

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume XII, Issue CXXVI 126

TIME:1600

30 October 2012

IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT INITIATED UNANNOUNCED EXERCISES IN CAPTAIN OF THE PORT NEW ORLEANS ZONE

This Marine Safety Bulletin is to inform the maritime industry that the Captain of the Port New Orleans intends to implement Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUE), in conjunction with the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Guidelines to all Vessel Response Plan (VRP) holders that are subject to GIUEs mandated by OPA-90. If selected, plan holders must be prepared to participate in the exercise in accordance with their approved VRP.

What is NPREP? The NPREP is a multi-agency program to exercise and evaluate government Area Contingency Plans and industry spill response plans. The exercise program meets the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) mandate for exercises and represents minimum guidelines for ensuring overall preparedness within the response community. It should be viewed as an opportunity for continuous improvement of the response plans and the response system. The NPREP was developed as a coordinated effort of the four federal agencies with responsibility for pollution response preparedness-the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). These agencies worked with various levels of government, the oil and marine transportation industry, cleanup contractors, and the general public to develop the program. The NPREP Guidelines were developed through a series of public workshops. The NPREP Guidelines outline an exercise program that satisfies the plan holder's Federal exercise requirements. The NPREP Guidelines can be found at <http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/2783/1302931/National-Preparedness-for-Response-Exercise-Program-PREP-Compliance>.

What is a GIUE? GIUEs are a response exercise conducted in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 155.1060 and Part 154.1055, in conjunction with NPREP. These exercises are intended to allow plan holders the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to respond to the average most probable discharge (AMPD) stated in their VRP. A GIUE is initiated without prior notice and begins when a Coast Guard representative arrives on-scene and presents a scenario. The outcome of the exercise is pass/fail, and the Coast Guard representative will discuss any necessary follow-up actions immediately following the exercise

The Coast Guard representative will ensure all applicable regulatory safety standards are followed during the exercise. It is the responsibility of the Master of the vessel to ensure all applicable company safety standards are followed and communicated to the Coast Guard representative.

Response Plan holders that are directed to participate in a government-initiated unannounced exercise are required to participate AND are liable for all related expenses. Vessels must retain appropriate post exercise documentation for three years.

The scope of the exercise will:

- Involve response to an AMPD scenario
- Involve equipment deployment to respond to the spill scenario

You may contact the Sector New Orleans Incident Management Division at (504) 365-2398 for any questions or concerns.



CAPTAIN P. W. GAUTIER

Captain of the Port New Orleans