

MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

Volume VIII, Issue XLV

TIME:

5 June 2008

OIL SPILL REPORTING AND CLEAN-UP REQUIREMENTS

The Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for Sector New Orleans is clarifying reporting requirements for oil discharges and is detailing policies for coastal oil spill clean-ups.

U.S. Code Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 110.6 requires that any person in charge of a vessel or of an onshore or offshore facility shall as soon as he or she has knowledge of any discharge of oil from such vessel or facility, immediately notify the National Response Center (800-424-8802) or the nearest Coast Guard FOSC or State OSC. Additionally, 33 CFR 135.305 requires that the person in charge of a vessel or offshore facility that has discharged oil in a harmful quantity is required to make notification. A harmful quantity, defined by U. S. Code Title 40 CFR 110.3, is a quantity of oil that causes a film, sheen, or discoloration upon the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines or causes a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines. Louisiana state law requires notification to the Department of Public Safety 24-Hour Emergency Hazardous Materials Hotline at (225) 925-6595 as outlined in LAC Title 33:I.3915.

The use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, solidifiers, bioremediation agents, in-situ burns, fires of any nature, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents on the NCP Product Schedule shall not be used on a clean-up site without prior approval from the FOSC and Regional Response Team VI. In accordance with the National Contingency Plan, sinking agents shall not be authorized for application to oil discharges. Sphagsorb, Oil Gator, Organic Peat, and bagasse are all considered sinking agents when used on water or near tidal zones and should never be applied to a spill site. Permission to use these agents on land may be granted by the FOSC with prior approval from the LA Department of Environmental Quality.

Birds may be deterred from oiled areas with prior FOSC approval using only propane scare cannons, mylar tape streamers and balloons. Propane cannons shall not be placed within 1,000 feet of active bird nesting colonies or anywhere on wildlife refuges without Refuge Manager approval.

Vegetation should never be cut or removed without landowner, FOSC and State approval. While conducting clean-up operations, extreme care should be taken to minimize the trampling of marsh grasses. One path should be used to access and exit the site and wooden boards may be necessary to prevent long term damages to the marsh areas.

For more information, you may contact LCDR Kim Keel at 504-846-5914 or the Incident Management Division: (504) 846-5910, -6158, -6154



L. D. STROH
Captain of the Port, New Orleans