

SAUDI ARABIA

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Notification should be made to the nearest port authority, including the major ports of:

Islamic Port of Jeddah PO Box 9285 Jeddah 21188	Tel: +966 2 647 1200 Fax: +966 2 647 7411 Tlx: 601175 PPORTS SJ
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King Fahd Industrial Port, Jubail PO Box 547 Jubail 31951	Tel: +966 3 357 8000 Fax: +966 3 357 8011 Tlx: 832031 JUBIPT SJ
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King Abdul Aziz Commercial Port, Dammam PO Box 28062 Dammam 31188	Tel: +966 3 858 3199 Fax: +966 3 857 1727 +965 4 814196 Tlx: 801139 DAPM SJ
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King Fahd Industrial Port, Yanbu	Tel: +966 4 396 7000 Fax: +966 4 396 7037
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The PME (see Competent National Authority, below) can also be notified for spills away from ports, as can nearby oil terminals including Ras Al Khafji:

Terminal of Ras Al Khafji	Tel: +966 3 766 0555 (x5071) Fax: +966 3 766 2776 Tlx: 841011 Araboil SJ
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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME)	Tel: 966 (emergency national number)
Western Province, Jeddah	Tel: +966 2 651 6426 Fax: +966 2 653 0184
Eastern Province, Dammam	Tel: +966 3 857 5300 Fax: +966 3 857 6752
Ministry of Defence & Civil Aviation P.O. Box 1358 Jeddah 21431	Tlx: 601236 Arsad Sj E-Mail: marine@pme.gov.sa Web: www.pme.org.sa

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

The Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defence and Aviation is responsible for all environmental matters in the Kingdom, including planning for the conservation of natural marine and coastal resources. The PME also ensures that reporting, surveillance and response capabilities are available to deal with spills in Saudi Arabian waters. These are outlined in the National Contingency Plan for Combating Marine Pollution by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergencies.

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This Plan establishes two Area Operations Committees and two Environmental Protection Coordinating Committees, one of each for the Red Sea coast and for the Gulf Coast. These committees are chaired by PME with representation from interested authorities including: The Ministry of Interior (Coast Guard and Civil Defence Authorities); Ministry of Defence and Aviation; Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs; Ministry of Industry and Electricity; Ministry of Municipality and Rural Resources; the Saudi Ports Authority; the General Organisation for Distillation of Saline Water; the Royal Navy and the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu. Amongst their responsibilities is the preparation of area plans, including local plans for marine and coastal oil facilities, identification of necessary manpower and equipment, and training staff in response activities.

RESPONSE POLICY

Offshore, containment and recovery of oil is the preferred strategy. Dispersants may also be used in accordance with a code of practice which prohibits their use in shallow waters and near to the intakes of desalination plants and areas used for aquaculture. The presence of extensive shallow inshore and coastal waters limits the use of on-water recovery methods, and most plans place emphasis on defensive booming strategies to protect key shoreline resources.

EQUIPMENT

Government:

PME holds stocks of equipment in Jubail and Jeddah for responding to spills from shipping accidents. The Saudi Port Authority holds sizeable amounts of equipment in all Saudi Ports on the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf. Considerable reliance is placed on industry resources.

Private:

The Arabian American Oil Company (SAUDI ARAMCO) holds the largest stock of oil pollution control and clean-up equipment in the country, including an offshore aerial spraying and mechanical recovery capability. SAUDI ARAMCO is unique amongst the oil companies in the region in having a full-time oil spill clean-up group dedicated to the task of pollution control in and around the Company's oil-exporting terminals. SAUDI ARAMCO is a member of the Regional Clean Sea Organisation (RECSO) (formerly known as GAOCMAO) and may request assistance from other member companies outside Saudi Arabia in the event of a major spill. The ports also have sizeable amounts of equipment.

The Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) has sited a small stockpile of response equipment in Ras Al-Khafji comprising heavy oil skimmers, boom and portable storage tanks.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Saudi Arabia has experienced a number of moderate-to-large oil spills during the last 10 years, culminating in the large spill during the Gulf War in 1991. PME and SAUDI ARAMCO coordinated a major international response effort during which more than one million barrels of oil were recovered from the shoreline.

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Spill Response		Compensation					
MARPOL 73/78		Annexes III IV V VI			OPRC '90	OPRC-HNS	CLC '69	CLC '76	CLC '92	Fund '92	HNS*	Bunker
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			

* not yet in force



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REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Jeddah Convention (with states bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden)

Kuwait Convention (with countries bordering the Gulf).

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