



## SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA) Manager of Contingency Plans Av. Francisco de Miranda Edif. Pequiven, Piso 15, Chacaco Caracas	Tel: +58 212 201 3864 +58 414 328 6147 (after hrs) Fax: +58 212 201 3888 +58 212 201 3864 Telex: 21890-PDVSA VE E-Mail: <a href="mailto:dillers@pdvsa.com">dillers@pdvsa.com</a>
<u>Zone 1 - Lake Maracaibo</u> Port Captain, Maracaibo	Tel: +58 61 211887 +58 61 223279
<u>Zone 2 - Punta Cardon</u> Port Captain, Las Piedras	Tel: +58 69 45192 +58 69 402 008
<u>Zone 3 - El Palito</u> Port Captain, Puerto Cabello	Tel: +58 42 617168
<u>Zone 4 - Puerto La Cruz</u> Port Captain, Puerto La Cruz	Tel: +58 81 677088 +58 81 677011
<u>Zone 5 – Caripito</u> Port Captain, Guiria	Tel: +58 94 81545

## COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Ministerio de Infraestructura (MINFRA) Calle Orinnoco c/c/ Mucuchies, Edificio INEA, Piso 6 Las Mercedes Caracas	Tel : +58 212 909 1432 Fax : +58 212 909 1498 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:inea14@inea.gov.ve">inea14@inea.gov.ve</a>
Instituto Nacional de los Espacios Acuaticos e Insulares INEA Gerencia de Seguridad Integral Calle Orinnoco c/c/ Mucuchies, Edificio INEA, Piso 3 Las Mercedes Caracas	Tel : +58 212 909 1552 +58 416 402 1377 (after hrs) Fax : +58 212 909 1552 +58 212 963 9235 Telex: 21890-PDVSA VE E-Mail: <a href="mailto:inea14@inea.gov.ve">inea14@inea.gov.ve</a>

## RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

The Venezuelan aquatic authority, INEA, with the support of the national oil company - Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA) – are the bodies responsible for contingency planning and response arrangements. The NCP is geared towards combating spills of between 100 and 60,000 barrels of oil. Under the NCP, the country is split into 5 Maritime Regional Zones and 2 River Based Zones. Each includes a warehouse with equipment and supplies for combating spills located at PDVSA facilities. At regional level, the NCP is coordinated by a Committee and a National Central Coordination group headed by the National Port Authority with the support of PDVSA and other ministries involved with the Plan. Small spills (less than 100 barrels) are dealt with by local contingency plans within each responsible installation or port facility. In the event of a spill, INEA is responsible for coordinating the movement of equipment and personnel through Customs.

## RESPONSE POLICY

Venezuela's preferred response is firstly to arrest or control the spill at its source. Failing this, a containment and recovery operation using booms and skimmers would be mounted. If sea and weather conditions prevent this, then dispersant would be used.

## EQUIPMENT

### Government

Equipment spread through the regions includes over 62,000 feet of boom, skimmers with a total capacity of more than 10,000 barrels/hours, absorbent materials, dispersant equipment (2 aerial dispersant spraying sets for the Hercules G222 aircraft with 1,000 gallon capacity each, 4 dispersant spraying sets for helicopters with a 150 gallon dispersant capacity and 13 spraying sets for boats). For still larger spills, assistance may be sought from Clean Caribbean & Americas (CCA) or Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). All the coastal areas have sensitivity maps and an oil dispersion simulation program (SIMAP) with scenarios and data collected in the last 10 years.

### Private

There is no specialised spill response equipment outside that of PDVSA.

## PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Venezuela, as a major oil producer with considerable tanker traffic, has suffered a number of small spills, the majority of which have resulted from grounding. As a consequence, the country has developed a well organised response procedure with modern equipment. The NISSOS AMORGOS (1997) spilt an estimated 3,600 tonnes of crude after grounding in the Maracaibo Channel. 45km of beach was oiled with some oil sinking in the surf zone. Some local fishing was affected.

## CONVENTIONS

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

\* not yet in force



# VENEZUELA

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## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Cartagena Convention (with states of the Wider Caribbean Region).  
Operative Network for Regional Cooperation among Maritime Authorities of South America, Mexico, Panama & Cuba (ROCRAM).  
Bilateral agreements exist with Colombia, the Netherlands Antilles and Trinidad & Tobago.

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