



National  
Operational  
Guidance

# Control measure

## Containment (Foam)



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

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### Control measure knowledge

The ability to contain foam run-off is preferable to allowing uncontrolled discharge of foam run-off to drains. Foam containment and run-off are the same as those for fire water run-off. See [Fire water run-off](#).

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Develop foam procedures, which must include:
  - Containment of foam run-off
  - Environmental considerations
- Ensure that the impacts of using foam is included for operations in and around protected sites (for example [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#))
- Where appropriate, consult with local environment agencies, sewerage companies, and nature conservation bodies where it can be reasonably expected that the use of foam may be considered

### Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Make every effort to prevent firefighting foam entering surface and groundwater during an incident
- Consider the availability of pollution control equipment and/or pollution containment facilities on site
- Consider the need to prevent foam run-off entering drains, including during make up activity



- Consider the risk to the environment caused by the use of foam versus the benefits (rapid control of the fire)
- Consider the legal exemptions. See [Environmental legislation](#)
- Consider carrying out an [environmental analytical risk assessment](#)
- Consider informing the following organisations of the use of foam and the quantities involved:
  - Relevant environment agency
  - Sewerage companies (where foam is likely to enter the sewerage system)