

MOSPRA Program Background

On April 27, 2003, barge Bouchard B-120 ruptured its hull after striking a shoal in Buzzards Bay, spilling 98,000 gallons of No. 6 Fuel and impacting 100 miles of coastline in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Then in August 2004, in response to the B-120 spill, Massachusetts Legislature enacted the **Marine Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (MOSPRA)**.

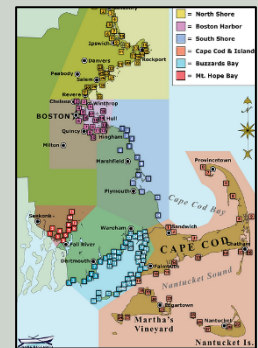


With MOSPRA, Massachusetts' spill capabilities are enhanced by:

- **Prevention** - Escort tug provisions in areas of special interest, navigational aids
- **Preparedness** - GRS development and testing, first responder training, trailer procurement and maintenance
- **Response** - Training and support to state response staff; coordination with local, state, and federal partners

Geographic Response Strategies

From 2007-2012, MassDEP facilitated multijurisdictional work group sessions to develop 160 *Geographic Response Strategies* in Massachusetts coastal regions (Cape & Islands, North Shore, Boston Harbor, South Shore, Buzzards Bay, Mt. Hope Bay). Each GRS site was selected by assessing factors including vulnerability to oil spills, presence of sensitive resources, and responder accessibility.



Geographic Response Strategies are oil spill response plans that:

- Detail the tactics needed to protect sensitive resources from spill impacts
- Identify the amount and type of resources needed in a response
- Are used in the first 4–6-hours of a response

Oil Spill Response Trailers

MassDEP provided oil spill response equipment and trailers to 76 coastal communities throughout the state. Each trailer is staged, maintained, and operated by local first responders. Most contain 1,000 ft of spill response boom, anchors, rope, and several bales of sorbent material. These trailers remain in ready to roll condition. MassDEP is responsible for resupply, repair, and replacement services.

Instances for Resupply, Repair, & Replacement

If trailer is used for a spill

1. Contact MassDEP's spill line
2. Provide the following information:
 - Date, time, and location of spill
 - Incident description
 - Primary responsible party (PRP)
 - Response equipment used

If trailer is in need of repair

If trailer is in need of replacement





First Responder Training & GRS Testing Program

The *First Responder Training & GRS Testing Program* is a key element in MOSPRA's efforts to increase first responder capabilities to protect local resources along Massachusetts' coastlines. This program familiarizes first responders with MassDEP GRS and the contents of MassDEP's oil spill trailers, then trains on the use of oil spill response equipment.



Training Elements



Classroom Instruction



Trailer Familiarization & Hands-On Training



On-Water Deployment



Debrief/Hot Wash

Training Objectives

Demonstrate ability to deploy oil spill equipment

Demonstrate ability to assemble ICS spill response

Demonstrate ability to communicate between agencies

Training Capabilities

Environmental Response/Health & Safety

Operational Coordination

Operational Communication

**MassDEP's First Responder Training & GRS Testing Program is compliant with guidance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) doctrine. Because of this, MassDEP can provide up to \$3,000 in Backfill/Overtime (BF/OT) reimbursement to qualifying exercise participants. More BF/OT reimbursement information is provided during the exercise planning process.*

Training Program Highlights

GRS Testing exercises have led to nearly 50 GRS revisions

Members from all 76 communities have been trained

More than 2,500 first responders have been trained to date

Over 100 exercises have been held

For More Information

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