

# Oiled Wildlife Response for Industry

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## Introduction

Basic preparedness is critical to any successful emergency response. This is also true for a wildlife response during a spill incident. Responding to wildlife issues requires advanced planning for trained personnel, equipment, and facilities. Globally, the needs are universal:

- provide the best achievable protection to wildlife and habitats
- minimize injuries to wildlife and habitats from the spill
- minimize injuries to wildlife during the cleanup
- provide the best possible care for affected wildlife
- prevent injuries to responders and the public

This is done through the preparation of pre-plans. Pre-plans define the objectives of a wildlife response and define the agreement between the responsible party and the stakeholders regarding how impacted wildlife will be handled. They provide a clear understanding of “best practices” and associated protocols. Pre-plans integrate into the overall oil spill response plan so access to response resources is faster and the response focus can be tactics. They also improve public and media understanding of the responsible party’s commitment to protecting the environment, as well as reaffirming local and national priorities.

This presentation will step through the process for developing pre-plans, equipment needs, and resources available (i.e. response organizations) to increase the success and effectiveness of an emergency response.

## Main Results

Steps for Developing a Pre-Plan:

- Develop a notification list
  - Ministries and agencies
  - Response organizations
- Create a list of Areas of Special Concern
  - Sensitive habitats
  - Key biodiversity areas
  - Areas of cultural importance

- Potential species at risk
  - Local importance
  - Threatened and endangered
  - Seasonality occurrences (breeding, nesting, migration)
- Develop a list of facilities to establish a rehab centre
  - Local wildlife organisations
  - Universities
  - Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) with a vested interest in the region
  - Buildings of Opportunity (available buildings for use)
- Put together a list of equipment needs
  - List the type of equipment needed
  - Offshore spill versus inland spill
  - Tropical versus temperate versus arctic
  - Where is the equipment coming from, where is it staged?
- Response Techniques
  - Hazing and deterrence
  - Resource protection strategies
  - Pre-emptive capture
  - Capture of oiled animals, rehabilitation, euthanasia
  - Carcass handling
- Who are the experts in the wildlife field?
  - Local experts familiar with the area and impacted wildlife
  - International experts with regional knowledge

When the Plan is complete, it needs to be tested. Testing is done through training exercises with Regional Response Teams. These teams can train with local government agencies and other Oil Spill Response Organisations around the globe. A consistent training format enables personnel from all teams to fill necessary roles, plan the initial response, and provides a consistent leadership approach. Testing the plans also points out deficiencies that can be addressed prior to implementation for a response.

## Supporting Images or Graphs



## Conclusion

Preparation gives emergency responders the best possible chance of success when it comes to oiled wildlife response. Time is important and the response time can be reduced by use of a tested pre-plan. The focus can then be on getting the job done.

## **References**

IPIECA. 2014. Wildlife Response Preparedness. Good practice guidelines for incident management and emergency response personnel. IPIECA-IOGP

IPIECA. 2017. Key Principles for the protection, care, and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. IPIECA-IOGP