



**Geographic Response Strategy Exercise Program
Backfill & Overtime Reimbursement**

Protection

Background: Since the passage of the Oil Spill Act in 2004, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Marine Oil Spill Program has successfully undertaken a comprehensive Geographic Response Strategy Field Exercise and Training Program. This program prepares local first responders in how to use the pre-positioned spill response trailers and equipment provided by MassDEP and how to implement GRS throughout coastal Massachusetts.

This exercise and training program began in 2009 and in 2011 MassDEP began conducting these exercises in compliance with the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), which allowed local municipalities to obtain funding for backfill and overtime (BF/OT) reimbursement. Regional homeland security councils, including NERAC, SRPEDD and MBHSR (coordinated by the City of Boston Office of Emergency Management (OEM)), previously provided this funding based on the GRS exercise program's compliance with HSEEP.

Massachusetts regional homeland security councils no longer provide funding for backfill and overtime (BF/OT) reimbursement. However, MassDEP, through the Oil Spill Prevention & Response Trust Fund, now provides funding for BF/OT costs up to a maximum of \$2,500.00 per town. Each town should submit one BF/OT package that includes requested reimbursement amount for both fire department and harbormaster staffs.

What does MassDEP pay for? These exercises are hosted by Mass DEP and organized by its contractor, Nuka Research. Funding covers overtime and backfill for participants only on the day of the exercise (i.e., no more than 8 hours).

What do I need to do?

1. Complete one BF/OT reimbursement request packet provided to you by Nuka Research. BF/OT document packages can also be downloaded from the MassGRS project site here: <https://www.massdepgrp-nukaresearch.com/faq>.
2. Be sure your packet includes signed cover sheet, worksheet, and payroll documentation. Also, please be sure the requested reimbursement amount falls at or under the \$2,500 per town MassDEP reimbursement cap.
3. Submit your packet via e-mail to Nuka Research's Account Manager, Christine Hall, by the deadline specified to you in the packet delivery e-mail you received.
4. You will receive receipt that your submitted package was accepted and be updated via e-mail throughout the reimbursement process. If packages are submitted within one to two weeks of the exercise date, the anticipated turnaround for reimbursement is 75 days. Your town will be reimbursed as soon as Nuka Research is reimbursed from MassDEP.

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Massachusetts Department of Environmental



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