.

cont...

GS SvT storyboard supports incident being caused by extensive third party vandalism of the sewer on site. This resulted in the sewer overflowing across land and into the adjacent watercourse.
Final classification as Cat 1 impact, Offender unidentified. NIRS closed

Agency Resource Impact: Environmental Impact Air:

Environmental Impact Land: Environmental Impact Water:

Action Taken:

Alleged Offender Name:

INCIDENT CLOSURE DETAILS:

Incident Closed Date: Closure Authorised By: