



Office of Spill Prevention and Response

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scientists Test Oil Spill Containment Equipment Meant for Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Sites

CARLSBAD -- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and three oil spill response organizations today tested response strategies to protect environmentally sensitive sites in the event of an oil spill in the Batiquitos Lagoon.

“The exercise was performed within the lagoon, and involved the deployment of boom used to contain spills,” said Kris Wiese, an environmental scientist with CDFW’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).

CDFW’s Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program (SSSEP) evaluates strategies selected from more than 600 sites statewide that are particularly vulnerable to an oil spill. These areas are identified in Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) and are rich in sensitive resources such as fish, birds and marine mammals. Many also include habitat for wildlife breeding, nesting and feeding.

The strategy tested today focuses on preventing oil from reaching the habitat-rich lagoon that is essential to San Diego County’s marine ecosystem. Factors such as tidal patterns, currents and weather conditions affect how well equipment like boom works. Testing a strategy helps experts from OSPR determine whether it is likely to be successful in the event of a spill or needs to be altered.

ACP’s cover the entire coastline and marine waters of California and include the state’s busiest port areas: San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles/Long Beach and San Diego. More than 50 state, federal and local governments, as well as non-government organizations, industry and the general public contribute to ACP development.

The oil spill response organizations participating in the exercise included Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), National Response Corporation (NRC), and Patriot Environmental Services.

Hi-resolution photos of boom available for use at:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=67532>
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=67533>
Video of boom also available for use at: <http://youtu.be/nuSip3ZUi4w>

When you file your California income tax return, please consider making a voluntary contribution to the California Sea Otter Fund (line 410) or the Rare and Endangered Species Fund (line 403). Thank you!

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AGENDA

SENSITIVE SITE STRATEGY EVALUATION PROGRAM (SSSEP) Batiquitos Lagoon January 30, 2014

8:30 a.m. Introduction

Eric Laughlin, CDFW-OSPR
Kris Wiese, CDFW-OSPR Environmental Scientist
-Overview of Area Contingency Plan (ACP) for oil collection in Batiquitos Lagoon.
-Overview of ACP and the SSSEP

A representative from the Oceanside Fire Department will also be on-hand to showcase oil spill response equipment obtained through CDFW-OSPR grants.

9:00 a.m.

Equipment Deployment

Staff of oil spill response organizations perform deployment with Office of Spill Prevention and Response staff nearby explaining deployment and demonstration materials.



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY



Kris Wiese, CDFW-OSPR Environmental Scientist

Mr. Wiese has worked as a scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for 20 years, much of which has been spent with the Department's Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

Prior to his assignment to the San Diego field office, Wiese responded to numerous spills along the North Coast, in Humboldt County, where he helped develop strategies for protecting sensitive habitat in the event of an oil spill.

His work in San Diego involves such strategy development, geared toward protecting the region's environmentally sensitive species in the event of an incident.

A Southern California native, Wiese holds a bachelor's of science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from U.C. Davis.



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Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) manages the Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program (SSSEP), a statewide program that tests and evaluates the effectiveness of oil spill response strategies that are designed to protect sensitive biological resources in coastal marine waters.

These biological resources, also known as sensitive sites, in California's marine region include native:

- Fish
- Birds
- Marine mammals
- Other wildlife
- Habitat used for breeding, nesting and feeding (i.e. wetlands, estuaries, lagoons)

Sensitive sites:

There are well over 600 environmentally sensitive sites along California's coast.

- Each site has information about various species including those that are threatened or endangered.
- Each site has a response strategy detailing the most effective method for protecting the area in the event of an oil spill.
- Examples of environmentally sensitive sites include saltmarsh, wetlands, estuaries, lagoons, eelgrass beds and habitats of plant and wildlife species of concern.



Area Contingency Plan

An Area Contingency Plan (ACP) acts as a guide during oil spill emergencies that specifies the roles of responders and maintains a list of stakeholders to contact at each of California's three major ports.

Each port has representatives from over 50 federal, state, local government agencies, as well as industry and environmental groups. The ports are located in:

- San Francisco Bay Area
- Los Angeles/Long Beach
- San Diego

Located near these ports are six ACPs:

1. North Coast
2. San Francisco Bay
3. Central Coast
4. North Los Angeles
5. South Los Angeles



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RESPONSE EQUIPMENT GRANT FAQ

What is the Response Equipment Grant?

