



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Office of Spill Prevention and Response  
1700 K. Street, Suite 250  
Sacramento, California 95811  
Telephone: (916) 445-9338  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



January 4, 2013

Re: **Unannounced Drills**

Dear Plan Holders:

As the OSPR Administrator, I must ensure that resources are ready to respond to all oil spills into the marine waters of California. I am obligated to protect our valuable coastal resources by using "best achievable technologies", as well as ensuring that manpower levels, training, and operational methods are sufficient to accomplish the statutory mandate of "best achievable protection."

To achieve these goals, I have instructed my staff to periodically conduct a series of unannounced drills to test the oil spill contingency plan holder's notification process and initial response actions by their contracted Spill Management Team (SMT). These exercises will focus on the ability of the SMT to respond as outlined in the California Oil Spill Contingency Plan. These drills will also give us better assurance that the plans will function properly in an actual emergency. In coordination with Federal, State, and local government entities, I intend to begin conducting these SMT unannounced drills during the next year.

Unannounced drills are authorized by Government Code section 8670.10, which requires the Administrator to carryout "announced and unannounced drills." Additionally, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 815.07(c) requires Plan Holders to ensure their plan provides for the best achievable protection of coastal and marine resources.

I am confident properly planned and carefully evaluated unannounced drills will improve our ability to respond, which is a goal I know we all share. I am committed to making this improvement. Questions can be directed to me at the above-referenced address or telephone number, or to Mr. Christopher Klumpp of my staff at (916) 322-1195.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Cullen, Jr.  
Administrator  
Office of Spill Prevention and Response

Enclosure: Objectives and Guidelines for Unannounced Drills Testing Spill Management Team Capability through Vessel & Facility Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan