

Requirements for Vessel Owners and Operators Enrolled in Multi-Vessel Contingency Plans

Companies whose vessels transit Washington State waters for arrival in Washington ports must be enrolled in a state approved contingency plan to ensure a rapid response to oil spills and other emergencies. Each company may have their own plan, or they may enroll their vessels in a Washington State approved multi-vessel contingency plan.

Multi-Vessel Plan Coverage Areas

Three companies provide state-approved multi-vessel contingency plans that provide coverage in Washington State.

- For vessels transiting the Puget Sound, state coastal waters, and Grays Harbor, coverage may be provided by:
 - National Response Corporation (NRC), or
 - Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC)
- For vessels transiting the Columbia River, coverage may be provided by:
 - Maritime Fire & Safety Association (MFSA)

For best advice in understanding limitations or restrictions in coverage, contact one of the above listed contingency plan holders.

Following the Contingency Plan

When a company enrolls a vessel in one of the multi-vessel contingency plans, the master, as the company representative, is responsible to ensure the plan is followed. The master should become familiar with the plan, including notification procedures and initial response actions. Ecology recommends the master ensures the other ship officers are trained in the plan's use.

Importantly, a vessel should only be enrolled in one contingency plan per geographic location. When transiting in the Puget Sound, Washington's coastal waters, and Grays Harbor – contract with WSMC or NRC, not both. The master should immediately notify the operator and agent if double enrollment is discovered in both WSMC and NRC. The agent may be able to assist you to determine which plan to retain.

Field Document

What is a Field Document?

The field document is an important part of your Washington contingency plan and should be onboard your vessel before arrival in Washington waters. It contains time-critical steps the master must follow in the event of an oil spill, or a substantial threat of a spill, in

WHY IT MATTERS: FIELD DOCUMENT AND NOTIFICATIONS

If your vessel spills oil in Washington waters, you *must* implement your oil spill contingency plan. Your field document includes procedures for making the required notifications for spills and vessel incidents that pose substantial threat of a spill. Your Qualified Individual (QI) may be able to assist you with notifications, but it is the responsibility of the vessel owner/operator to ensure that the proper notifications are made in a timely manner. All spills to water are reportable spills.

REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS:

Your multi-vessel contingency plan holder

Contact information is in your field document.

Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD)
(800) 258-5990

National Response Center (NRC)
(800) 424-8802

Contact information:

Sean Orr
360-407-7420
sorr461@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations:

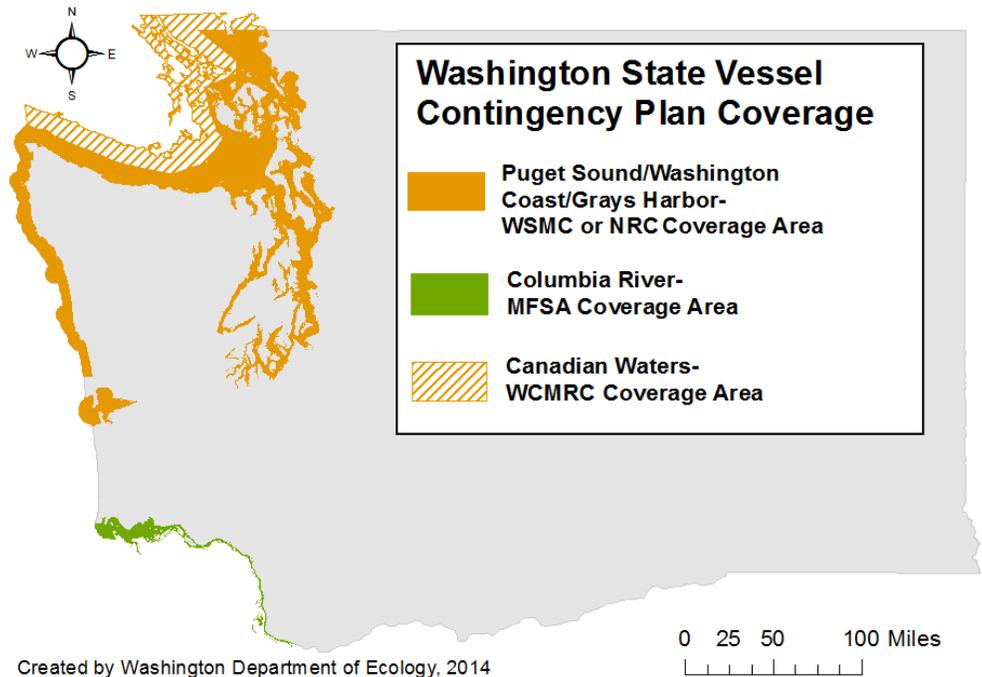
If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Washington waters. The field document includes: spill control actions, Washington State's required notifications, and oil spill assessment tools. Under WAC 173-182-240, covered vessels are required to have their approved contingency plan field document on board, and readily available at all times while the vessel is in Washington State waters. In addition to the field document, some plan holders have developed a notification placard to help guide initial notifications. **This notification placard is a notification aid and does not meet Washington's field document requirements.** The full field document must be on board at all times.

Field Document and Notifications

Washington State requires that vessel owners or operators follow the notification procedures in the contingency plan field

document. In the case of a multi-vessel plan covered vessel, it is important to notify your plan holder immediately. Quick notification to the plan holder is crucial to a successful response, because it allows for the rapid deployment of equipment and personnel as necessary. The faster the response resource contractors begin mobilizing, the better the outcome. You must either directly or through your plan holder, notify **Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD)** within one hour of a spill or substantial threat of a spill. The contingency plan field document and notification placard contain procedures for ensuring that the required notifications are made quickly.



How do I get a Field Document?

Vessel owners and operators must provide the field document to onboard vessel personnel before the vessel enters Washington waters. Usually, your company, your contingency plan holder, or your agent will fax or e-mail a copy of the field document as soon as your vessel is enrolled. Copies of field documents for contingency plans are found online at:

- The MFSA umbrella plan field document: www.mfsa.com
- The NRC vessel plan field document (and notification placard): <http://nrcwaplan.nrc.com/>
- The WSMC umbrella plan field document (and notification placard): www.wsmcoop.org

What about ERTV Coverage?

Enrollment with the emergency response towing vessel (ERTV) for transits through the Strait of Juan de Fuca is also required and is separate from the contingency plan requirement. Vessels enrolled in the WSMC contingency plan may enroll for ERTV coverage directly through their contract with WSMC; all other vessels must contact the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound to enroll. Details are at <http://marexps.com/supporting/ertv>.