

The Coast Guard maintained a routine presence at the facility to monitor and assist during the first months after returning to operations. There have been numerous transfers conducted since the clean-up was completed, and the facility has installed new cargo transfer pumps, renewed pipelines, and conducted two major upgrades to the oil containment bulkheads. The facility took on additional projects to make the warehouse

safer, including installing a new roof and an explosion-proof lighting system.

Soon after the facility began to conduct business under the newly obtained compliance, Sector New York's Shoreside Compliance Branch received a letter from the facility's representative, thanking the Coast Guard members involved for their professionalism and understanding.

Tenants were excited to show the visiting inspectors their progress, especially when they went beyond what was required for the next operational period.

About the author:

LT Tiffany Johnson has served as a federal on-scene coordinator representative, port state control officer, and facilities compliance program manager. She has received the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and two unit commendations.

To: HQS-DG-NMCPROCEEDINGS@USCG.MIL

SUBJECT: ASK THE MSSC

*If you have questions, please send an e-mail to:
HQS-DG-NMCPROCEEDINGS@uscg.mil, subject line "Ask the MSSC."
We'll forward your questions to the council and publish the answers.*

Does the Coast Guard conduct fire rescue drills with local, county, or state agencies? If so, how are these coordinated? If not, why not?

Answered by the USCG Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations.

In general, Coast Guard sectors coordinate regularly with local, county, and state agencies as part of the Coast Guard's National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) and the Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP). NPREP exercises involve oil spill response, but scenarios may also involve responding to a fire aboard a vessel in port or a marine facility that the CG regulates. The Coast Guard also coordinates with port/facility-operated fire departments as part of NPREP. Commercial vessels and facilities are required to retain their own fire-fighting resources.

The Coast Guard sectors do not have civilian or commercial fire-fighting equipment. Information on local, county, state, and port/facility-operated fire/rescue agencies and their response capabilities is located in area contingency plans for Coast Guard federal on-scene coordinators to use in making decisions while responding to oil spills and hazardous substance releases. Coast Guard sectors also coordinate joint training with these agencies that support and test area contingency plans and area maritime security plans.

AMSTEP exercises involve scenarios related to preventing, protecting, and responding to security-related risks posed to the general public in or near the maritime environment and to our national Marine Transportation System. This program supports the continual improvement of Area Maritime Security Plans (AMSP) as guided by and through the sectors' coordination within their respective Area Maritime Security Committees (AMSCs). Like the NPREP, AMSTEP exercises and training associated with AMSP(s) are coordinated with local, county, and state agencies that have fire rescue responsibilities.

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