

ANNEX 3

Communications

Establishment of a reliable communications network within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is a vital component of a successful response operation. The EOC 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 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 EOC for a significant spill would likely be established within the Taranaki Emergency Management Office (TEMO) or Taranaki Regional Council office, telephones and fax machines can rapidly be made available to meet the Incident Management Team (IMT) requirements under the Logistic Manager's direction. TEMO has been set up as a permanent response centre and is capable of providing sophisticated communication 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 the security of messages flowing through it.

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

- **Incident Command**

The EOC 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 TEMO on Robe Street, which would probably be the main EOC 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 EOC and the normal TRC radio/telephone system and cell phones will be used.

- **Initial EOC**

In the early stages of an oil spill response, it is likely that an interim EOC 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. For the purpose of this Plan, either the Watchhouse at Port Taranaki Limited or the Inspectorate office at TRC, will be the initial EOC and the usual radio/telephones will be used.

- **Temporary EOC locations**

A suitable location for the EOC, 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), however it may be at least 24 hours before a line can be installed. Cell phones or the 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 TEMO.

In the event of a temporary EOC 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 Kupe, Tug Tuakana, Pilot Rawinia, Pilot Mikotahi, Pilot Westgate).
- **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: Foreshore Co-ordinator (catch 22), beach cleaning parties.
- **Craig Campbell-Smart (TEMO) or Tony Parr (Port Taranaki) 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.

Cell phone coverage in the region may have some restrictions.

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

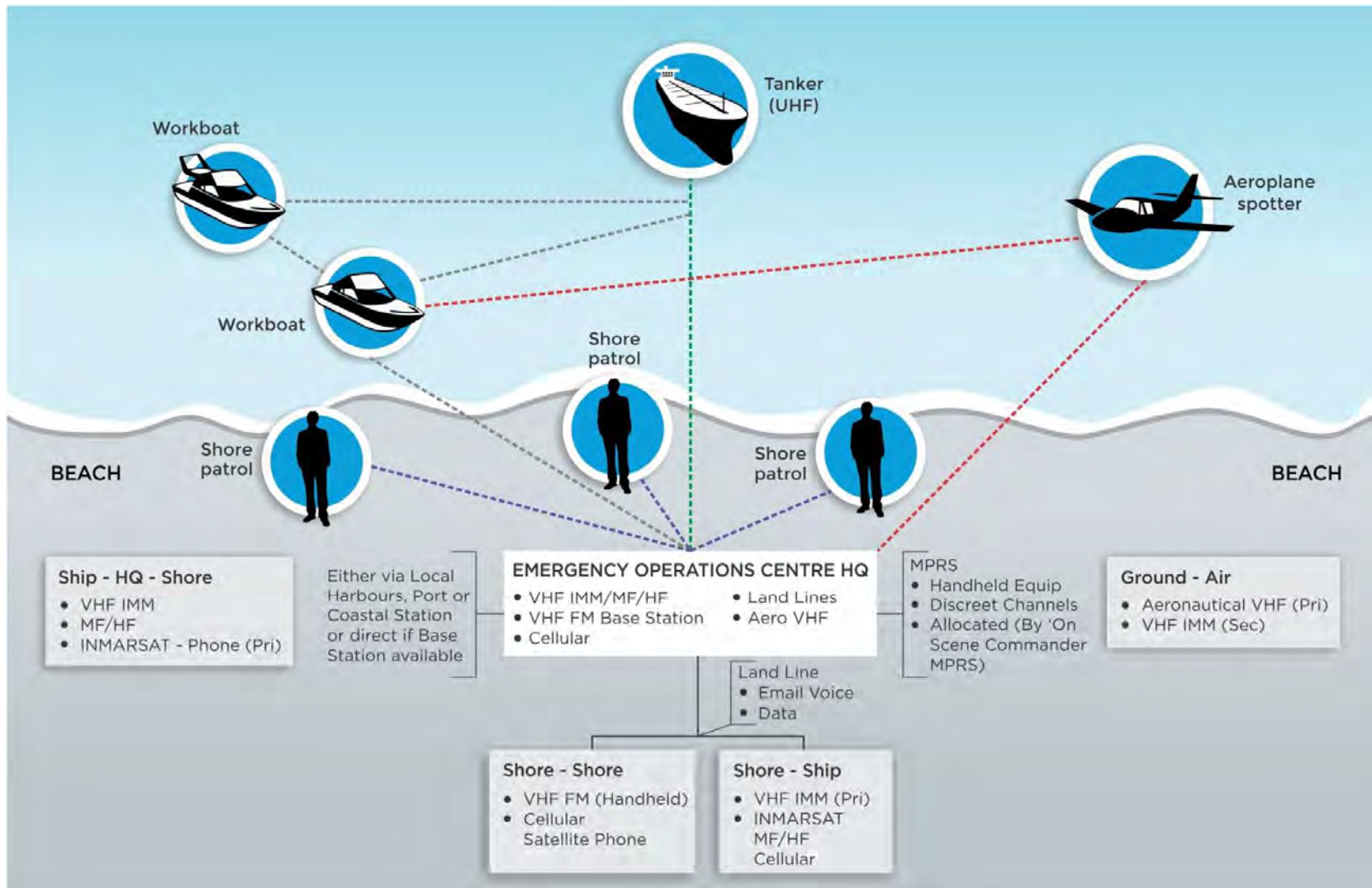
Communication Resources

Communication resources that are available are (also see Annex 1):

- Telephone systems at both TRC offices in Stratford and Emergency Management Offices in New Plymouth.
- TRC 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 in the Inspectorate Section.
- Email can be accessed through the TRC Computer systems and laptops.

Oil Spill Response Communications Plan Template

Circuit / User	Band	Channel	Frequency	Call sign	Remarks
SHORE – SHORE (HQ/Shore/ Cleanup parties)	VHF Land Mobile Mobile Phone Networks	ES/ESB Bands	Various – Region Dependant	As directed by user of equip	1. FM Voice 2. Equipment as provided by region i.e. DOC, CD, Wildlife 3. MNZ Ch ES127 & ESX8 1. Cellular coverage dependant on differing networks.
SHORE – SHIP (HQ/Workboats/Tanker)	VHF IMM Mobile Phone Networks	CH 16 Ch 4 – 88*	156.800Mhz	International	1. FM Voice 2. Ch16 – Intl Distress/Safety 3. * VHF IMM Channels are working channels and used as directed by Harbour authorities and Coastal stations. 4. Channels MM83-MM88 are reserved for Coast Guard operations. 5. Equipment - Hand Held or Fixed station radios. 6. Intrinsically Approved radios only to be used on tankers. 1. Cellular coverage dependant on differing networks.
SHORE – SHIP (HQ/Workboats/Tanker)	MH / HF	As directed	Various	International	1. SSB Voice 2. Used for long haul communication links or when line of sight VHF links unsuitable
GROUND – AIR (HQ/Spotter/Workboats Tanker)	VHF Aeronautical	As directed	As directed	International	1. FM Voice 2. Linked directly to Incident control or relay via landline from Control tower
					Notes 1. Maritime NZ portable Aeronautical handheld radios and Base station equipment available to be deployed as required. 2. Maritime NZ portable handheld radios and Base station equipment (land mobile) available to be deployed as required. Can be used to supplement local regional resources.



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