



SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

The Belize Port Authority 120 North Front Street P.O. Box 633 Belize City, Belize	Tel: 501-223-0714, 501-223-0716 Fax: 501-223-0710 Email: info@portauthority.bz
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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Department of the Environment Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment Market Square, Belmopan City Belize	Tel: ++(501) 822-2816 / 822-2542 Fax: +(501) 822-2862 Email: envirodept@btl.net
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RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

The designated national authority charged with all aspects of environmental protection within the country, including response to marine oil pollution, is the Department of the Environment (DoE). In reality the lack of available expertise and resources ensures that a great deal of reliance is placed upon the oil industry and in particular Esso Standard Ltd., to respond to spills.

Belize does possess a Draft National Oil Spill Plan drawn up by outside consultants. The plan has however not been developed past this stage and there is presently no organisational infrastructure or resources with which to ensure its implementation. Neither the ports nor the majority of any of the operating oil companies possess contingency arrangements in order to respond to oil spills. Only Esso possess a fully operational contingency plan providing a Tier 1 response capability for spills occurring at their facilities. Thus in the event of a spill from a non-Esso facility it seems likely that assistance may be requested from that company. The DOE is leading the establishment of an oil spill co-operative between Esso, Shell, Texaco and Belize Electricity Ltd.

RESPONSE POLICY

There is no formally established oil spill response, clean-up or disposal strategy. However, the abundance of coral reefs around the country's coastline may inhibit the use of dispersants. Access to certain more remote areas of the country can sometimes prove difficult during the rainy season (June-October) when roads can become impassable.

EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

Stocks of specialised response equipment available in Belize are limited to the small amount of containment and recovery equipment maintained by Esso. Neither the DoE nor the other operating oil companies possess any stocks of equipment. Labour and more general plant such as graders, loaders and vacuum trucks suitable for shoreline clean-up may be made available from the Ministry of Works.

There are no private oil spill response contractors based in Belize.

In the event of a major spill requiring additional equipment and expertise located outside the country, assistance may be provided through Esso, Shell and Texaco's membership of international equipment stockpiles such as Clean Caribbean & Americas (CCA) in Florida, USA.



BELIZE

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Belize has not suffered from any major oil pollution incidents although small operational spills (<100 litres) do occur in port from time to time.

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Spill Response		Compensation					
MARPOL 73/78	Annexes III	Annexes IV	Annexes V	Annexes VI	OPRC '90	OPRC-HNS	CLC '69	CLC '76	CLC '92	Fund '92	HNS*	Bunker
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓

* not yet in force

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Belize is not a member of any regional and bilateral agreements.

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