



The NASSCO Tidepool

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

Oil Spill Drill a Success!

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist



The following is the drill scenario that NASSCO's ICS (Incident Command System) Team responded to during their first in a series of response drills for oil spills in the bay.

On November 12 at 12:30 p.m., the Test and Trials department notified NASSCO Security of a spill into the bay off the starboard side of a T-AKE at Berth 2 caused by a defective fuel tank vent valve that overflowed onto the weather deck. The "spill" sent an estimated 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the bay and coating eight seagulls.

ICS is the same system that agencies utilize when responding to San Diego County wildfires or oil spills such as the one that recently happened in San Francisco Bay. All members of NASSCO's ICS team receive training in these emergency policies and procedures. At NASSCO, ICS is only utilized for hazardous materials spill response.

The drill was lead by the IC (Incident Commander) Fire Chief Roger Wesley. Within the ICS System there is a specified organizational structure consisting of a Command and General Staff. Joining Roger on the Command Staff were Assistant IC Paul Curtis, Information Officer Karl Johnson, Safety Officer Larry Flores and Liaison Officer Chad Haza. ICS backups and assistants assumed roles during this drill to gain experience.

As part of the drill, Waterfront Services isolated the spill area by deploying containment booms and awaited cleanup response actions by NASSCO's OSRO (Oil Spill Response Organization). A scout for this organization was immediately deployed and arrived on scene to participate in the drill with the NASSCO ICS Team.

NASSCO's ICS Team meets bi-monthly to plan NASSCO's emergency communication and response to major hazardous materials spills. Other ICS Team members are: Operations Chief Dave Wilhelmi and Operations Support Judie Blakey, Rodd Whitley and Frank Russell; Safety Team: Safety Officer Bob Massey, Bart Deem and William Benjamin, Logistics Team: Logistics Chief Frank Rodriguez and Ron Tanguay; and Liaison Team: Liaison Officer Mike Chee and Kacey Christie. The ICS team met on November 19 to critique their drill response and conduct a lessons learned evaluation for continual process improvement.

