



THE UNITED STATES HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST WELL COORDINATED SPILL RESPONSE NETWORKS

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND RESPONSE.

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The safety of people and the surrounding offshore environment is the highest priority for the oil and natural gas industry. Industry continues to work cooperatively and proactively to help ensure that an environmental or personnel safety incident does not occur. However, in the unlikely event of a spill, industry's preparations and training combined with advanced spill response capabilities and equipment work to minimize any impacts to the environment and to the coastal community.

Industry proactively works to prevent an offshore oil or natural gas incident.

Prevention requires continuous assessment and improvement in every phase of offshore oil and natural gas drilling, production, and transportation operations. Industry has invested significant resources to develop both equipment and processes specially designed to prevent oil spills at each step along the way.

Exploration and production facilities use advanced technologies and materials that incorporate multiple back-up safety systems, such as blowout preventers, to protect workers and the environment. Pipelines are continuously monitored using an array of computer systems, electromagnetic instruments, and ultrasonic devices that detect and report any vulnerabilities and allow companies to maintain and repair equipment. These practices are vital to industry's improved prevention effort, as spill incidents have declined from 246 in the 1970s to 33 in the 2000s. Today, more than 99.9995% of the oil produced, refined, stored, and transported in the U.S. reaches its destination safely and without incident.



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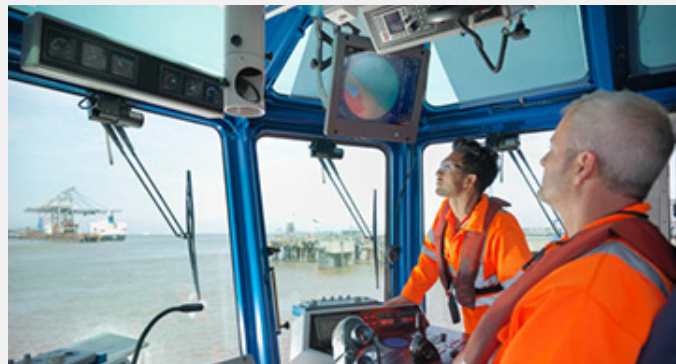
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Industry uses a multi-pronged approach to ensure process safety that minimizes the risk of a spill and protects the health and safety of people and the environment. Training and operational procedures play a vital role in the prevention of oil spills. Regular training exercises and robust maintenance procedures, help ensure safe equipment operation and bolsters the goal of preventing spills from ever occurring. BSEE and USCG require specific Oil Spill Response Plans and Vessel Response Plans to be approved for operations, which outline their required steps of response should a spill occur. Best practices are shared across industry and government through forums, conferences and policy groups to highlight common prevention measures, share case studies, and allow other companies to benefit from lessons learned.

Industry invests in practices and technologies that ensure a quick and effective response in the unlikely event of a spill.

By bringing together the resources and expertise of private industry, public agencies, and academia, the U.S. has established one of the world's most sophisticated and well-coordinated spill response networks. The MWCC and the HWCG were created in 2010 and provide containment technologies and response capabilities needed to address the unique challenges of capping a well that is releasing oil thousands of feet below the water's surface. To compliment these new well containment systems, industry has created numerous documents, field guides and standardized processes to more effectively deploy mechanical recovery equipment in-situ burning, dispersants, remote sensing, shoreline protection and alternative technologies. Industry is also actively assessing all of these response techniques to understand their impacts to the environment to ensure that the safest and most effective response strategies are available and chosen for each spill. For more information on these efforts, please visit oilspillprevention.org.



Additionally, the US government has increased their regulatory focus by requiring offshore operators to demonstrate adequate spill response capabilities and well containment resources. Prior to drilling a well, operators are required to have access to containment equipment and staff to deploy it, in addition to providing a well containment plan and proof that the well is designed to withstand the use of containment equipment to cap it.

In partnership with governments and communities, industry members continue to dedicate significant time and resources to appropriately preparing and planning for the unlikely case of an oil spill. This exhaustive preparation and training will allow industry to respond to a spill of any magnitude to minimize its impact on people and the environment.