

# The Early

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Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

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## MSC Napoli off Sidmouth after Storm.



Towing of MSC Napoli, 2007

The container barge “MSC Napoli” was in distress on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> because of the storm which devastated Europe. The container barge, that left Anvers (Belgium), was bound for Sines (Portugal).

Twenty-six sailors were evacuated by helicopter because the engine rooms were flooded. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the maritime authorities chose to run aground the container barge off the beach Deavon in England, in order to avoid all dangers.

Napoli’s tanks were full : 3498 m3 of fuel oil and 147 m3 of diesel oil. 200 t of hydrocarbon were lost at sea but an oil slick wasn’t feared, however pollution was possible because 1,000 oil-covered birds and 600 dead birds were found on the beach.

MSC Napoli contained 2,394 containers including 100 lost ones that contain vehicles, ladies’ shoes and 167 kg of explosives, 177 t of gas, 462 t of inflammable liquid and 107 t of solid inflammable, 61 t of oxidizing, 143 t of toxic materials and 200 t of corrosive materials. But the containers which were lost contained particularly dangerous materials but they were got back on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

According to Mark Clark, MCA’s spokesman (Maritime and Coastguard Agency), “they would have been removed and the beach returned to normality quite soon”. Roger Giles, a local councillor, said « the greater protection is needed for Britain’s environmentally sensitive coastal waters”, he has called on the Government to take the issue seriously.

Eight English anti-pollution ships including two French ones began the towing of MSC Napoli. They will unload the container barge and that could last one year. In Brittany, oil happened to come from MSC Napoli.