

# Salvage and Marine Firefighting

## Conducting Due Diligence on Resource Providers

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# Regulation Summary

- Before, VRP holders could ask any salvage or firefighting company to respond
- Now, VRP holders must contract with resource provider to provide 19 salvage and marine firefighting services
- Coast Guard's reasoning: Ensure that contract negotiations do not delay response
- Update VRP to identify contracted resource provider by February 22, 2011

# Issues for VRP Holders

- Retainer fees to resource provider
- Must use contracted resource provider listed in VRP, otherwise must obtain USCG approval
- Does the regulation improve response?
- Other requirements
  - Develop pre-fire plans for each vessel
  - List all “piers” vessel calls on in each COTP zone
  - Conduct drills and exercises
  - Etc.

# Emergency Towing Alternate Planning Criteria (APC)

- Emergency towing: one of the services must contract with resource provider to provide
- Inland river towing companies have common practice of assisting each other when in need
- AWO led effort to have USCG formally recognize this practice as APC
- Great example of industry, AWO, and USCG working together

# Issue: Determining Adequacy of Resource Provider

- Coast Guard: “The vessel owner/operator bears the burden of vetting the qualifications of a salvage and marine firefighting resource provider.”
- VRP holder can apply for waiver
- 15 criteria help VRP holder determine resource provider adequacy
  - AWO form

# Recap: What You Need to Know

- Sign a contract with a resource provider in every COTP zone and update VRP by February 22, 2011
- Make best effort to determine if resource provider can do what it says it can do
- Complete regulation's other requirements
- In event of a salvage or fire incident, regs dictate calling contracted resource provider unless have USCG approval

# Questions and Discussion

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