



4.6 Spill Response

Spill response preparedness and training is a basic requirement for any fueling facility. A quick response to a spill on the water can prevent major harm to the marine environment. Effective spill control is dependent on having proper spill response equipment readily available and having a well-trained staff. All marinas should practice the BMPs in this section to prevent against and prepare for a major spill at the marina.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The following laws apply to spill response. All marinas must be prepared to respond to a spill. Please read the summary of these regulatory programs in Chapter 6.

- Clean Water Act — Discharge of Oil
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Activities, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan
- Massachusetts Clean Waters Act
- Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations
- Massachusetts Waterways Regulations

Best Management Practices

All marinas should be prepared to act quickly in the event of a hazardous waste or oil spill. Consider the following BMPs to make sure you are prepared.

- ▶ **Spill Response Plan:** Develop a written spill response plan for the marina and include it as part of your SPCC Plan if you are required to develop one (see Section 4.5). The plan should include a listing of immediate spill response actions, a contact list for response communication, a chain-of-command within the marina, and an inventory of spill response equipment and its location. The list of immediate spill response actions including the phone number of the National Resource Center should be posted at the fueling station and at the spill response station. Make the plan easily accessible to marina staff. Provide a copy of the spill response plan to the harbormaster.
- ▶ **Spill Response Station:** Establish a clearly marked and easily accessible spill response station, such as a large dock locker, that contains large booms, mops, and other spill response equipment. Make sure you have enough length of boom available to go around the entire fuel dock and the largest boats that fuel there. A minimum length is two times the length of the largest boat that can fuel at the dock.
- ▶ **Spill Reporting:** Provide information on spill reporting requirements at the spill response station, including requirements for notifying local, state, and federal agencies. Clearly post the National Response Center phone number at the fuel dock.

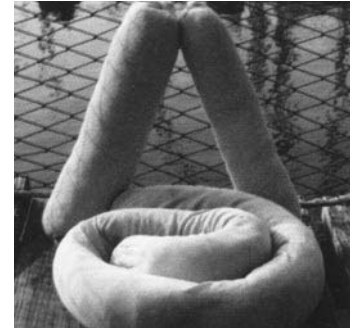
Safe Practice

The first step in spill response should be to notify appropriate marina personnel and report the spill to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802. Then follow procedures adopted by your facility.

- ▶ **Spill Response Training:** Train all appropriate staff annually in the implementation of a spill response plan. Document the training. Contact vendors of spill response equipment listed in Appendix C for available training services.
- ▶ **Proper Spill Clean Up:** Prohibit the use of detergents and emulsifiers on fuel spills. Under the Clean Water Act, this activity is illegal.
- ▶ **Spill Drills:** Contact the U.S. Coast Guard about organizing a mock-spill training day. A “Spill Drill” will help teach your staff how to respond to a spill. These drills may be conducted at your marina or at a nearby facility and can be conducted in association with other marinas.
- ▶ **Absorption Booms:** Use a small floating absorption boom tied on the end of a long pole near the fueling station to quickly mop any small spill from the surface of the water.
- ▶ **Make Spill Equipment Accessible:** Make spill equipment available to the harbor-master, who can help you protect your facility after-hours.

Useful Contacts

1. National Spill Response Center — Call **(800) 424-8802** to report a spill.
2. State Fire Marshall’s Office — Call **(617) 566-4500** for information about state fire code requirements and spill response.
3. U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office — Boston (Cape Cod Canal to NH border), **(617) 223-3000**; Providence (RI border to Cape Cod Canal; including Cape & Islands), **(401) 435-2300** or **(800) 644-0217**. Call for information on federal spill response and reporting requirements.



Absorption booms are effective for controlling small spills.

Consider This

Neighboring marinas in some ports have a mutual aid agreement to share spill equipment during emergencies. This way each marina needs to have enough supplies for modest spills, but can quickly muster enough equipment from neighbors in rare cases of large spills.



SPILL RESPONSE

All marinas should complete this checklist.

Check either the "Yes" or "No" column to indicate if you are using each of the BMPs listed below. If the BMP does not apply (you are using a different BMP or the activity does not occur at your marina), put "NA" in the "Yes" column. In the "Action" box, list the next steps for all BMPs where you have checked the "No" column.

BMP	YES/NA	NO	Refer to Page	Action
*Spill Response Plan			4-29	
*Spill Response Station			4-29	
*Spill Reporting			4-30	
*Spill Response Training			4-30	
*Proper Spill Cleanup			4-30	
Spill Drills			4-30	
Absorption Booms			4-30	
Make Spill Equipment Accessible			4-30	

***BMP will assist with regulatory compliance.**

NOTES:
