



## Standard Guide for Health and Safety Training of Oil Spill Responders<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes minimum health and safety training standards for three types of oil spill responders: Type A, first responders who are responsible for initial containment and cleanup; Type B, longer-term shoreline cleanup personnel; and Type C, other necessary support personnel who have minimal contact with the contamination.

1.2 The oil covered by this guide includes light, medium, and heavy crudes, as well as hydrocarbon products, such as gasoline, light fuel oil, distillates, and bunker (heavy fuel) oil. It is not aimed at specialty chemicals and other potentially hazardous materials, although some aspects of the training program would apply to those substances.

1.3 A number of topics are not specifically addressed in this guide because they are covered by other standards or guidelines. Examples are hot work practices, maintenance and repair of equipment, fire fighting, electrical hazards, emergency medical care, disposal of wastes, and so forth. The user is expected to become familiar with standards for these areas as required.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Terminology

#### 2.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

2.1.1 *area contingency plan*—provides the initial governmental organization structure and mode of operation for the spill response.

2.1.2 *cold (support) zone*—minimal exposure area maintained as an uncontaminated location for support functions. Food service, clean equipment storage, and financial offices are examples of a cold zone. Operations in this area are generally carried out by Type C personnel.

2.1.3 *confined space*—an enclosed space or area, such as a tank, compartment, or pit where ventilation or access, or both, may be limited.

2.1.4 *hot (early response) zone*—an area where there are potential exposure hazards. Type A workers are involved in

containment and recovery operations in this zone. Airborne concentrations of hazardous substances may require respiratory protection in addition to other personal protective equipment.

2.1.5 *hyperthermia*—an abnormally high body temperature caused by exposure to elevated temperatures or radiant heat, or both.

2.1.6 *hypothermia*—an abnormally low body temperature caused by exposure to cold air or water.

2.1.7 *personal protective equipment (PPE)*—equipment used to shield or insulate a person from a chemical, physical, or thermal hazard. Personal protective equipment is available for skin, eyes, face, hands, feet, head, ears, and respiratory system, as appropriate.

2.1.8 *site safety and health plan*—the framework that defines safety and health considerations and strategy for a specific site.

2.1.9 *site safety and health supervisor*—an individual in the field responsible for ensuring that the site safety and health plan is implemented as prescribed.

2.1.10 *warm (contamination reduction) zone*—an area where oil is present but in a generally weathered state. In addition to decontamination and equipment decommissioning areas, contaminated shorelines containing weathered oil with vapor levels below that requiring respiratory protective equipment are considered warm zones for purposes of this guide. Type A or B workers, or both, would operate in these zones.

### 3. Significance and Use

3.1 This guide summarizes required course components to be included in training programs for oil spill response personnel. Its purpose is to assist trainers in developing curricula that address the health and safety risks specific to oil spill response. This guide may be tailored by the trainer to fit unique circumstances that are present if training is conducted during an actual spill emergency and is not intended to preclude consideration of regulatory requirements.

### 4. Types of Response Workers

4.1 The level of training required will depend on the level of involvement for each type of worker. For purposes of this guide, the three categories or types of workers are defined in Table 1.

4.1.1 *Type A Workers*, operate in the hot zone and are the most likely to encounter the spilled oil in a fresh state. Training for Type A workers should emphasize methods for determining

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