

## Focus on: Spill Management Teams



### More information

Contingency plan holders use spill management teams approved by the Department of Ecology. For more information or to apply please visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Spill-management-teams>.

### Contact information

Spills Program  
 360-407-7455  
[ecology.wa.gov/SpillsProgram](https://ecology.wa.gov/SpillsProgram)

### ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-7211 or email at [ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov), or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

### Spill management teams

Spill management teams (SMT) are personnel trained to manage an oil spill response and make decisions about how to clean up the oil. These trained personnel, supported by response ready equipment, are key to a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) approves a company's internal spill management team through the contingency plan approval process, and contracted spill management teams through an application process. The effectiveness of the company's spill management team is evaluated during drills.

### Planning commitments for spill management teams

The requirements for approval as a spill management team include:

- Having a process to provide 24-hour per day contact for spill management.
- Beginning mobilization efforts immediately upon notification, but no later than two hours from notification of a spill.
- Ensuring the incident commander is able to arrive in the state within six hours after notification of a spill, if the spill management team is contracted to fill the role.
- Assisting plan holders in meeting requirements for plans and drills.
- Implementing and using the contingency plan(s) to which they are contracted during a spill and substantial threat of a spill, and training personnel to implement the plan.
- Working in unified command to ensure that personnel and equipment will be called out to clean up the spill safely and to the maximum extent practicable.
- Providing written notification to Ecology and plan holders within 24 hours of any significant change to the Ecology approved application.

## What is the relationship between a contingency plan holder and spill management team?

Oil spill plans identify personnel to fill a complete spill management team roster as shown in the table on the right. They may use internal personnel to fill some or all of their positions, or choose to contract with an approved spill management team to complete their roster.

A spill management team can apply to Ecology for approval to fill some or all of the potential spill management team positions. Some contracted spill management teams provide specialized services for only certain positions, while others have broader capabilities that cover all incident command system (ICS) positions. A spill management team is approved for what they can do, and is not required to fill all the positions.

### How do spill management teams apply?

To apply to become a spill management team, complete the form found on our website at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Spill-management-teams> and send the completed application to [contractorapp@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:contractorapp@ecy.wa.gov).

### What does it mean when a SMT is approved?

A spill management team applies to Ecology to be approved to be cited in an oil spill contingency plan. When we receive an application, we verify the information provided, including the 24-hour personnel call out procedures, and post the application for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Approved spill management teams will be listed on our website at <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Spill-management-teams>. Contingency plan holders interested in contracting spill management team services should review this website for the names of companies they may contract to meet their contingency plan requirements. Ecology is not involved in the contracting process.

### What do vessels enrolled in multi-vessel contingency plans need to do?

In Washington, multiple vessel owners and operators can enroll under a single oil spill plan to meet their planning responsibilities, improve their ability to respond, and reduce their costs. Vessel owners and operators enrolled in a multi-vessel contingency plan must have approved spill management teams and have unique considerations under the spill management team requirements. You can read more about these requirements in our publication, Focus On: Multi-Vessel Contingency Plans, found at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/0908015.html>.

ICS Position in an Oil Spill Plan	Number of personnel
Responsible Party Incident Commander	3
Public Information Officer	3
Liaison Officer	3
Safety Officer	3
Operations Section Chief	3
Planning Section Chief	3
Logistics Section Chief	3
Finance Section Chief	3
Wildlife Branch Director	1
Air Operations Branch Director	1
Situation Unit Leader	1
Resources Unit Leader	1
Documentation Unit Leader	1
Environmental Unit Leader	1