

**KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board  
1a Herrwood Drive  
Umhlanga  
KwaZulu-Natal  
South Africa**

**Attention: Mr Grayson Love**

**RE: Potential Chemical/Health Risks posed during servicing of drumlines**

Apex Environmental has been appointed to assist in the investigation and control of potential human health risks which may arise due to any chemical pollution caused during the recent social unrest and property damage which occurred in eThekweni (Cornubia and affected surrounding areas).

It is Apex's understanding that the drumlines to be serviced are located at Umhlanga, Umhloti, and Westbrook Beaches; and that the boats will be launched from the Vetch's Pier and Westbrook Beaches for those operations. Drumline equipment will be hooked and hauled onto the vessel using a grappling hook, where it will be de-fouled by scrubbing and rinsing with sea water.

Environmental contamination investigations are ongoing by various specialists, and a full risk profile has not yet emerged. It is anticipated that the main exposure risk to any potential pollutants will be as a result of water splashing, during scrubbing and rinsing of equipment, as well as due to general sea conditions whilst on the vessel. No significant risk of airborne chemical agents is anticipated, but some degree of (low) risk may be present.

Until the full extent of any environmental contamination becomes known, it is recommended that the *precautionary principle* be applied to any work conducted which may bring workers into direct or indirect contact with potentially contaminated water, equipment, or airborne chemical vapours or mists. The following general guidelines are therefore recommended:

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**COMPANY**

Apex Environmental cc  
Co Reg: CK 98/44018/23  
VAT Reg: No 4330176167

**MEMBERS**

R.W. Randolph  
S.J. Chester  
K. Seeram



Recommended personal protective equipment:

- a) Provide and use nitrile examination gloves (impervious, to prevent skin contact), which must be worn underneath the existing leather gloves (which are necessary to prevent skin damage from barnacles and other mechanical factors). Alternatively, provide and use elbow-length PVC chemical resistant gloves, with sufficient mechanical- and cut-resistance ratings.
- b) Provide and use a full-face visor, to prevent face (skin/eye) contact (splashing) from any contaminated water or de-fouled material during activities such as scrubbing and rinsing. Failing which, eye protection should be provided and used as a minimum (safety glasses or goggles).
- c) Continue to provide and use splash- and water-resistant clothing, such as PVC rainsuits, to protect against skin splashes.
- d) Continue to provide and use water-resistant footwear.
- e) Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is not anticipated to be generally necessary. KZN Sharks Board is reported to have stock of N95 masks, which will provide protection against inhalation of nuisance levels of airborne mists or vapours. It is recommended that these be made readily available and accessible for in the event of perceptible chemical odours or where any respiratory effects are experienced (e.g., irritation to the nose, throat, or lungs). These masks should be kept available and readily accessible in dry and contaminant-free packaging or storage facilities).

Areas with strongly perceptible airborne chemicals or odours should be avoided; and reported to Apex Environmental. The N95 mask may not provide sufficient inhalation protection.

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Handling and storage of equipment:

- f) Any direct handling of equipment should be done using the above recommended PPE.
  
- g) Any storage or servicing of potentially contaminated equipment in indoor areas should take ventilation into consideration. Airborne chemical agents are not anticipated to be present at levels which will pose any significant risk to health; however, all doors, windows and vents should be kept open as far as reasonably practicable, and particularly if or where any airborne chemical odours or acute health effects become perceptible (e.g., irritation to the nose, throat, or lungs).

Facilities:

- h) As a precautionary measure, ensure that shower and washing facilities are provided and used, following any skin contact with water or equipment surfaces.

Reporting of chemical exposures and adverse health effects:

- i) In the event that any adverse health effects are experienced following direct or indirect exposure to suspected contaminated water or equipment, it should be reported to Apex Environmental for further investigation. Medical advice should be sought in the event of any any urgent or serious health effects.
  
- j) In the event that the KZN Sharks Board team experiences or identifies any significant chemical pollution in the environment, it should it should be reported to Apex Environmental for further investigation.

It is anticipated that any potential pollution-related health risks posed to KZN Sharks Board employees during servicing of drumlines will be low; however as stated above, a precautionary (best practice) is recommended until a clearer understanding of the risks becomes available.

Apex Environmental Contact Details for Reporting and Enquiries:

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