

OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

WELDER FLATS

Brief history on location:

The preserve, established in 1988, is located in the coastal bend area of Texas, Calhoun County, known as the Gulf Prairies and Marshes Ecological Region. Welder Flats consists of 1,480 acres of Public School Fund submerged land immediately north and west of the junction of the Victoria barge canal with the Gulf Intercostals Waterway. The area is also bounded by San Antonio Bay, Shoalwater Bay, and interfaced with privately owned land. This area is a primary winter home for the endangered **Whooping Crane**.

Areas of Influence:

12100403- Espiritu Santo bay/East San Antonio Bay (USGS Hydrologic Units, Texas Maps).

4b- Estuarine Zone of Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes (Ecoregions and Sub-regions of Texas).

Risks to area:

The greatest risk to this area has become the intersection of the ICWW and the Victoria Barge Canal due to the reduction of oil production in the San Antonio Bay system , the wells and pipeline in this area have been abandoned due to non-production and or plugged .

Recommended Priority Response Sequence

1. Make notifications in the event of an actual or threatened discharge in the near vicinity, it is critical that all interested parties be notified.
2. If the Responsible Party has not done so, evaluate the containment of the spill, and respond accordingly.
3. Once responders are on scene, a safety meeting should take place, taking into account the particulars of the incident. The type of product spilled, and any safety concerns that may govern how and where to respond.
4. Based on the location of the spill and the best-known trajectory information, begin boom deployment in pre-designated areas . Prioritization will be determined at the time of a spill by the State on Scene Coordinator and Federal on Scene Coordinator with input of trustee agencies.
5. After initial booming operations have been completed, evaluate other resources that may be mobilized from Corpus Christi , Brownsville and possibly LaPorte.
6. Arrange for an over-flight as soon as possible to gain the most up-to-date information about the extent of the spill and booming effectiveness.
7. Establish an Incident Command System at the Welder Flats Fish Camp.
8. Evaluate the spill for other information such as:
 - a. Threat of additional releases from the spill source.
 - b. Wildlife hazing/rehabilitation – coordinate through USFW&TPWD
 - c. Alternate technologies – such as, but not limited to, burning
 - d. Night time trajectory, if necessary
 - e. Night operations, if necessary

I Command

A Organization Chart

1. Texas General Land Office
2. U.S. Coast Guard
3. Local Government
4. Responsible Party

B Identify Stakeholders

1. Texas General Land Office
2. Texas Parks and Wildlife
3. U.S. Fish and Wildlife
4. Calhoun County
5. Cliburn Family (property owner)
6. U.S. Coast Guard
7. City of Seadrift
8. Neal Grey (owner Charlies Bait Camp)
(for contact numbers see attach. 2)

II Operations

A Protection Strategy

1. Containment boom should be deployed at the pre-designated points of interest that have been marked on aerial photo. GPS coordinates and approximate distance across openings provided **(see attach. 3)**
2. Utilize T-post and line to anchor boom at designated locations. Conex box contents **(see attach. 1)**
3. Winds, tides, currents, and time of year will determine booming priority at pre-designated locations. **(see attach. 3)**

B Recovery Strategy

1. Manual recovery with use of, but not limited too:
 - a. pads
 - b. absorbent boom
 - c. snares / pom poms
 - d. shovels
 - e. rakes
 - f. possible alternative technologies- such as but not limited to burning and solidifiers (all forms of manual recovery are dependent on type product, wind and sea state)
2. Passive recovery (to be utilized when further ecological or environmental damage is expected through manual recovery)
3. Mechanical recovery (at discharge location and case specific locations) type of product will determine best mechanical recovery

- a. drum skimmer
- b. weir skimmer

- C Staging locations
 - 1. Fishing Camp on Welder Flats property adjacent to ICWW for forward staging area (GLO Conex boxes location)
 - 2. Charlies Bait Camp is secondary staging area 2.9 miles from (along ICWW toward Port O Connor) ranch entrance to Lane Rd on right follow Lane Rd to end approx. 4.17 miles (owner Neal Grey)
 - 3. Swan Point Boat Ramp (shallow water during Fall and Winter)
- D 204s written on how to accomplish strategies

III Planning

- A 232s Resources at Risk identified including economic and social-political resources (**see attach. 4**)
- B Basic Disposal Plan
 - 1. Liquid and solid waste sent to a TCEQ approved disposal location
- C Basic Decon Plan
 - 1. Charlies Bait Camp off Lane Rd
 - a. large boats
 - b. boom
 - c. large equipment
 - d. personnel
 Charlies Bait Camp will be the primary contactor Decon location for an event at Welder flats.
 - 2. Swan Point Boat Ramp
 - a. shallow water boats during low tides and fall and winter seasons
 - 3. Fish Camp on Welder Flats
 - a. small boats
 - b. Personnel
- D. All waste water to be recovered by vac trucks
 - Items needed for personnel decon will be:**
 - 1. Tarps or Visqueen
 - 2. Wading pools
 - 3. Absorbent pads
 - 4. Absorbent sweep
 - 5. Trash bags
 - 6. Rubber gloves
 - 7. Eye protection(goggles, safety shield ,safety glasses)

8. Tyvex

Items needed for boats, boom, and equipment will be:

1. Absorbent pads
2. Trash bags
3. Rubber gloves
4. Eye protection
5. Tyvex
6. Tarps or Visqueen

A roll-off box will be needed for mass disposal of waste.

