



## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

### SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) Staubles Bay Base Chaguaramas	Tel: +1 868 634 4235/4440 +1 868 634 4439 Fax: +1 868 634 4944 Web: <a href="http://www.ttdf.mil.tt/ttcg/index.html">http://www.ttdf.mil.tt/ttcg/index.html</a>
--	--

### COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) Maska Building – South Office South Trunk Road La Romain	Tel: +1 868 697 1283 / 1275 +1 868 697 0546 / 7864 +1 868 697 1484 / 0115 Fax: +1 868 697 0856 / 7013
--	--

### RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) is the lead agency for oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation. The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) of Trinidad and Tobago was last revised in 2012 and approved by Cabinet in 2013. Responsibility for development, updating of and amendments to this plan rests with MEEA and it is intended that the Plan is kept current whenever changes to key agencies and/or personnel are made and at least reviewed annually. The NOSCP works alongside the Caribbean Island Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Plan and follows the tiered approach. Vessel owners, oil and gas operators, oil and condensate-handling and transport facilities operating in Trinidad and Tobago's EEZ must maintain, in addition to a Tier 1 clean-up response capacity, a Tier 2 response capability by subscription to a dedicated Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) resident in Trinidad and Tobago.

In the event of a threat of pollution, an Incident Command Team (ICT) is activated comprising representatives from MEEA, other government departments, regional/borough corporations and the Responsible Party (RP) (the person, business, or entity that has been identified as owning the vessel or facility that caused the spill). The response organisations would utilise the Incident Command System (ICS). An Incident Commander (National Controller) would be appointed from MEEA and would normally be in overall charge of operations and chair the ICT. The MEEA directs the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard (TTCG) as the response agency and plans, prepares and monitors response operations. Support at the operational level would be provided by the Ministry of National Security (MNS). Resources would be co-opted as necessary and all oil spill cleaning tasks would involve resources through the Tier 2 OSRO, the MNS, the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) and the regional corporations.

### RESPONSE POLICY

For the north and east coast Trinidad, booming in open sea is not normally possible due to high energy seas and swells. Application of dispersant may be warranted based on the size of the spill. For the west coast of Trinidad and for Tobago, containment and recovery techniques are an option alongside dispersants. Dispersants can only be used under certain conditions, in particular not less than one nautical mile from any shoreline, nor closer than 3 nautical miles up-current from important marine fisheries or coral reef ecosystems which are less than 20 feet from the water's surface. The MEEA will be responsible for the approval of the use of dispersants in Trinidad and Tobago waters in accordance with criteria agreed for the Caribbean region unless there are special overriding conditions at the time. Dispersants must not be used in sensitive areas as determined by the MEEA and Fisheries Division and only licensed and approved dispersants are permitted.

The fire service, forestry division and the Environmental Management Authority are responsible for the approval of in-situ burning in Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with criteria agreed for the region unless there are overriding considerations at the time. Safety concerns with regard to the fire and

# TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

smoke plume must be considered and it must not occur closer than 12 miles from any adjacent island state or territory.

On shorelines, manual clean-up followed by natural weathering of the remaining oil is preferred for ecological reasons. Chemicals used on the shoreline must be approved by the relevant authorities for the intended use. This approval must be obtained in writing, prior to application during an incident. Shoreline clean-up would be conducted by workers mobilised by the Tier 2 OSROs/RP/TTTCG. Appeals may be made for volunteer groups to assist from qualified and recognised NGOs.

## EQUIPMENT

### Government

TTTCG possess vessels and a limited stock of equipment. The Air Guard Division of the MNS employs the services of National Helicopter Services Limited for helicopter reconnaissance.

### Private

All oil companies based in Trinidad and Tobago, including those operating on a temporary basis, are required to hold stocks of dispersant, booms and mechanical recovery equipment. There are a number of contractors that can provide oil spill response services, for instance, Kaizen Environmental Services (Trinidad) Limited, Earth, Oil Mop Environmental Services, Delta Logistics/Seacor Environmental Services, Tiger Tanks Trinidad Unlimited. Briko Air Services Limited, a private aviation company, possesses aircraft that can be used for aerial dispersant application. They can also provide helicopters for aerial surveillance. Other helicopter providers are Bristow Caribbean Limited and National Helicopters Services Limited. Two of the oil and gas companies - Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (Petrotrin) and BP - are full members of Clean Caribbean & Americas (CCA), while BHP Billiton, EOG Resources and Repsol are associate members and can mobilise their resources in the event of a major spill. In addition, Petrotrin, is a member of ARPEL, a reciprocal agreement between Latin American oil companies based in Montevideo, and can call upon this organisation and its member companies for advice and resources.

## PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

In 1979 two laden VLCCs collided off the coast of Tobago causing a major incident. Equipment owned by Clean Caribbean Cooperative (CCC), now called CCA, was used to supplement local resources. A DC-4 aircraft was also brought in from the USA to provide a major dispersant spraying capability. However, the oil dispersed naturally at sea without impacting the coast.

## HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS)

It is understood that to date no specific response arrangements are in place in case of an HNS spill. Such an incident would be dealt with in a similar manner as an oil spill incident.

## CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Spill Response			Compensation					
MARPOL 73/78		Annexes III, IV, V, VI			OPRC '90	OPRC -HNS	CLC '69, '76, '92			Fund '92	Supp Fund	HNS*	Bunker
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			

\* Not yet in force



# TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Cartagena Convention (with states of the Wider Caribbean Region).  
A bilateral agreement exists with Venezuela.

Date of issue: May 2013

### Terms & Conditions

These Country & Territory Profiles are provided in good faith as a guide only and are based on information obtained from a variety of sources over a period of time. This information is subject to change and should, in each case, be independently verified before reliance is placed on it. Country & Territory Profiles may have been re-issued solely to incorporate additional or revised information under one heading only. Each Profile has therefore not necessarily been completely verified or updated as at the stated Date of Issue.

ITOPF Limited ("ITOPF") hereby excludes, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all liability to any person, corporation or other entity for any loss, damage or expense resulting from reliance on or use of these Country & Territory Profiles.

©ITOPF Limited 2018

These Country & Territory Profiles may be reproduced by any means for non-commercial distribution without addition, deletion or amendment, provided an acknowledgement of the source is given and these Terms & Conditions are reproduced in full.

These Country & Territory Profiles may not be reproduced without the prior written permission of ITOPF either for commercial distribution or with addition, deletion or amendment.