



How to Report Fuel & Bilge Oil Spills

COMMERCIAL FISHING AND RECREATIONAL VESSELS are required to report most Fuel and bilge oil spills that occur in navigable waterways. Some spills do not need to be reported, such as a normal discharge from a properly functioning engine.



WHEN IS A REPORT REQUIRED?

Regulations require that a report be made as soon as the person in charge of the vessel, off-shore or on-shore facility is aware of the spill. The report must be made to the National Response Center (NRC), which is manned 24 hours a day by U.S Coast Guard personnel, and the Louisiana Emergency Hazardous Materials Hotline. The law requires reports be made if any of the following occur:

- The discharge causes a sheen or discoloration on the surface of the water body.
- The discharge causes a sludge or emulsion (water/oil mix) beneath the surface of the water or on the shoreline.
- The discharge violated an applicable water quality standard.

Note: Some spills do not need to be reported, such as a normal discharge from a properly functioning engine.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER A REPORT IS SUBMITTED?

The NRC will require several things from the person reporting the spill including: name, contact information, responsible party, quantity of discharge, location of the incident, weather conditions, as well as other information.

The NRC will then notify the Environmental Protection Agency or U.S. Coast Guard On Scene Coordinator (OSC). After receiving the report, the OSC will evaluate the situation and decide if a federal emergency response is necessary.



United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Emergency Management (5104A) EPA-550-F-06-006, December 2006, www.epa.gov/emergencies

Soak it, don't soap it!

Never use detergents to 'clean up' the oil, as they harm sea life and could cost you hefty fines. Use oil absorbent sheets or pads instead to remove oil safely. For more information on how to handle an accidental spill, visit Gulf Sea Grant's Oil Spill Outreach: <http://masgc.org/oil-spill-science-boaters-guide.pdf>

HOW TO REPORT A SPILL?

To the NRC:
Call (800) 424-8802 or (202) 267-2675
The TDD number is (202) 267-4477

To the state hotline:
Call (877) 925-6595

