

Crude Facts

PREVENTION, RESPONSE & CONTAINMENT OF OIL SPILLS

From its wells in Spanish Lookout to its barge loading system in Big Creek, Belize Natural Energy (BNE) operates using accepted environmental standards and emergency response procedures.

BNE employs protocols, specialized materials, equipment and other support infrastructure to prevent, manage and adequately respond to any emergency including spills of crude oil and fires.

All BNE wells are manned on a 24 hour, 7-day-a-week basis by trained personnel and are equipped with automatic controls that shut down the oil flow in the event of an equipment malfunction or other system failure. Therefore, any problem at the well site cannot persist and go unchecked even if a problem arises during the night.



Vacuum Truck

The only vehicle of its kind in Belize, this truck is equipped to vacuum oil spills from the ground or water surface.

BNE has developed an Oil Spill Contingency Plan and has provided copies in early 2006 to both the Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Geology & Petroleum Dept. (GPD). BNE also coordinates its emergency response with other related agencies in the country.

In addition, Belize Natural Energy is a part of Clean Caribbean & Americas, an organization whose objective it is to enhance the capability to promptly and efficiently respond to marine oil spills in the region.

BNE is committed to safety at all levels of the industry including the prevention of oil spills and accidents. It is in everyone's interest to be vigilant and comprehensive in safety and preventative measures, and BNE takes this responsibility seriously.

OIL LANGUAGE 101

The following tools are often employed in cleaning spilled oil:

- **Booms**, which are floating barriers to oil (for example, a big boom may be placed around a tanker as a preventative measure or to collect leaking oil).
- **Sorbents**, which are large sponges used to absorb oil.

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov>

<http://www.cleancaribbean.org>

Insert #2 January 2007

On-site Fire Truck

BNE has fully equipped fire trucks at both Spanish Lookout and Big Creek.



Mobile Spill Unit

BNE has mobile spill units both at Spanish Lookout and Big Creek, used to clean and prevent the spread of oil after a spill. These are ready to be deployed immediately.

EQUIPPED & READY TO RESPOND

Permanently, at both the field in Spanish Lookout and the port at Big Creek, BNE maintains in ready order, two fully functional fire trucks, a vacuum truck (the only one of its kind in Belize) and mobile Spill Units complete with materials, including but not limited to:

- Booms
- Absorbent Sheets
- Spill rags
- Safety gear (boots, masks, gloves etc.)

These materials when used by trained workers prevent oil from spreading away from the immediate incident area, thus facilitating cleanup for minimal impact. Belize Natural Energy personnel are trained by in-house and outsourced expertise that offer many years of experience in the oil and gas industry.



Booms at Big Creek, being used as a preventative barrier.

