

## U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center – Fact Sheet

### Agency Role.

The U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) was commissioned to administer the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and the portion of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) funding accessible to the U.S. Coast Guard. These funds are used to support liability and compensation regimes pertaining to pollution from oil and hazardous substances, respectively.

### Responsibilities.

The NPFC executes programs to accomplish the following five principal objectives:

- Provide funding to permit timely removal actions or to mitigate and prevent a substantial threat of a discharge.
- Provide funding to initiate Natural Resource Damage Assessments (oil only).
- Compensate claimants who demonstrate that certain damages were caused by oil pollution.
- Recover from Responsible Parties pollution costs and damages incurred by the OSLTF.
- Certify the financial responsibility of vessel owners and operators.

### Capabilities and Abilities.

The NPFC is available to assist Federal On Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) on the following areas:

- **Funding a Response.** NPFC personnel can help the FOSC obtain adequate funds to conduct a response. In addition, they can assist the “Finance Section” of the Incident Command to ensure funding ceilings remain adequate for the duration of a cleanup operation. The NPFC can also help the FOSC determine if a planned OSLTF expenditure is appropriate.
- **Identifying the Responsible Party (RP).** NPFC resources are available to assist the FOSC in determining who is financially responsible for a spill by researching Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFRs).
- **Hiring Other Agencies to Assist with a Response.** NPFC personnel can help execute Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations (PRFAs) with other federal, state, or local government agencies so their services can be used by an OSC during a response.
- **Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDAs).** If the trustees of the resources impacted by a spill desire to initiate a damage assessment, the costs to “initiate” such an assessment can be funded by the OSLTF. Upon notification, NPFC works directly with the Federal Lead Administrative Trustee (FLAT) to provide funding.
- **Cost Documentation.** NPFC personnel can advise the Incident Command “Finance Section” on how to establish proper cost documentation procedures. This will ensure that response organizations (i.e. federal, state, local, commercial,..etc.) are properly reimbursed or paid for expenditures incurred and RP’s are held accountable for the cost of a response.
- **Claims Management.** NPFC personnel can prepare “Notices of Designations” to RPs as directed by the FOSC. BY this process, RPs are legally advised of the requirement to inform potential claimants

of a spill and how to present a claim for damages. If the RP fails to perform this role adequately, NPFC will take responsibility for this function.

**Response Scenarios.**

The NPFC may be contacted by calling the appropriate Case Officer or the Duty Case Officer. During working hours, the Case Officers may be contacted by contacting our general number: 202/493-6700. After working hours, a 24 hour Duty Officer may be reached through the National Response Center (800-424-8802) or directly by paging 1-800/SKYPAGE (PIN 207-3906).