

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Alternative Countermeasures for Inland Oil Spills

Over the last few years, alternative oil spill response methods have been gaining in popularity and acceptance among first responders, state and federal agencies, Congress, and the entire oil spill response community. In-situ burning (ISB), dispersants, surface washing agents (SWA), emulsion breakers, chemical sorbents, bioremediation, and other technologies have sparked controversy and confusion across the country. Many research efforts have helped to clear the air about toxicity, efficacy, and proper use of these tools, but conflicts still arise. Regional Response Teams have been tasked with designating pre-approved or expedited dispersant and ISB application zones.

Advances in monitoring alternative response tool efficacy, and health and safety issues, have contributed to the baseline knowledge that will aid a responder in making a decision.

Outline:

- I. National Contingency Plan
 - A. NCP - Authorities, RRTs, and OSCs
 - B. NCP Product Schedule - How, What, and Why?
 - Alternative Response Technology Evaluation System
- II. Response Methods
 - A. In-Situ Burning - Mobile and OHMSETT test
 - Conditions for a burn
 - Monitoring for particulates/public health
 - Research results
 - B. Surface Washing Agents: Hazards reduction or quick response?
 - Little spills add up!
 - Fire departments authorities, misuse of SWAs
 - EPA outreach (Thomas and Moore article in NFPA)
 - Can they be used for shoreline protection?
 - C. Bioremediation issues and EPA policy
 - D. Phytoremediation
- III. Industry perspective