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Testing · Training · Research

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National Strike Teams Test and Train with New Equipment

Subsequent to responding to Deep Water Horizon oil spill, and due to the age and condition of the U.S. Coast Guard National Strike Force (USCG NSF) equipment, replacement DOP Dual helix brush skimmer systems were purchased for each Strike Team. The helix brush drive mechanism rotates on a curved stainless steel shaft enabling the brushes to “grab” the oil from any side of the skimmer and pull it into the DOP Dual pump. “The DOP Dual is the latest generation of Desmi skimmer which with the helix brush adaptor makes it a much more efficient brush-type skimmer,” commented Mike Crickard, logistics management specialist, USCG, NSFCC.

During the week of September 17, 2012, the USCG introduced the system to a cadre of more than 20 students comprised of six to seven members from each of the three NSF Strike Teams (Atlantic-AST, Gulf-GST, Pacific-PST), providing them with hands-on training operating the DOP Dual Helix Brush adaptor skimmer. “The session beta tested the overall performance of the system as well as provided a nucleus of NSF end-users operational stick-time skimming oil. The training was specifically targeted to the three teams because during the upcoming

year they will receive the system in their inventory,” stated Crickard.

In addition to the students, members from the USCG Research and Development Center, Strike Force Coordination Center, USCG Headquarters Offices of Marine Environmental Response (CG-MER-1), and the Ocean Engineering Pollution Response Team (CG-432-C) came to the facility to participate and observe the equipment testing and Strike Team member training. “The event provided a great opportunity for all offices currently engaged in the Coast Guard’s environmental protection oil spill response mission to see our new more efficient skimming system in action. This is always a positive!” stated Crickard.

The first day was a demonstration of the equipment beta tested to the ASTM F2709 Standard Test Method for Determining Nameplate Recovery Rate of Stationary Oil Skimmer Systems. “We showed the students what the Ohmsett standard test consists of: three runs in the tank; taking samples of the recovered fluids; and running a lab analysis,” explained Crickard. “The skimmer

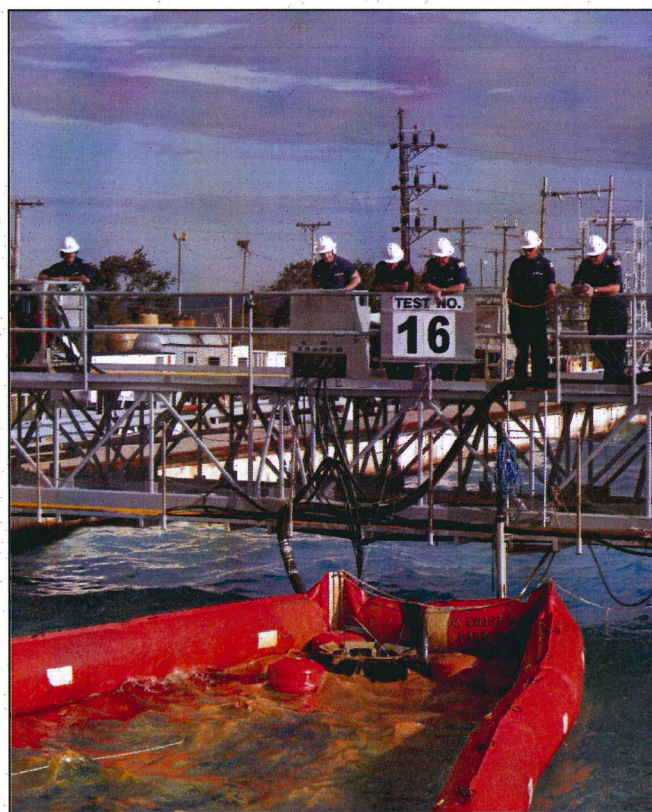
itself, operated in ideal conditions, was 89 to 90% efficient per the test standard.”

Even with a threatening hurricane and heavy rains all week, the group was able continue with the program by condensing the training into three days. During the training program, students received hands-on training in the Ohmsett tank with the DOP Dual system. There they participated in the recovery of oil released into the tank which enabled them to become more proficient with the new equipment.

Crickard remarked, “This type of introduction of the equipment with the hands-on training worked well when we introduced the flourometers to the NSF two years ago, we decided to try it with the Desmi Helix Brush Skimmers. If the budget will allow, we want to do the same type of beta testing and training in the near future as we deliver newly designed Temporary Storage Devices to the Strike Teams.”



The DOP Dual Helix Brush skimmer was tested for overall performance using the ASTM F2709 Standard Test Method for Determining Nameplate Recovery Rate of Stationary Oil Skimmer Systems. The U.S. Coast Guard recently acquired the latest generation of the Desmi skimmer.



U.S. Coast Guard National Strike Force Team members train with the new Desmi Helix brush skimmers. Each NSF team will receive the new skimmers in the upcoming year.