

HOT TOPICS: The Pacific Adventurer spill off Queensland, Australia

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Gale force winds and seas at 5-6m were hampering progress of the container ship Pacific Adventurer when early in the morning of 11 March 2009, 31 containers (ammonium nitrate) were lost overboard.

On route from Newcastle to Brisbane the vessel was approximately 7 miles east of Moreton Island when the incident occurred, the falling containers damaged two fuel oil bunker tanks and subsequently about 270 tonnes of fuel oil were lost into the sea. Within 24 hours the oil had contacted some 60kms of shoreline affecting sandy beaches, rocky coast and near shore waterways.

To date several hundred personnel from local and national agencies have been deployed to assist in the response.

The response arrangements, affected areas and strategies will be presented and discussed during the presentation.