

OHS SPILL INFORMATION DISSEMINATION GUIDANCE

(Ref: SECNAVINST 5090.7)

Information requests by the Media All media requests for oil spill information should be referred to the COMNAVREGMIDLANT PAO.

Information requests by Federal, State, and local officials Navy policy requires installations and facilities to promptly and accurately respond to all Federal, State, and local government information requests necessary to reduce the threat to human health and the environment and to coordinate spill response and cleanup efforts, consistent with mission, security and safety requirements.

Information released during initial OHS spill/release response phase During the initial spill response phase, Navy commands are authorized to provide the following initial information typically requested regarding oil spills and HS releases:

- a. Whether an oil spill or HS release has occurred;
- b. Time/Date of spill/release;
- c. Specific source of the spill/release;
- d. Type of oil/substance spilled;
- e. Preliminary assessment as to general nature of the cause incident (e.g., equipment failure, operator error, undetermined origin);
- f. Preliminary estimate of amount spilled/released. If unknown, state "unknown";
- g. Spill/Release "footprint";
- h. Anticipated shoreline impact(s);
- i. Potential risks to human health and the environment;
- j. Spill/Release related fatalities and injuries;
- k. Immediate Navy plans/actions to stop the spill/release;
- l. Immediate Navy actions/plans to contain the OHS spilled/released;
- m. Number of personnel involved in response/cleanup;
- n. Preliminary amount(s) of oil/substance recovered; and
- o. Containment/Cleanup progress.

Preliminary nature of the information When responding to initial inquiries from requesting Federal, State, and local officials, commands are instructed to provide, either orally or verbally, the following disclaimer: "The information being provided is only preliminary and is subject to verification or change during subsequent investigation."

Non-time sensitive information Some information is either not relevant or necessary to initial Navy spill/release response efforts or typically cannot be determined with any degree of finality until long after the initial spill/release response phase. This information is reserved for subsequent release determination and will normally not be provided to other Federal, State, or local officials during the initial response phase. This information includes, but is not limited to, names of persons involved in the incident and response/cleanup; opinions and recommendations, final determination of amount of oil or hazardous substance spilled/released, final determination of the cause of the spill/release; final natural resource and personal property damage assessments, number of claims received, etc.

Requests for investigations All requests for investigative reports must be referred to the cognizant Staff Judge Advocate.