

KODIAK SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN DESCRIPTION

Relationship to the Unified Plan. The Kodiak Subarea Contingency Plan is a supplement to the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil & Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases* (commonly referred to as the Unified Plan). The Unified and the Subarea Contingency plans represent a coordinated and cooperative effort by government agencies and were written jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) law requires the USCG and the EPA to prepare oil spill response plans for the State of Alaska, which is designated as an entire planning region under federal guidelines. Alaska statute requires the ADEC to prepare a state-wide plan addressing oil and hazardous substance discharges. The Unified Plan meets these federal and state planning requirements.

OPA 90 requires the development of Area Contingency Plans for the inland and coastal “zones” of each federal government region. For the region of Alaska, there are three USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) zones and one inland zone. The three Captain of the Port zones are: 1) Southeast Alaska; 2) Prince William Sound area; and 3) Western Alaska (which includes the rest of coastal Alaska from Cook Inlet out the Aleutians and north to the Beaufort Sea and the Canadian border). The inland zone, which comes under EPA jurisdiction, is subdivided into two sectors: 1) the North Slope oil production area and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) and 2) all other areas inland from the coastal zones.

Alaska statute divides the state into ten regions for oil and hazardous substance spill planning and preparedness. The USCG and the EPA joined with the ADEC to use these ten regions for area planning instead of the federal planning divisions since this would facilitate unified planning for the State of Alaska and prove more practical as well (for example, the huge COTP Western Alaska planning zone is replaced by seven more manageable divisions). Because the State of Alaska is called a planning “region” under federal planning guidelines, and to avoid confusion with the other federal term, “area” as in “area contingency plans,” these ten subordinate planning regions of the state are called “subareas” in the context of the Unified Plan.

The Unified Plan contains information applicable to pollution response within the entire State of Alaska and meets the pollution response contingency planning requirements applicable to the federal and state governments. The plan provides broad policy guidance and describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, state and local response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of Alaska and its surrounding waters.

Under both federal and state law, the responsible party for an oil or hazardous substance incident is required to report the incident and mount a response effort to contain and cleanup the release. The federal and state governments mandate response plans for oil tank vessels and facilities that have stringent spill response requirements. If the responsible party fails to respond adequately or if no responsible party can be identified, then the federal and state governments will rely on the Unified Plan and the appropriate Subarea Contingency Plan for response protocols and guidance.

Whereas the Unified Plan contains general information for response efforts taking place anywhere in the State of Alaska, the Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) concentrates on issues and provisions specific to its particular subarea. The Kodiak SCP focuses on the Kodiak region of the state. The boundaries of this

subarea are described in the Background Section of this plan. The Kodiak SCP provides information specific to the area, including emergency response phone numbers, available response equipment and other resources, specific response guidelines, and information on hazardous substance presence and sensitive areas protection.

Alaska State statute mandates a public review of all new plans, an annual departmental review of these plans, and another public review whenever the plans are significantly revised. For this plan, ADEC in conjunction with the Kodiak Island Borough offered a public review period of 46 days during which verbal and written comments were accepted. Public meetings were held in Kodiak and Anchorage. The Federal government does not require public review for any of its plans, though the USCG, as part of the Alaska unified planning process, participated in the public review process. Neither the Federal nor the State government maintains a formal approval process for these plans. The Unified Plan and the SCPs are presented to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission and the Alaska Regional Response Team for review and comment. Acceptance of the plan by the USCG, the State of Alaska, and the Kodiak Island Borough constitutes approval of the plan.

Purpose and Objectives. The Kodiak Subarea Contingency Plan (KSCP) describes the strategy for coordinated federal, state, local and responsible party response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance from a vessel or onshore facility operating within the boundaries of the Kodiak Subarea. This plan may also serve as a reference tool for spills originating outside the Kodiak Subarea.

This plan describes the respective roles of the state, federal and local agency personnel and the Responsible Party in the Incident Command System (ICS) and contains mechanisms for ensuring that locally available personnel and equipment resources are effectively utilized during a spill response. The KSCP shall be used regardless of whether or not there is a Responsible Party involved in the spill response. In a Responsible Party-led response, this plan will be used to guide agency oversight activities, and also as a reference document for environmental sensitivities and natural resource information. In instances where no Responsible Party can be located, or if the Responsible Party is unable or unwilling to lead a spill response, this plan shall be used to guide the response strategies and command structure employed by federal, state and local government agency personnel.

The KSCP and the Unified Plan shall serve as guides for reviewing vessel and facility response plans required by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and by Alaska statute. The review for consistency with the KSCP and the Unified Plan shall ensure that facility and vessel contingency plans are consistent with the standards established in these plans with respect to the following issues: notification procedures and priorities; protection of environmentally, culturally and economically sensitive areas; incorporation of local emergency response personnel in the command structure; and response equipment and personnel (quantity and type) available within the Subarea. Vessel and facility contingency plans should reference the Kodiak SCP as a source of natural resource sensitivity data, community profiles, and response equipment lists, as well as the Unified Plan for ARRT-approved guidelines.

Scenarios. This plan contains four scenarios, which were developed to model effectiveness of the response strategies in this plan. The scenarios were developed based on the qualitative risk assessment summarized in the Background Section of this plan. The four scenarios address response to a maximum most probable discharge (log ship spill), worst case discharge (tanker spill), a typical discharge (fishing vessel spill) and an “orphan” spill (no Responsible Party). Planning for these four scenarios covers the expected range of spills

likely to occur in the Kodiak Subarea based on a qualitative examination of local spill hazards and historical spill data.