



National Spill Control School
<http://nscs.tamucc.edu/>

Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training Leonardo, NJ

Course Objective

This four-day course is designed to 1) Assist response personnel to enhance their skills when making decisions during oil spill incidents; and 2) Provide hands-on oil recovery exercises using full-scale response equipment and real oil in the Ohmsett test tank.

Course Description

Spill real oil and clean it up yourself!

The program incorporates classroom instruction and presentations, field exercises, and hands-on boom and skimming activities on the [Ohmsett](#) test tank. This unique facility offers students a forum to experience real oil spilled on the water, and participate in recovery exercises in both calm and wave conditions in the test tank. Students will be able to handle and operate different types of recovery equipment to contain and recover the spilled oil. Oil herding and decontamination of equipment will also be demonstrated with student participation encouraged.

Field activities include an introduction to SCAT and a shoreline exercise at nearby Sandy Hook beach if weather allows. This program also incorporates sufficient classroom instruction on safety topics related to oil spill response to qualify for the OSHA required 8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Training for oil spill response workers (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120).

This is a field oriented course and is presented in non-technical language by certified spill response instructors. An oil spill response reference text is provided and complemented by other appropriate materials including an introduction to ICS training with associated forms.

Instruction

Instruction is provided by the National Spill Control School (NSCS); a component of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Office of Research, Commercialization, and Outreach. Ohmsett provides professional training services to support the classroom, as well as operational and engineering support for the hands-on boom and skimming exercises on the test tank.

Ohmsett and the NSCS have similar goals. Both organizations were included in Section 2761 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA'90). Within this section of the Act (Section. 2671 (c)(2)(d)), the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research was directed to ensure the "long term use of the National Spill Control School in Corpus Christi, Texas for research and training to improve industry and government ability to quickly and effectively remove an oil discharge". Because of their shared goals, the NSCS developed a training partnership with Ohmsett, which, under Section 2671 (c)(7) directs the Interagency Committee to ensure the "long term use and operation of Ohmsett for oil pollution technology testing and evaluations".



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Location

Ohmsett is located on the Naval Weapons Station Earle, in Leonardo, New Jersey; adjacent to the Sandy Hook National Park and approximately one hour drive south of New York City. For more information on Ohmsett, or the National Spill Control School visit the above websites. For more information on the tank or the area see <http://ohmsett.bsee.gov>

Ohmsett Facility
NWS Earle Waterfront
801 State Route 36, Bldg. R-24
Leonardo, NJ 07737

Special Features

Ohmsett is a full-scale oil spill response testing and training facility. The heart of the facility is the large outdoor, above ground concrete test tank which measures 667 feet (203 meters) long by 65 feet (20 meters) wide, by 11 feet (3.3 m) deep. It is filled with 2.6 million gallons (9.84 million liters) of crystal clear salt water. Unlike classroom or bay training, Ohmsett provides a safe, controlled environment and allows for reproducible oil spill conditions.

The Ohmsett facility plays a critical role in research, development, and testing of the most effective response equipment and technologies as well as preparing responders with the most realistic training available. The test tank offers a "playground" to test new ideas and to conduct hands-on training with oil.

Ohmsett is maintained and operated by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) through a contract with Applied Research Associates, Inc.

Classroom/Field Topics (subject to change)

- Physical and Chemical Properties of Oil
- Factors Affecting Oil Spill Movement
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Site Safety Planning
- Zones of Control
- Oil Skimmer Selection and Use
- Containment Boom Selection and Use
- Booming and Recovery Strategies
- River & Tidal Inlets Strategies
- Alternative Response Techniques
- PPE for Oil Spills
- Decontamination
- Oil Spill Waste Management
- Medical Monitoring
- Documentation and Recordkeeping
- Interaction with the News Media
- Contingency Planning
- Shoreline Characterization (Introduction to SCAT)

Hands-On Training and Equipment

A portion of this course involves hands-on field exercises in the test tank. Students will participate in recovery of oil released into the tank. Students will witness and experience the effectiveness of boom and skimming equipment in various water conditions involving currents and wave action. An additional part of the course enables students to participate in a shoreline assessment exercise.



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Evaluative Criteria

Upon successful completion of the course, each student will receive two certifications of completion provided by the National Spill Control School at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The first certifies the attendance at a 4-day Oil Spill Response Strategies and Tactics Course. The second certificate will document that this course includes at least 8 hours of pertinent safety training for the required annual OSHA HAZWOPER Refresher.

Additional Information

Personal protective equipment (hard hats, safety glasses, hearing protection, Tyvek coveralls, gloves, sunscreen, and PFDs) will be provided during the field exercises on the tank. Attendees may bring their own PPE. Attendees should wear appropriate footwear for working with organic liquids in an industrial setting. Steel-toed boots are highly recommended, but not provided.

Seminar Fee

Prepaid Price includes reference text and other course materials. Meals, lodging, and ground transportation are not included. A list of local hotels is available at <https://ohmsett.bsee.gov/visit.html>.

Registration

Registration for this Ohmsett course requires a two part process that should ideally be completed 2 months prior to the course date. (1) Sign-up and pay through the National Spill Control School. (2) Apply for and pass a [security](#) approval process to enter the U.S. Naval Weapons Station Earle facility.

1. Register for this course online through the National Spill Control School <http://nscs.tamucc.edu>. Please have a credit card ready for payment. Payments may also be made by check, purchase order, or wire transfer by contacting Tuan Phung at the NSCS Business Office, 361-825-3823.
Note: Registration confirmation and [security clearance forms](#) will be provided by email upon registration. Please complete and submit the security clearance form at least two (2) weeks prior to arrival for US Citizens and six (6) weeks for non-US Citizens.
2. Complete the [Ohmsett Visitor form](#) and fax to Mike Brennan: FAX: (732) 866-7027 or mail to:
Ohmsett Access Office
C/O Mike Brennan
P.O. Box 96
Leonardo, NJ 07737
 - a. Make sure to list your phone number and/or e-mail address on the security form in case we need to contact you.
 - b. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Brennan, (732) 866-7055.
3. On the first day of your visit, please bring the following to the Pass & ID Office at the NWS Earle Visitor Control Center:



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- a. Valid military photo ID or driver's license. (A current passport may be substituted.)
- b. Vehicle registration (The Rental Agency Contract is acceptable if you are in a rented vehicle.)
- c. Insurance card