



U.S. Department of Defense/ U.S. Navy

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GENERAL

The U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV) is the organization within the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) most knowledgeable and experienced in ship salvage, shipboard damage control, and diving. The U.S. Navy SUPSALV has an extensive array of specialized equipment and personnel available for use in these areas as well as specialized containment, collection, and removal equipment specifically designed for salvage-related and open-sea pollution incidents.

The SUPSALV provides assistance (personnel and/or equipment) for commercial oil or hazardous substance spills, or potential spills, as requested by any Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC). Assistance ranges from salvage technical or operational assistance to mobilization of SUPSALV and other Navy resources to support a partial or full federal response to a marine casualty. See SUPSALV.org for equipment details.

An extensive inventory of equipment is maintained at response bases in Williamsburg, VA; Port Hueneme, CA; Anchorage, AK; and Pearl Harbor, HI. This equipment is "system" oriented and allows SUPSALV to operate independently in remote locations for open ocean spills, inland spills, arctic spills, spills relating to salvage, or other unique events. Equipment includes boom, skimmers, support craft, portable storage, logistics support systems, lightering systems, cleaning systems, and various systems to support this specialized mission. A team of highly trained personnel organizes drills and exercises and conducts training in both equipment operation and spill management.

In addition, the Salvage Operations Division within SUPSALV maintains:

- Standing worldwide commercial contracts for salvage, emergency towing, deep ocean search and recovery operations, and oil pollution abatement.
- The worldwide Emergency Ship Salvage Material (ESSM) system, which incorporates the world's largest inventory of salvage and pollution abatement equipment.
- A large number of deep ocean search and recovery systems.

Role/Responsibility

During a response, under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) for oil and hazardous materials, under the Stafford Act for presidentially declared disasters or emergency, or under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Navy can play a significant role in the federal response if requested and funded by the FOSC. The primary strategic role of U.S. Navy SUPSALV is to provide technical, operational, and emergency support in the ocean engineering disciplines of marine salvage, pollution abatement, and diving services.

Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- The Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act,
- Executive Order 12148 — Federal Emergency Management
- Executive Order 12656 — Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities
- Executive Order 12777 — Outlines the responsibilities of certain federal agencies in preventing and containing discharges of oil and hazardous substances
- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act
- The Defense Production Act of 1950 as Amended
- The National Emergencies Act
- HSPD-5 Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-7 Critical Infrastructure
- HSPD-8 National Preparedness
- HSPD-9 Defense of United States Agriculture & Food



Response Requirements

During times of national threat or a Presidential Declaration, the Department of Homeland Security serves as the planning integrator for the President for a more robust federal incident management capability and in order to coordinate all federal incident management activities in support of our state and local partners. All federal departments and agencies may play significant roles in incident management and response activities, depending on the nature and size of an event. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by calling up, as needed, one or more of the 15 Emergency Support Functions (ESF).

Each of these functions are coordinated by a single agency (Primary ESF Coordinating Agency) but may rely on other agencies (Support Agencies) to provide resources for each functional area. The mission of the ESFs is to provide the greatest possible access to capabilities of the Federal Government regardless of which agency has those capabilities. Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Navy and its member branches and services play a role (either as the Primary or as a Support agency) for the following ESFs:

ESF #	Primary Agency	Support Agency
1 Transportation		X
2 Communications		X
3 Public Works & Engineering		X
4 Firefighting		X
5 Emergency Management		X
6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services		X
7 Logistics Management and Resource Support		X
8 Public Health and Medical Services		X
9 Search and Rescue	X	
10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response		X
11 Agriculture and Natural Resources		X
12 Energy		X
13 Public Safety and Security		X
14 Long-Term Community Recovery		X
15 External Affairs		X