

IN-SITU BURNING OIL SPILL RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Appendix A

The following checklist is provided as a summary of important information to be considered by the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) in reviewing any request to conduct in-situ burning in response to an offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

1. SPILL DATA (To be completed by Responding Party and submitted to FOSC)

- A. Name of incident: _____
- B. Date and time of incident: Month/Day/Year _____ Time _____
- C. Incident: Grounding _____ Transfer Operation _____ Collision _____
Blowout _____ Pipeline Rupture _____ Explosion _____ Other _____
- D. Did spill source ignite? Yes _____ No _____
Is source still burning? Yes _____ No _____
- E. Spill Location: Latitude _____ Longitude _____
- F. Distance (in miles) and direction to nearest land: _____
- G. Product(s) released: _____
- H. Product(s) Easily Emulsified? Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____
- I. Product(s) already emulsified upon release? No _____
Light emulsion (0-20%) _____ Moderate emulsion (21-50%) _____
Heavy emulsion (>51%) _____ Unknown _____
- J. Estimated volume(s) of product(s) released: _____ Gals/Bbls
_____ Gals/Bbls
- K. Estimated volumes of product that could still be released:
Name _____ Gals _____ Bbls _____
Name _____ Gals _____ Bbls _____
- L. Release status: Continuous _____ Estimated rate _____
Intermittent _____ Estimated rate _____
One time only ("batch" spill), flow now stopped _____
- M. Estimate area of spill:
Approximate date/time _____ Surface area _____ sq. mi. (Stat ___ Naut ___)
Approximate date/time _____ Surface area _____ sq. mi. (Stat ___ Naut ___)
Approximate date/time _____ Surface area _____ sq. mi. (Stat ___ Naut ___)

2. WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS AT TIME & LOCATION OF SPILL

(To be completed by responding party and submitted to FOSC)

- A. Temperature: Air _____(°F) Water _____(°F)
- B. Weather: Clear _____ Partly Cloudy _____ Heavy Overcast _____
Rain _____(heavy _____ Moderate _____ light _____)
Fog _____(type & amount at spill source _____)
(type & amount at burn site _____)
- C. Tidal Condition: Slack Tide _____ Flood _____ Ebb _____

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- H. Methods that will be used (prior to ignition) to notify residents in areas where smoke could conceivably drift into or over such areas: _____
- I. Type of igniter proposed for use: _____
- J. Helicopter(s) needed to deploy igniters? No _____ Yes _____
Name of company and type of helicopter to be used: _____

FAA approval already granted to company for use of igniter: Yes _____ No _____
Awaiting FAA approval or verification of prior approval: _____
- K. Burning promoters or wicking agent proposed for use? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, give type and amount: _____
- L. Describe proposed method of deployment for Igniter(s): _____

Burning Promoter(s): _____

Wicking Agent(s): _____
- M. Describe method for oil containment, if any: _____
- N. Proposed location of oil containment relative to spill source: _____
- O. Proposed burning strategy:
_____ Immediate ignition at or near source
_____ Ignition away from source after containment and movement to safe location
_____ Ignition of uncontained slick(s) at a safe distance
_____ Controlled burning in boom or natural collection site at/near shore
_____ Possible need for multiple ignition attempts
- P. Estimated amount of oil to be burned: _____
- Q. Estimate duration of each burn; _____
Total possible burn period _____
- R. Estimated smoke plume trajectory: _____
- S. Method for collecting burned oil residue: _____
- T. Proposed storage & disposal of burned oil residue: _____

4. **WEATHER AND WATER CONDITIONS FORECAST FROM TIME OF SPILL** (to be completed by NOAA SSC)

- A. Wind Speed (knots): 24-hour projection _____ 48-hour projection _____
- B. Wind Direction (from): 24-hour projection _____ 48-hour projection _____
- C. Sea Conditions: 24-hour projection: Flat calm _____ Light wind-chop _____
Wind-Waves: <1 ft. _____ 1-3 ft. _____ > 3 ft. _____
Swell (est. height in ft.) _____

48-hour projection: Flat calm _____ Light wind-chop _____
Wind-Waves: <1 ft. _____ 1-3 ft. _____ > 3 ft. _____
Swell (est. height in ft.) _____

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D. Tidal Information:

Date _____	High (time/height) _____ / _____
	Low (time/height) _____ / _____
Date _____	High (time/height) _____ / _____
	Low (time/height) _____ / _____
Date _____	High (time/height) _____ / _____
	Low (time/height) _____ / _____
Date _____	High (time/height) _____ / _____
	Low (time/height) _____ / _____

E. Predicted Dominant Current (net drift): Speed _____ Direction (to) _____

5. **PREDICTED OIL BEHAVIOR** (to be completed by NOAA SSC)

A. Unburned Oil Forecast: Estimated trajectory (attach sketch if necessary): _____

B. Expected area(s) and time(s) of land fall:

Location _____	Date/Time _____
Location _____	Date/Time _____
Location _____	Date/Time _____
Location _____	Date/Time _____

C. Estimated percent naturally dispersed and evaporated:

Within first 12 hours: _____
Within first 24 hours: _____
Within first 48 hours: _____

6. **RESOURCES AT RISK** (to be completed by resource agencies)

A. Habitats:

Sheltered Tidal Flats _____
Coastal Marshes _____
Etc. _____

B. Biological Resources: Are marine mammals, turtles or concentrations of birds noted in the burn area? Yes _____ No _____

Endangered/Threatened Species _____
Non-Endangered/Treatened Species _____

C. Historic and Archaeological Resources:

D. Commercial Harvest Areas:

7. **FEDERAL ON-SCENE COORDINATOR'S EVALUATION OF RESPONSE OPTIONS** (to be completed by FOSC)

A. Is *in-situ* burning likely to result in the elimination of significant volumes of spilled oil?

Yes _____ No _____

B. Will the use of *in-situ* burning interfere with (or in any way reduce the effectiveness of) mechanical recovery and/or dispersant application? Yes _____ No _____

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If yes, do the potential benefits of burning outweigh the potential reductions in effectiveness of mechanical/dispersant use? Yes _____ No _____

- C. Can *in-situ* burning be used safely, and with an anticipated overall reduction in environmental impact (compared with the decision not to burn)? Yes _____ No _____

8. **FEDERAL ON-SCENE COORDINATOR'S DECISION REGARDING *IN-SITU* BURNING** (to be completed by FOSC)

- A. _____ Do Not Conduct *In-Situ* burn.
- B. _____ *In-Situ* burn may be conducted in limited or selected areas
- C. _____ *In-Situ* burn may be conducted as requested.

Note: If the FOSC approves of *in-situ* burning, local media and residents in areas within the potential smoke plume trajectory must be notified prior to initiating the burn.

Signature of FOSC: _____

Printed Name of FOSC: _____

Time and Date of Decision: _____