

OSHA FactSheet

Current Training Requirements for the Gulf Oil Spill [July 7, 2010]

OSHA's top priority is to ensure that oil spill response and clean-up operations are done as safely, effectively, and efficiently as possible. This fact sheet provides basic information about common operations, hazards, training, and worker protection. If you are unsure or think your work is unsafe, **STOP** and **ASK** your supervisor. You can call OSHA at one of its gulf coast Area Offices during normal working hours or at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) or TTY 1-877-889-5627 for further information.

OSHA - Florida : Ft. Lauderdale 954-424-0242 Jacksonville 904-232-2895 Tampa 813-626-1177	OSHA - Louisiana: Baton Rouge 225-298-5458 OSHA – Mississippi Jackson 601-965-4606 OSHA – Alabama Mobile 251-441-6131	OSHA – Texas Corpus Christi 361-888-3420 Houston North 281-591-2438 Houston South 281-286-0583	BP Hotlines: Volunteers: 866-448-5816 Training: 866-647-2338 Vessels of Opportunity Program (skimming operations): 281-366-5511
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What training do you need for your job?

You must be trained on the hazards of your job in a language that you understand. You must be trained before you begin oil spill response and clean-up work. Your employer must determine the type and length of training you will need. Training is based on your job duties and the job's hazards. OSHA is monitoring BP to make sure that their site training meets OSHA requirements.

NOTE: At this time, BP has stated that you must be hired by a BP contractor before you attend training. Taking a class without already having a job does not guarantee that you will get a job later.

As the employer, BP requires that you get the training from a trainer that BP has hired: PEC, Parsons, or O'Brien. Once you've finished the training, you will get a yellow card that states your level of training. This is the only training card that will get you on to a work site.

Volunteers should be protected as well. For information, call the BP Hotline at 866-448-5816

Shoreline Cleanup:

To do shoreline cleanup work, you must receive training from the BP contractor hired to provide training for shoreline cleanup: PEC. The training is provided **for free**. Information about the training is available at 866-647-2338 and at <http://www.pecpremier.com/>. After you successfully complete the class, you will receive an identification card as proof of your training.

If you are:	You must receive:
Doing work that does NOT involve materials contaminated by the spill	45 minute training [Module 2 – Site Health Safety and Environment (HSE) Orientation (includes Basic Health & Safety Orientation)]
Doing work cleaning up oil-contaminated shoreline	4 hours of training [Module 3 – Shoreline Spilled Oil Response NOTE: These workers will be supervised by people with 40 hours of hazardous waste operations training.

Vessels of Opportunity (VOO):

To work on a vessel of opportunity, you must receive training from the BP contractors hired to provide training for VOO, Parsons or O'Brien. This training is also provided **for free** and is given only to crews that have been called up and hired by BP or a BP contractor. After you successfully complete the class, you will receive an identification card as proof of your training.

If you are:	You must receive:
Doing work on a VOO – because VOO assignments change, all crews need to be trained at a level to do work that involves weathered oil	8 hours of training [Module 3 –Marine Spilled Oil Response and Module 4 Marine Vessel Health and Safety] NOTE: These workers will be supervised by people with 40 hours of hazardous waste operations training if work involves weathered oil.

You may have already taken the 4-hour Module 3 – Marine Spilled Oil Response. You will only need to take the additional 4-hour Module 4 Marine Health and Safety class. BP is making plans now to provide this class to you in the very near future.

Supervisors:

To supervise shoreline cleanup crews and VOOs doing work that involves weathered oil you need to complete a more rigorous 40-hour hazardous waste operations (HAZWOPER) course that is followed by several days of supervised field experience. BP is not providing this training. The 40-hour HAZWOPER training must include a combination of classroom and hands-on training. Computer-based training can be used as part of the training program, but cannot be used alone to meet OSHA's requirements. Training covers topics like the makeup and risks associated with the hazardous material(s) involved, and hands-on work with the equipment needed for the work, safety gear, and the local environment. OSHA also recommends that the trainer to student ratio for this type of training be 1 trainer for every 30 students in the class.

OSHA has received reports that some trainers are offering this training in significantly less than 40 hours, showing video presentations, and offering only limited instruction. Training cannot be shortened to anything less than 40 hours or it will not meet OSHA's requirements. And, as noted, training must include both classroom and hands on instruction - videos and computer-based training alone cannot be used to meet OSHA's 40-hour training requirements.

What should you do if you have questions about finding a shoreline cleanup job?

Contact the US Department of Labor/Employment Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) Toll-Free Help Line (1-877-872-5627; TTY: 1-877-889-5627) or visit the USDOL/ETA website at www.careeronestop.org. The Toll-Free Help Line provides information about the locations of the nearest One Stop Career Centers and other related offices, including unemployment insurance assistance. The USDOL/ETA Toll-Free Help Line is staffed by English and Spanish speakers and translation services are in place so that information is currently available in over 180 languages.

Worker Rights

You have the right to a safe workplace. The [Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970](#) (OSH Act) was passed to prevent workers from being killed or seriously harmed at work. The law requires that employers provide their employees with working conditions that are free of known dangers. OSHA sets and enforces protective workplace safety and health standards. OSHA also provides information, training and assistance to workers and employers. Workers may file a complaint to have OSHA inspect their workplace if they believe that their employer is not following OSHA standards or there are serious hazards. Contact OSHA at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742) if you have questions or want to file a complaint. We will keep your information confidential. We are here to help you.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor

www.osha.gov
(800) 321-OSHA

