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## **OHMSETT OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND STRATEGIES TRAINING** **Leonardo, NJ**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This course is designed to 1) Assist oil spill response and management personnel in the development of skills necessary to make quick and informed decisions during oil spill incidents; and 2) Provide hands-on spill response equipment handling and oil recovery training using full-scale equipment with real oil in the OHMSETT test tank.

### **SCHEDULE**

This is a Five Day Seminar. Class begins at 8:00 a.m. and adjourns at 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and adjourns at 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Spill real oil and go clean it up yourself!

The training revolves around hands-on field activities on the OHMSETT test tank using real oil spilled in differing sea conditions. Students will deploy and operate different types of boom and skimmers to contain and recover the oil. This program incorporates over eight hours of safety topics (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120) relative to emergency responders involved in an oil spill incident.

The program also incorporates Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Command System Series ICS-100 and FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) IS-700 topics, which are integrated into a Table-Top spill response exercise during the training. This is a field oriented course and is presented in non-technical language by our spill response instructors. A reference text complemented by other appropriate materials including the ICS and Incident Management Handbook forms, will be provided to each student during the course.

### **INSTRUCTION**

Classroom instruction for this course is provided by the National Spill Control School (NSCS); a component of the College of Science and Technology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, TX.

Since 1977, the National Spill Control School has been conducting oil and hazardous materials/waste spill prevention, and response and safety training both in the United States and abroad. Due to the legislative requirements for spill response exercises under various state laws, and international regulations, the school is actively involved in developing response plans and conducting on-site response exercises. Courses taught include Oil Spill Management, Coastal Oil Spill Response and Safety, Spill Management Systems with Geographic Information Systems-Global Positioning Systems (GIS-GPS), various Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training required by EPA and OSHA, Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Transportation, and GIS-ARCVIEW.



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OHMSETT and the NSCS have similar goals as both organizations were included in Section 2761 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA'90). Within this section of the Act (Section. 2671 (c)(2)(d)), the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research was directed to ensure the “long term use of the National Spill Control School in Corpus Christi, Texas for research and training to improve industry and government ability to quickly and effectively remove an oil discharge”. Because of their shared goals, the NSCS developed a training partnership with OHMSETT, which, under Section 2671 (c)(7) directs the Interagency Committee to ensure the “long term use and operation of OHMSETT for oil pollution technology testing and evaluations”. This combined training effort between the National Spill Control School and the OHMSETT facility has provided training to the USCG, the US Navy, MMS, CHS Refinery (Montana), Alaska Clean Seas, Northern States Power Company (Minnesota), Vista Technologies (Florida), and BP Alaska, among others.

For more information on this and other oil spill training courses offered by the NSCS, visit the website [http://www.sci.tamucc.edu/nscs/oilspill\\_courses.htm](http://www.sci.tamucc.edu/nscs/oilspill_courses.htm)

## **LOCATION**

OHMSETT is located on the Naval Weapons Station Earle Waterfront Complex in Leonardo, New Jersey; adjacent to Sandy Hook Bay and approximately one hour drive south of New York City. The heart of the facility is the large outdoor, above ground concrete test tank which measures 203 meters (667 feet) long (the approximate length of two football fields) by 20 meters (65 feet) wide, by 3.3 m (11 feet) deep. It is filled with 9.84 million liters (2.6 million gallons) of crystal clear salt water, and is maintained at oceanic salinity levels. For more information on the OHMSETT test tank or on the area, visit the website at [http://www.ohmsett.com/Visit\\_Us.html](http://www.ohmsett.com/Visit_Us.html)

Managed by the U.S. Department of Interior’s Minerals Management Service (MMS), and operated through a contract with MAR, Incorporated, OHMSETT is a full-scale oil spill response testing and training facility where research and training can be conducted with a variety of crude oils and refined petroleum products. Unlike classroom or bay training, OHMSETT provides a safe, controlled environment and allows for reproducible, actual oil spill conditions. The OHMSETT facility plays a critical role in developing the most effective response technologies as well as preparing responders with the most realistic training available. The test tank offers a “playground” to test new ideas and to conduct hands-on training with oil.



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## **CLASSROOM/FIELD TOPICS (subject to change)**

- Physical and Chemical Properties of Oil
- Site Safety Planning
- Oil Skimmer and Containment Boom Selection and Use
- Booming and Recovery Strategies
- Documentation and Recordkeeping
- Damage Assessment and Claims
- National Pollution Fund Center
- Interaction with the News Media
- Factors Affecting Oil Spill Movement
- Alternative Response Techniques
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Contingency Planning
- Global Positioning Systems (GPS)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Shoreline Characterization

## **HANDS-ON TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**

A portion of this course involves hands-on field exercises on the test tank. Students will participate in booming and recovery of oil released into the tank. Students will witness the effectiveness of this equipment in varying water conditions involving currents and wave action.

Training will also incorporate a field trip along Sandy Hook and Raritan Bay, where collection and integration of GPS, digital images, and other data into GIS format will be used for spill planning and response exercises.

## **EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

Upon successful completion of the course, each student will receive ICS-100 and NIMS IS-700 certification provided by FEMA, and TAMU course completion with 8-hour HAZWOPER refresher certificates provided by the National Spill Control School at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Personal protective equipment (hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protection, Tyvek coveralls, gloves and PFDs) will be provided during the exercises on the tank, however, you may bring your own if you prefer. Steel-toed boots are strongly recommended, but not provided.

## **SEMINAR FEE**

TBD - Prepaid

Price includes reference text and other course materials. For additional information, contact MAR, Incorporated OHMSETT Facility at (732) 866-7185 Ext. 12.



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## Topics and Schedule

### **Monday Morning**

Introduction and Orientation  
Contingency Plans  
NCP – Operational Phases for Oil Spill Response  
National Incident Management System IS-700  
National Pollution Fund Center (Video)

### **Tuesday Morning**

Presentation by Frank Csulak  
NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator  
  
Scientific Support Coordination  
National Response Damage Assessment (NRDA)  
Actual Spill overview

### **Wednesday Morning (1/2 Class Rotation)**

*GROUP 1 - Classroom*  
Oil Spill Responder Safety  
Site Safety Plans  
Preparedness for Response Exercise Program  
Introduction to GIS  
Global Positioning Systems  
Oil Spill Internet Sites

*GROUP 2 – Tank Exercises: Calm*

### **Thursday Morning (1/2 Class Rotation)**

*GROUP 1 – Classroom*  
Alternative Response Technologies  
GIS Applications in Oil Spill Response  
Spill Documentation  
GIS/GPS Field Exercise  
Shoreline Characterization

*GROUP 2 – Tank Exercises: Waves*

### **Friday Morning**

Oiled Waste Management (Video)  
Spill Management: Tabletop Exercise  
Critique of Tabletop Exercise  
Distribution of Certificates

### **Monday Afternoon**

OHMSETT Site Tour and Equipment Orientation  
OHMSETT Site Specific Safety Considerations  
NIMS Incident Command Systems IS-100  
Incident Management Handbook 2006

### **Tuesday Afternoon**

How to Establish a Command Post (Video)  
Assigning Roles and Responsibilities  
Public Relations and the News Media  
Containment Boom Selection and Use  
Boom Failure  
Booming and Recovery Strategies  
Environmental Fates and Effects of Oil Spills  
Oiled Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation

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Site Safety Plans  
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*GROUP 2 – Classroom*  
Alternative Response Technologies  
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GIS/GPS Field Exercise  
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