

Desecheo Operational Plan

Fuel Spill Protocol

The purpose of this document is to describe the actions that should be taken of an unplanned release of fuel occur during rat eradication activities for the Desecheo Island Restoration Project, which lies within the Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). **Human safety takes precedence over all response activities.** Jet A-1Fuel is the fuel type to be used for the helicopter operation and as it is the only fuel to be held in significant quantities (55 gallon drums) and is the fuel for which the plan is mostly intended in the following scenarios:

1. A spill at the staging site or over land from the staging site to the water's edge
2. A spill in the marine environment
3. A spill on Desecheo (for inaccessible and accessible locations).
4. A spill at the helicopter site on Desecheo

Realistically action to contain and remove the spill is only possible at the airport or staging site. The response to a spill in the marine environment or on Desecheo, unless inside the drum bund, will simply be to ensure human safety and minimize any impact.

The objectives of the Fuel Spill Response Plan are to:

- Ensure the safety of personnel and resource users
- Control the source of the fuel
- Contain and recover spilled material
- Inform partners and agencies with jurisdiction

All types of petroleum spills can create traffic hazard, pose health threats in drinking water, can kill aquatic life and wildlife and can create severe fire hazards near traffic, in buildings or in sewers.

This response plan is divided into two sections:

- (1) General response plan procedures based in the spill event location (i.e. Aguadilla airport and/or PREPA Bonus Plant site, Marine Environment and Desecheo Island)
- (2) Flow chart defining the organizations that should be informed in each spill event.

1. General Response Procedures

Human Safety is the primary concern in any emergency. Before any action evaluate the scene to ensure it is safe for personnel to enter. Take all necessary precautions for human safety.

If spill is less than 10 gallons of Jet A-1 gasoline, diesel fuel or other engine fuel at the staging site or bait loading site the following procedures may be followed:

1. Evaluate the scene and make sure the area is safe for people to enter. Notify the Operations Section Chief and Incident Commander. Take all necessary precautions for human safety. Evacuate personnel from the immediate area of spill, if is necessary.

2. Determine if any personnel are injured and take appropriate steps to assist individual(s) if it can be done safely (refer to **Appendix M: Injured Persons Action Plan: on-island (Desecheo)** or *Appendix N: Injured Persons Action Plan: off-island*).
3. Consider whether it is appropriate to stop helicopter operations.
4. Designated personnel should retrieve spill kit and a fire extinguisher and control / stop the leak or spill. Contain remaining fuel in reliable container.
5. Identify and turn off the nozzles or valves from the leaking container or plug any hole using a wooden plug, bolt, band or putty on a puncture-type hole.
6. If the spill or leak cannot be stopped, deploy containment booms around spill area and spread sorbent material, such as a commercial heavy floor sweep absorbent or absorbent pads into effected area.
7. Brooms can be used to sweep up the sorbent material or pads can be picked up and put it into buckets, garbage cans or barrels. In order to control ignition sources and residual slipperiness, fresh granular sorbent such as sand can then be re-spread on the spill site. Replace absorbents in contained spill area as needed until all residue is absorbed and liquids are removed.
8. **For operation from Rincon**: Contact the Rincon Fire Department to clean up contaminated area
9. Contact Petro West Inc. to dispose of the contaminated sorbent from Desecheo and Rincon.

If the spill is greater than 10 gallons of gasoline, diesel fuel Jet A-1 or other engine fuel at the staging site, in the marine environment and/or any road or public area where the helicopter will overflight, the Incident Commander will be notified immediately and initiate the emergency response identified in **Appendix P: Action Plans and communication for an emergency incident**. The Incident Command Group will be responsible for disseminating information to, and coordinating with, the appropriate response agencies (see Section 2 flow chart below). Information required will include:

- Any personnel injuries and if emergency medical assistance is required
- Time and location of spill (GPS coordinates if available), and if spill occurred in the marine or terrestrial environment.
- Approximate amount of fuel that spilled
- Actions undertaken to date
- Actions proposed

Fuel Spill Response Kit Contents

The fuel to be used in the operational areas will be stored in certified and approved drums provided by the fuel company. The fuel drums will be located in secondary containments to avoid any leaks in surroundings areas. One fuel spill kit will be available at all operational areas where fuel will be handling, Aguadilla airport and/or PREPA site (External loads base) and on Desecheo Island (Bait loading base). Portable fire extinguishers will be readily accessible for use in each operational areas in case of any fire event.

Terrestrial Spill Kit: Materials

Petroleum sorbents pads

Absorbent

3 brooms

- 1 box nitrile gloves (Size XL to accommodate all hand sizes)
- 3 pair long-sleeved shirts and long trousers
- 2 Sharpies
- 1 garbage bin or 5 plastic buckets (5 gl)
- 2 portable and approved fire extinguisher
- 4 portable fuel containers (5 gl)
- 2 manual fuel pump

2. Agency and personnel contacts in the event of an unplanned fuel spill.

