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## ANNEX 3

### Communications

Establishment of a reliable communications network within the ICC is a vital component of a successful response operation. The ICC serves as the focal point throughout the response operation and reliable telephone, fax and radio communications are essential from the outset. Communication requirements for a response however will be dependent on the size and location of the spill.

This annex outlines the communications systems that may be utilised during an oil spill response. These systems are outlined below in terms of who operates them, the area they cover, how to gain access to them (if external), and any limitations.

There are a number of different communications links that may be required for any particular response across the media of ground, air and water. In addition, the communications requirements will change over time as the spill response progresses through its various stages. For example, the communication requirements for aerial verification that a spill has taken place will differ from communications required for a beach clean-up.

#### The general scenario

As the ICC for a significant spill would likely be established within the Emergency Management office or Taranaki Regional Council office, telephones and fax machines can be rapidly made available to meet the ICT requirements under the Logistic Managers direction. The Emergency Management office has been set up as a permanent response centre and is capable of providing a sophisticated communications mechanisms.

Any supporting organisation (such as DoC) should work under their own radio network although it may be necessary to supply a radio with a common frequency to their liaison officer.

An important point to consider in the establishment of the communications system is security of messages flowing through it.

The following is the routine for setting up communications in an incident:

- **Incident Command**

The ICC is the focal point throughout a response and information and instructions on clean-up and logistics will be channelled through it. It can also be the centre where the news media can receive information. In a significant spill, sea, air and land clean-up operations may be taking place at the same time. Therefore it may be necessary to allocate different radio frequencies for each operation. The communications at the Emergency Services Office, Robe Street, which would probably be the main ICC in a significant spill, would be set up by the Logistics Manager.

In the event of a minor spill, the ROSC will designate the location of the ICC and the normal TRC radio/telephone system and cell phones will be used.

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- **Initial ICC**

In the early stages of an oil spill response, it is likely that an interim ICC will be formed by either one of Port Taranaki Limited's vehicles/vessels fitted with Marine VHF radios or a TRC vehicle fitted with TRC's VHF radio/telephone system and/or cell phones. A portable dedicated fax (025-279 5168) is available and can be used. For the purpose of this Plan, either the Watchhouse at Port Taranaki Limited or the Inspectorate office, TRC, will be the initial ICC and the usual radio/ telephones will be used.

- **Temporary ICC locations**

A suitable location for the ICC, around the Taranaki regional coastal area will be selected on a case by case basis. At some locations, telephone systems may not be installed. Telephone systems can be installed by contacting Telecom, on 0800 482 296 for installation, however it may be at least 24 hours before a line can be installed. Cell phones or Council's portable PABX system may need to be used until that time. A portable fax is also on hand in the TRC Inspectorate Section for use in this situation.

- **Communications staffing**

Back-up support to operate a communications base will be provided by Regional Council's Office staff.

- **Communication centre**

Normally New Plymouth Harbour Radio, or the Council communications network, will provide co-ordinated communications. In the event of a major response double manning may be required, and/or communications will be co-ordinated at the Emergency Management Office.

In the event of a temporary ICC being established, TRC staff will undertake communications and staffing.

- **Allocated channels of communication (and call signs)**

The channels allocated in the region that will be used are as follows:

- **Command/co-ordination** – VHF Channel 12 and 61, used by: ROSC (catch 21), Foreshore co-ordinator (catch 22), Off Shore Co-ordinator (catch 23), Environmental Co-ordinator (catch 24).
- **Marine Co-ordinator** – VHF Channel 12, used by Harbour Control: Offshore Co-ordinator (catch 23), Marine Co-ordinator (MarCo), vessels employed in offshore activities (Tug Rupe, Tug Maui, Pilot, Rawinia).
- **Air Co-ordinator** – 119.10 MHz, used by: Air Co-ordinator (AirCo), aircraft designated for response operations (normal aircraft call sign).
- **Air to air** – 119.10 MHz, used by: aircraft designated for response operation (normal aircraft call sign).
- **Foreshore Co-ordinator** – VHF Channels 12 and 61, used by: Forshore Co-ordinator (catch 22), beach cleaning parties.

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- **Mike Langford or John Ireland and/or deputies**
    - All supporting organisations will use their own radio networks.
    - Telephone and/or fax may be used as and when required.

Telecom cellular telephone coverage throughout the region is extensive and this form of communication will supplement any radio communication. Care should be exercised when using these devices in proximity of a spill site to avoid potential explosion of flammable gas.

**Note: Radios, cell phones, pagers and certain cameras must not be taken into a spill situation unless they are intrinsically safe.**

### **Communication Resources**

Communication resources that are available are:

- Telephone systems at both Taranaki Regional Council offices in Stratford and Emergency Management Offices in New Plymouth.
- Taranaki Regional Council Radio Telephone (RT) system which covers most of the region.
- Emergency Management has handheld radios which would be available.
- Cell phones are held by most TRC staff and more could be available if needed.
- TRC has a portable PABX system which can be set up almost anywhere. This is kept on charge in the Inspectorate Section.
- TRC also has a portable fax system, this is kept in the Inspectorate Section.
- Email can be accessed through the TRC Computer systems and laptops.

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