

RCW 90.56.390 Liability for removal costs. (1)(a) A person is not liable for removal costs or damages that result from actions taken or omitted to be taken in the course of rendering care, assistance, or advice consistent with the national contingency plan or as otherwise directed by the federal on-scene coordinator or by the official within the department with responsibility for oil spill response. This subsection (1)(a) does not apply:

(i) To a responsible party;

(ii) With respect to personal injury or wrongful death; or

(iii) If the person is grossly negligent or engages in willful misconduct.

(b) A responsible party is liable for any removal costs and damages that another person is relieved of under (a) of this subsection.

(c) Nothing in this section affects the liability of a responsible party for oil spill response under state law.

(2) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Damages" means damages of any kind for which liability may exist under the laws of this state resulting from, arising out of, or related to the discharge or threatened discharge of oil.

(b) "Federal on-scene coordinator" means the federal official predesignated by the United States environmental protection agency or the United States coast guard to coordinate and direct federal responses under subpart D, or the official designated by the lead agency to coordinate and direct removal under subpart E, of the national contingency plan.

(c) "National contingency plan" means the national contingency plan prepared and published under section 311(d) of the federal water pollution control act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1321(d)), as amended by the oil pollution act of 1990 (P.L. 101-380, 104 Stat. 484 (1990)).

(d) "Removal costs" means the costs of removal that are incurred after a discharge of oil has occurred or, in any case in which there is a substantial threat of a discharge of oil, the costs to prevent, minimize, or mitigate oil pollution from such an incident.

(e) "Responsible party" means a person liable under RCW 90.56.370. [1992 c 73 § 38; 1991 c 200 § 304.]

Effective dates—1992 c 73: See RCW 82.23B.902.