D Basic Demob Plan

1. Demobilization to take place based on daily operational needs for personnel and equipment by Operations Section and Planning Section (*check in /check out of resources and personnel*)

IV Logistics

A 213s for Resources and people to accomplish strategies

B Vendors for equipment and personnel

1. Local DCO PMIC
2. Miller Environmental
3. Garner Environmental

C Service Branch plan

1. Communications
 - a. Cell phones, Nextels, 880 Meg radios, and VHF marine radios
 - b. A Contact list and vessel designation should be completed and issued to responders
2. Lodging in area (difficult for large numbers) must go to surrounding areas (Port Lavaca, Victoria, Port O Connor)
3. Food and water (catered, picked up and transported)
4. Medical (closest location for this is approx. 30 miles away in Port Lavaca)

Memorial Medical Center

815 N Virginia

Port Lavaca Tx

(361) 552-6713

D Command and JIC locations

All locations below may require rental.

1. Community Center in Port O' Connor **361 983-4485**
2. Bauer Center in Port Lavaca **361 552-1234**
3. Calhoun County Agriculture Building **361 552-2959**

(Attachment 1)

Pre-Staged Equipment

Contents are contained within two Conex boxes:

1950' of 18" containment boom

1000' of 10" harbor boom

400' of 10" expandi boom

9 – complete anchoring systems

Multi anchor buoys

Multi – bales of absorbent pads (100 count each)

Multi - bales of adsorbent sweep (100 ' each)

Multi – bales of viscous snare (50'each)

5 – scare cannons

5 – propane bottles

2 – boom tow bridles

1 – shovel

1 – sledge hammer

1 – rake

T-posts and driver

First Aid Kit/Insect spray

Welder Response Plan

(Attachment 2)

State of Texas Emergency Spill Reporting Hotline-1800-832-8224

National Response Center-1-800-424-8802

Texas General Land Office (TGLO)-

Port Lavaca-361-552-8081

24 hr 1-800-832-8224

Duty pager-361-501-2816

United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Victoria-361-582-0362

Victoria Duty Cell-361-533-0087 / 0086

Corpus Christi-361-888-3193

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TP&W)

Corpus Christi- 361-980-3245

Austin-512-389-4848

Game Wardens, Victoria –361-575-6306

United States Fish and Wildlife (USFW)

Spill Coordinator-281-286-8282

Aransas National Wildlife Refuge-361-286-3559

Cliburn Ranch (Jay Cliburn)

Home 361-578-1225

Cell 361-550-6056

Mike Campbell Ranch Foreman-361-550-3376

Calhoun County Sheriffs Dept. (CCSO)

361-553-4646

Calhoun County Emergency Management Coordinator (CCEMC)

361-553-4400

Charlies Bait Camp

361-785-3023

City of Seadrift

361-785-2251

For any other Emergency Contacts Dial 911

(Attachment 3)

Booming Distances / Locations

	Approximate Distance	Estimated Boom	
#a	175 FT	200ft	28*20'36"N096*37'35"W
#b	250 FT	300ft	28*20'03"N096*38'37"W
#c	50 FT	75 ft	28*20'05"N 096*38'33"W
#d	57 FT	75 ft	28*19'57"N 096*38'44"W
#e	212 FT	250 ft	28*19'38"N096*39'25"W
#f	50 FT	100 ft	28*19'40"N 096*39'40"W
#g	170 FT	200 ft	28*19'41"N096*41'05"W
#h	70 FT	100 ft	28*19'32"N 096*40'00"W
#i	110 FT	150 ft	28*19'44"N096*40'18"W
#j	220 FT	250 ft	28*19'54"N096*40'00"W
#k	285 FT	350 ft	28*20'01"N096*40'05"W
#l	612 FT	700ft	28*19'51"N096*40'34"W
#m	225 FT	250 ft	28*19'41"N096*41'05"W

(Attachment 4)

1. Incident Name Welder Flats		2. Operational Period (Date/Time) From: 10/15 To: 4/15		RESOURCES AT RISK SUMMARY ICS 232-CG	
3. Environmentally-Sensitive Areas and Wildlife Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location		Site Issues	
1	high	Division1/ northwest side of ICWW		Shallow water, estuarine habitat with endangered species (Whooping Crane) that winter in this area	
2	high	Division2 / north east side of Victoria Barge Canal		Shallow water, estuarine habitat with endangered species (Whooping Crane) that winter in this area	
Narrative					
<p>Welder Flats area on the Cliburn Ranch is a wintering area for the endangered Whooping Crane (Oct 15 through Apr 15 each year) and also a nursery ground for the Spotted Sea Trout and the Red Drum, with moderate to heavy stand of shoal grass and widgeongrass and numerous species of algae.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>					
4. Archaeo-cultural and Socio-economic Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location		Site Issues	
A-M	high	Hunting			
Narrative					
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5. Prepared by: (Environmental Unit Leader)			Date/Time		

(Attachment 4)

1. Incident Name Welder Flats		2. Operational Period (Date/Time) From: 4/16 To: 10/16		RESOURCES AT RISK SUMMARY ICS 232-CG	
3. Environmentally-Sensitive Areas and Wildlife Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location		Site Issues	
1	high	Division1/ northwest side of ICWW		Shallow water, estuarine habitat with endangered species (Whooping Crane) that winter in this area	
2	high	Division2 / north east side of Victoria Barge Canal		Shallow water, estuarine habitat with endangered species (Whooping Crane) that winter in this area	
<p>Narrative</p> <p>Welder Flats area on the Cliburn Ranch is a wintering area for the endangered Whooping Crane (Oct 15 through Apr 15 each year) and also a nursery ground for the Spotted Sea Trout and the Red Drum, with moderate to heavy stand of shoal grass and widgeongrass and numerous species of algae.</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>					
4. Archaeo-cultural and Socio-economic Issues					
Site #	Priority	Site Name and/or Physical Location		Site Issues	
A-M	Moderate to high	Sport and commercial fishing			
<p>Narrative</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>					
5. Prepared by: (Environmental Unit Leader)				Date/Time	

