



# IOSA RESPONDER

Your Community Oil Spill Response News | San Juan County, WA | June 2019

## *Upcoming IOSA Training*

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For more info about training, please visit our website at [www.iosaonline.org](http://www.iosaonline.org) and click on the training tab. Please enroll online to sign up for upcoming training opportunities.

8/24/19: Site Safety Training: San Juan Island

9/21/19: Boom Deployment Exercise: San Juan Island

10/5/19: WA State Boater's Safety Card Class: Lopez Island

11/8/19: 8HR HAZWOPER Refresher and Cert: San Juan Island

11/9/19: 8HR HAZWOPER Refresher and Cert: Orcas Island

11/16/19: First Aid/CPR Class: San Juan Island

## *Inside This Issue*

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### **PG. 2**

IOSA springs into a new season with new recruits, new training, and new trailers!

### **PG. 3**

IOSA honors Julie Knight for her leadership and years of service.

### **PG. 4**

Clean boating tips, practices, and procedures for how to report spills including important information needed for the report.

## Spring Training Season

Nearly fifty volunteers attended spill response training from May 14 – 18th on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Islands. The 24 and 8 hour HAZWOPER classes were taught by Brian Johnson of DH Environmental. According to Johnson, “The students were great. Engaged, experienced, and full of good questions. It was a real pleasure to get out to the islands to help with the amazing work happening with IOSA right now.”



The training dove into the details of hazardous materials response and had a strong focus on building a culture of safety within IOSA. Students got an opportunity to handle containment boom, suit up in protective equipment, and understand the basics of spill response. Completing some level of HAZWOPER training is the first step to being able to respond to an IOSA deployment. New IOSA volunteer Thyatira Thompson enjoyed the experience, “To be honest, my expectations weren’t super high, but Brian made the material interesting and kept things very lively. I had fun. Having an instructor with so much knowledge was a real benefit and his focus on being thoughtful and safe really sets the tone.”

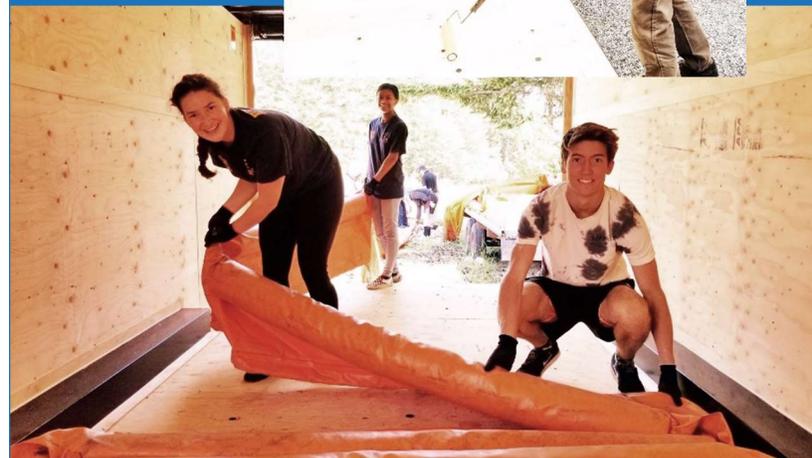
Additional HAZWOPER training opportunities will be coming later in 2019 and in 2020 and will be advertised in future newsletters. If you’re not already an IOSA volunteer, sign up by going to [iosaonline.org](http://iosaonline.org) and clicking on the VOLUNTEER button.

*8 & 24HR HAZWOPER students pulling out containment boom in Friday Harbor. (left)*

*24HR HAZWOPER students practice getting suited up for a response in Friday Harbor. (right)*



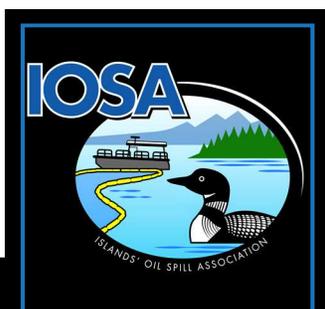
*IOSA Volunteer Jeff Dyer applying sealer to the new trailer on Lopez Island.*



*Lopez Fire & Rescue student recruits stacking boom into the new IOSA trailer.*

## New Trailers AHOY!

IOSA took delivery of two new twenty foot covered cargo trailers in March. Funding came from the Washington State Department of Ecology. These will be boom trailers, and they have replaced open flatbed trailers on San Juan and Lopez Islands.





