



# Ohmsett Oil Spill Testing in Ice-Infested Waters and Implications for Inland Waterway Response

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https://ohmsett.bsee.gov







# **Key Takeaways**

- The challenges of oil spill clean-up testing in real- world conditions
- The challenges of simulating oil spills under icy water conditions
- The value and benefits of training under arctic/icy water condition training

# **Topics**

- Ohmsett Overview
- Establishing a field of ice
- Testing in icy / Arctic waters
- Response training in icy/Arctic waters



Managed by U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and operated through a contract with Applied Research Associates, Inc. since September 2018

# **Facility**

#### Largest outdoor salt water test tank in North America

- 203 meters (667 feet) long
- 20 meters (65 feet) wide
- 2.4 meters (8 feet) deep
- 10 million liters (2.6M gallons)
- Wave capacity: ~1 meter (~3 feet)
- Open ocean salinity (32 -35 ppt)
- Computer controlled wave generator

#### **Located in Leonardo, New Jersey**

- One hour south of New York City
- Nearby airports:

Newark (35 Miles)

LaGuardia (64 Miles)

JFK (60 Miles)

# **Establishing a Field of Ice**

#### **Receiving and Generating Ice**

- Ice testing at Ohmsett initially conducted with ice generated and shipped from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL)
- Recent ice/arctic testing performed at Ohmsett with ice generated onsite
- Ice grown in forms purchased and fabricated by Ohmsett staff





# **Establishing a Field of Ice**

#### **Transporting Ice**

- Ice is carefully removed from cold storage refrigeration units (reefers)
- Ice is loaded onto delivery tray
- Ice is slid into boomed ice fields by machine (forklift/telehandler)





# **Testing in Icy/Arctic Waters**

#### **Hazardous Mass**

- Testing was been conducted with 1 meter x 1 meter x 20 cm blocks
- Large ice blocks break naturally throughout the day





# **Testing in Icy/Arctic Waters**

#### **Test Areas**

- Icy fields presents difficulties in delivering oil recovery equipment to water surface
- Winter testing may include snowy/icy winter conditions
- Addition of tank water cooling chiller increases cold water hazard





# Response Training in Riverine with Ice Coverage

- Cold water rescue preparedness
- Deployment of equipment to cold and icy waters
- Safe work practices on ice



# Hands-on training with oil in ice

- Complexity of oil recovery
- Difficult to find oil
- Difficult to contain oil
- Difficult to recover oil
- Safety concerns with temperature, weather and cold water
- Properly trained response personnel



# **Interacting with Remote ICS Decision Makers**

- How and what to communicate
  - Develop common dialog with responders in field and remote ICS
- Video documentation

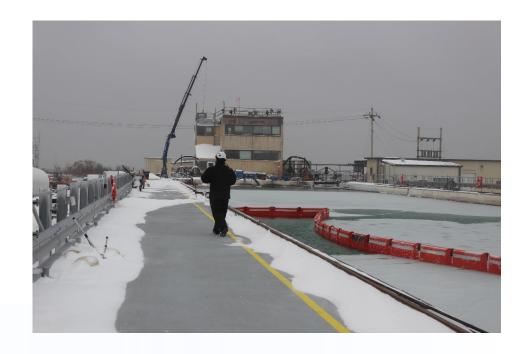




# **Training Best Practices**

### **Competency Requirements**

- 8-hr HAZWOPER
- Oil spill response safety & special considerations
- Developing response strategies





# **Thank You**

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