



ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL UNIT DURING A RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

The purpose of the training is to describe the role of the Environment Unit during an oil spill response. The course addresses key leadership and management issues such as:

- Function of the Environment Unit (EU)
- Roles and responsibilities of the EU Leader and EU Technical Specialists within the ICS
- Key decisions and the role of the EU during a First Response
- Creation of an On-Water Plan and a Shoreline Response Plan
- Organization of a shoreline oiling assessment (SCAT) programme within the EU
- SCAT team roles and responsibilities and involvement in the decision process, inspection surveys and the cleanup signoff process
- Generation of the Shoreline Treatment Plan and integration of information for ICS 204 forms.
- NRDA and the EU

The training is designed for those involved in the decision-making process. Participants would have a familiarity of the mechanics of UC/ICS spill management.

This one-day course is presented by Owens Coastal Consultants (OCC), whose trainers include:

Ed Owens, who has over 40 years of experience worldwide with spill response operations, training and strategic planning. Dr. Owens is the President of Owens Coastal Consultants and is an internationally recognized expert on oil spill shoreline response. He has conducted oil spill related missions as a United Nations Expert Consultant for the International Maritime Organization on (IMO) projects in the Caribbean, South America, and Africa and was a technical consultant for the UN Claims Commission on the 1991 Gulf War claims. Dr. Owens has worked on spill-related projects throughout North and South America, the Middle East, as well as Russia, the Caspian, Australia and has developed area-specific response strategies for pipeline projects and other operational activities in the Arctic, North-South America, Africa, and Russia. More recently, he was the Shoreline Treatment Program Technical Advisor for BP on the Deepwater Horizon response.

Helen Dubach, who has been involved with oil spill response and environmental management for 14 years and formerly was a senior technical advisor at ITOPF, attending and advising on over 35 oil and chemical spills worldwide. Her spill response experience has included the provision of on-site technical and scientific advice on effective response options to ship owners, responders and government representatives. Field activities have ranged from aerial surveillance, shoreline (SCAT) surveys, assessment of the fate and behaviour of oil and other pollutants, environmental and economic impact assessment, advising on the most effective clean-up techniques and waste management options, to providing advice to potential claimants and insurers on international conventions and national laws for compensation for losses associated with an incident including assessment of claims for technical reasonableness. She has also acted as a facilitator between Federal and State Trustees and the Responsible Party during the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process in the USA.

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DRAFT COURSE CONTENTS

1. ORGANIZATION
 - Unified Command (UC) and the Incident Command System (ICS)
 - Introduction to the purpose and structure of UC/ICS
 - Management by objectives
 - The Environmental Unit (EU)
 - The EU Leader
 - Technical Specialists: roles, responsibilities
 - Leadership
 - Vertical and horizontal integration within the UC/ICS
2. DECISIONS
 - Unified Command
 - Co-management and coordination of response decisions and activities
 - EU First Response Priorities
 - What is expected from the EU by the UC Decision Makers
 - What is expected from the UC Decision Makers
 - The information flow
 - On-Water versus Shoreline Operations
3. ISSUES
 - On-Water
 - Objectives of an On-Water Response Program
 - Oil transport
 - Resources at risk
 - Sensitivity versus Vulnerability
 - Marine versus River environments
 - Response and protection priorities: in-water and shoreline
 - Strategies and tactics
 - Feasibility and managing expectations
 - When are on-water operations completed?
 - On Shore
 - Objectives of a Shoreline Response Program
 - Locating and documentation of the oiling (SCAT)
 - Treatment targets (end points), priorities, methods
 - Operating Work Orders (204s and STRs)
 - Operational constraints: BMPs, Section 7 and Section 106
 - Closure: The inspection process and SIRs
 - Creating a Shoreline Treatment Plan
4. SHORELINE OILING ASSESSMENT SURVEYS (SCAT)
 - Objectives of a SCAT program
 - SCAT forms, terminology and data management
 - SCAT team roles and responsibilities, team composition and UC
 - Shoreline treatment forms and SCAT interface with the ICS process
 - SCAT-Operations liaison
 - Inspection surveys, the sign off process and sign off forms
 - Creating a SCAT Plan