**XXX River**

**Geographic Response Plan**

**Purpose and Use of this Plan**

This Geographic Response Plan constitutes the federal and state on-scene coordinators’ orders during the initial phase of an oil spill response in the XXX River area. It’s meant to aid the response community during the initial phase of an oil spill incident; from the time a spill occurs until a Unified Command is established. The plan prioritizes response strategies based on locations where spills might occur and the proximity of those locations to sensitive natural, cultural, and economic resources. By using this document it’s hoped that immediate and proper action can be taken to reduce oil’s impact on sensitive resources. Whereas this plan is being developed specifically for oil spill emergency response, it may have applicability for other hazardous material spills.

**Plan Overview**

**Purpose**

1. The XXX River Geographic Response Plan (XXGRP) establishes the policies, responsibilities, and procedures required to protect the health and safety of the populace, the environment, and public and private property from the effects of petroleum spill incidents.

2. This plan establishes the emergency response organization for petroleum spill incidents occurring within the XXX River watershed area from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake.

3. The XXGRP is the principal guide for agencies within the XXX River watershed area, its incorporated cities, and other local government entities in mitigating petroleum spill emergencies. This plan is consistent with federal, state and local laws and is intended to facilitate multi-agency and multijurisdictional coordination, particularly between local, state, and federal agencies, in oil spill emergencies.

4. This plan is an operational plan as well as a reference document. It may be used for pre-emergency planning and emergency response. Agencies having roles and responsibilities established by this plan are encouraged to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) and emergency response checklists based on the provisions of this plan.

**Incident Objectives**

For emergency response personnel to evaluate the petroleum product and take appropriate emergency actions in order to save lives, reduce injuries, and prevent or minimize damage to the environment and property, the following actions should be taken:

1. Securing the *affected* area, isolating the hazard, and denying the entry of unauthorized persons into the area.

2. Identification of the petroleum spill.

3. Providing rapid and effective warning, information, and instructions to threatened populations.

4. Providing means to access technical resources to stabilize the affected area and return to normal conditions as quickly as possible.

5. Train and equip emergency response personnel (hazmat team members as well as first responders) to efficiently and effectively mitigate oil spill incidents.

**Response Strategy Selection:** The bulk of this plan is contained in Chapter 3. It provides information on GRP response strategies and the order they should be implemented based on potential oil spill origin points and their nearness to sensitive resources. Area and sector maps and information on staging areas and boat launch locations are also provided in the chapter. After a spill occurs, the response strategies provided in Chapter 3 should be implemented as soon as possible. Unless circumstances unique to a particular spill situation dictate otherwise, the tables in Section 3.X of the chapter should be used to determine strategy deployment priorities. The movement of oil on water and the time it takes to mobilize response resources to deploy GRP strategies must always be considered when setting strategy implementation priorities.

**Control and Containment of an Oil Spill at the Source is a Higher Priority than the Implementation of GRP Response Strategies:** If in the responder’s best judgment control and containment of an oil spill at the source is not feasible, or the source is controlled and contained but oil has spread out beyond initial containment, then the priorities laid out in Section 3.X of this plan take precedence until a Unified Command is formed. It’s important to note that spill response priorities, beyond those described in this plan, should rely on aerial observations and spill trajectory information. A booming strategy listed as a high priority in Section 3.X would not necessarily be implemented if spill trajectory information didn’t warrant action in that area. However, the priority tables should be followed until spill trajectory information becomes available. During an incident, modifications to the deployment priorities provided in Section 3.X of this plan may be made if approved by the Incident Commander or Unified Command. The strategies discussed in this plan have been designed for use with persistent oils that float on water and may not be suitable for other petroleum products or hazardous substances.

**Resources at Risk:** Chapter 6 of this plan outlines sensitive resources at risk in the area that could be injured if impacted by oil. The implementation of certain strategies may be delayed if flight restrictions are associated with a particular resource until the required trustee consultation has been provided. Information in the chapter regarding flight restrictions should be followed before moving to implement any strategy requiring the use of aircraft.

**Standardized Response Language:** In order to avoid confusion in response terminology, this plan uses standard National Interagency Incident Management System, Incident Command System (NIIMS ICS) terminology.

 **Quick Reference Guide:**

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