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response would like to provide a grant to any local government entity to provide response equipment that can be pre-position (pre-stage) throughout the state. The equipment will be deployed by the grantee to contain the spill or to protect local resources.

Who can apply for the equipment grant?

Any local public agency or tribe in the State of California, including cities, counties, tribal nations, fire departments, Port Districts, Public Utility Districts, and Emergency Management Departments.

Who will receive the equipment grant?

In order to be considered, agencies must be at risk of an oil spill occurring in their jurisdiction. Grant awards will be selected based on the following:

- Threat and magnitude of an oil spill in marine water
- Proximity to ecological sensitive sites
- The proximity of existing nearby response equipment or personnel
- Ability to deploy spill response equipment

Are there any fees associated with the equipment grant?

There are no fees, matching funds, or out-of-pocket expenses associated with receiving the equipment grant. If you chose to insure the equipment, your insurance provider may charge you to add to your policy.

Who can I contact for help?

Cindy Murphy, Contract Manager at (916) 324-6250 or cindy.murphy@wildlife.ca.gov
Jeff Poteet, OSPS at (916) 323-6285 or jeff.poteet@wildlife.ca.gov

TRAINING FAQ

How long is the training?

Training will be eight hours in length.

What will the training consist of?

The training will consist of basic safety and equipment deployment including:

- Health and safety concerns when deploying equipment on oil spills
- Equipment familiarization
- Care, storage and maintenance of the equipment
- Booming techniques
- Spill reporting and notification

- Decontamination of personnel and equipment
- A practical hands-on deployment of the equipment
- Limitations of the equipment

Some jurisdictions are supplementing this training on their own with HAZWOPER/HAZMAT training and water safety/boat operations training. This training is designed to allow equipment users to safely deploy the equipment.

Who should be trained?

The people deploying the equipment should be trained. Additionally, individuals or organizations who are first responders in the county where the equipment will be stored and/or deployed may participate in training.

Can someone who has not been trained deploy the equipment?

Once an organization has ownership of the equipment, it is in their discretion to determine who may deploy the equipment. For the safety of all personnel, anyone who may deploy the equipment should be trained.

Who will provide the training?

A list of vendors will be provided upon request.

Are funds available for backfill staff during training?

No funds are available for backfill staff during training. It is the responsibility of each individual agency to handle staffing issues during the scheduled training.

EQUIPMENT FAQ

Where should the equipment be stored?

It is up to your organization to provide storage for the equipment trailer. Many agencies will store the trailer in a secure location near the water. Since the trailer can be moved, it may also be staged at a centralized location which can be easily accessed.

Does the response equipment need to be stored at a fire department or marina?

Not necessarily. You decide where you want to store the equipment. Fire departments are in a prime position to deploy the boom because of their 24-hour presence, staff numbers, training and equipment (boats). It is often beneficial to store the equipment at a marina because responders and the equipment can be staged at one location.

What happens when we use the equipment?

If the equipment is used for a response action at OSPR's request (any significant marine or inland aquatic oil spill), reimbursement funds may be available for replacement or boom decontamination. If you deploy your boom without prior authorization, reimbursement may not be available.

Will OSPR maintain the response equipment?

No. You will own the equipment; therefore the maintenance will be your responsibility.

6. San Diego

Equipment used to clean up spilled oil is boom, a plastic protective barrier that floats on top of the water and helps contain floating oil or exclude oil from sensitive areas. Boom comes in different sizes and types.

Common types of boom are:

- Fence boom
- Curtain boom
- Inflatable or containment boom
- Sorbent boom
- Fire boom
- Snare boom

Factors that affect deployed equipment are:

- Tides
- Currents
- Sea state
- Weather conditions

The program consists of scheduled exercises designed to test the site-specific response strategies and familiarize the contracted Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) or other authorized responder with the locations and strategic details of the sites. OSPR provides recommendations to modify and improve the strategy if needed – a critical part of their work during a field test.

Information on sensitive sites, ACPs and the program can be found on OSPR's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/>