



Designation: F 1656 – 95

Standard Guide for Health and Safety Training of Oil Spill Responders in the United States¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 1656; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes minimum health and safety training standards for three types of oil spill responders: Type A, first responders who are responsible for initial containment and cleanup; Type B, longer-term shoreline cleanup personnel; and Type C, other necessary support personnel who have minimal contact with the contamination.

1.2 The oil covered by this guide includes light, medium, and heavy crudes, as well as hydrocarbon products, such as gasoline, light fuel oil, distillates, and bunker (heavy fuel) oil. It is not aimed at specialty chemicals and other potentially hazardous materials, although some aspects of the training program would apply to those substances.

1.3 A number of topics are not specifically addressed in this guide because they are covered by other standards or guidelines. Examples are hot work practices, maintenance and repair of equipment, fire fighting, electrical hazards, emergency medical care, disposal of wastes, and so forth. The user is expected to become familiar with standards for these areas as required.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 U.S. Federal Regulations:²

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.120
Regulations for Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER)

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.132,
General Requirements for Hazard Assessment and Training

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.133, Eye
and Face Protection

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.134,
Respiratory Protection

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.135,
Head Protection

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.136,
Foot Protection

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.138,
Hand Protection

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 1910.146,
Enclosed Spaces

Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 154, Subpart
F, Facility Response Plan Requirements

Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 155, Subpart
F, Vessel Response Plan Requirements

Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 300, National
Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency
Plan (NCP)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *area contingency plan*—provides the initial governmental organization structure and mode of operation for the spill response. In the United States, it is prepared in advance by the area committee and applicable state and local response officials in accordance with 40 CFR 300, NCP.

3.1.2 *buddy system*—a requirement of 29 CFR 1910.120 that response personnel must work within sight/communication of a partner at all times.

3.1.3 *cold (support) zone*—minimal exposure area maintained as an uncontaminated location for support functions. Food service, clean equipment storage, and financial offices are examples of a cold zone. Operations in this area are generally carried out by Type C personnel.

3.1.4 *confined space*—an enclosed space or area, such as a tank, compartment, or pit where ventilation or access, or both, may be limited (refer to 29 CFR 1910.146).

3.1.5 *hot (early response) zone*—an area where there are potential exposure hazards. Type A workers are involved in containment and recovery operations in this zone. Airborne concentrations of hazardous substances may require respiratory protection in addition to other personal protective equipment.

3.1.6 *hyperthermia*—an abnormally high body temperature caused by exposure to elevated temperatures or radiant heat, or both.

3.1.7 *hypothermia*—an abnormally low body temperature caused by exposure to cold air or water.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F20.21 on Initial Response Actions.

Current edition approved Oct. 10, 1995. Published December 1995.

² Available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.