Julie Knight standing on top of an oil boom on Lopez Island (photo courtesy of OPB)

## *IOSA Volunteer Impact Story*

Over the last 30 years, literally hundreds of dedicated individuals have given their time to build and support IOSA, including founder Julie Knight and longtime staff members Jackie Wolf and Robyn Albro. IOSA is a nationally recognized grassroots organization, built from the ground up with a remarkable record of providing professional spill response in the San Juan Islands and beyond.

For years of dedication, service and leadership, IOSA would like to honor Julie Knight and the impact she has made not only on oil spill response, but within her community. Julie has been described throughout the years as “the beating heart of oil spill preparedness in the San Juan Islands.” An article in OPB from 2011 quotes Julie’s passion about why she dedicated so many years of her life to IOSA---

### *What’s That Stuff?*

According to Steve Ritter, a senior correspondent at Chemical & Engineering News, “most people don’t give car fuel much thought, but it is quite a complex mixture of hydrocarbons.” The raw material for gasoline is crude oil, but the refinery process follows several distillations to produce and blend several hundred components to make gasoline. Below are a few facts about gasoline.



Gasoline vapors are heavier than air, so they settle on the ground and travel like liquid. Because of this they often find their way into drains, basements, and sewer lines.



Gasoline contains carcinogens, which are cancer causing agents. Do not inhale and always protect skin and eyes while handling.



Gasoline’s flash point is -45 degrees, which means it’s just about always giving off enough vapor to ignite. Always keep containers on the ground while refueling.

*“I think that many of the people that live and work here year round feel that having a part in protecting and taking care of this place is like taking care of a family member. That is how I feel too for many reasons --- the water and quiet surrounding us, the voices of the steller sea lions that I can hear at night over 8 miles away, the air that is flushed and cleaned by the wind and water as it crosses over to the islands, the clean water and all the life that covers every square foot of the solid surfaces below the water...”*

Julie Knight’s impact on oil spill response leaves the next generation of IOSA volunteers a legacy of love and hope for the future. We can never repay Julie for all of the work and heartfelt service she so willingly gave over the past 30 years, but we can remember and honor her by carrying the mission of IOSA forward. Thank you Julie Knight.

## *'Tis the Season*

As a new boating season begins and summer fun on the water becomes part of our regular routine, clean boating practices and oil spills are not the first thing that comes to most of our minds. Like a boat's wake disappearing as it passes by, the impacts of recreational boating on the waters we love have a deeper impact when we don't work together to make our "wakeprints" invisible.

We have a responsibility to leave our waterways as untouched as possible, and it's up to us – those who use and love the Salish Sea – to protect the marine environment around us. Little actions are more impactful than we think, and often being prepared and conscientious starts before we untie our lines and depart on our journey.

Below are a few tips for clean boating practices you should always keep in mind before heading out on the water. IOSA is working behind the scenes to be ready for the unfortunate and unexpected, but your impact and preparedness makes a bigger difference than you think.

1. Clean your bilge and prevent accidental discharges. Dispose of old rags, remove oily water and check for debris that can clog thru-hulls and damage engine shaft seal areas.
2. Practice safe fueling procedures and know the size and details of your fuel tanks. Check condition of fuel hoses and be prepared when fueling for overflow or drips.
3. Dispose of old propane tanks, paint cans, oil and additive containers and other equipment that creates potential fire hazards.
4. Label miscellaneous cleaners and bottles so that in the event of an emergency, responders aren't handling unknown substances that could be toxic.
5. Create an emergency checklist of procedures, where safety equipment is located and have emergency phone numbers and VHF procedures outlined in advance.

From all of us at the Islands' Oil Spill Association – have a safe and wonderful 2019 boating season!

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## **HOW TO REPORT A SPILL**

1. *If it's an active emergency with risk of fire or explosion, call 911 immediately.*
2. *Next, call WA Emergency Management Division at 1-800-OILS-911*
3. *Please also call the USCG National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802*
4. *IOSA and the San Juan County Dispatch will then be notified and asked to assess the situation if needed.*

## **INFORMATION TO REPORT (if known)**

1. *Date, time and location of incident.*
2. *Party (or parties) responsible.*
3. *Source or cause, type of material, quantity.*
4. *Danger or threat posed to public including injuries.*
5. *Current weather conditions.*



*IOSA response boat Green Heron tows oil containment boom to an attachment point during an oil containment drill in Small Pox Bay on the west side of San Juan Island.*