

# HAZARD INCIDENT

## ANNEX

### # HI-10

## OIL SPILL

**Primary Agency:** Conservation and Fisheries Department

**Support Agencies:** Royal Virgin Islands Police Force  
Department of Disaster Management  
VI Fire and Rescue Service  
BVI Health Services Authority  
Department of Information and Public Relations  
Governor's Office  
Ministry of Finance  
Public Works Department  
Water and Sewerage Department  
Town & Country Planning Department  
Agriculture Department  
Environmental Health Unit  
Others as needed

**Coordinator:** Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer

### **General Information:**

Documented maritime accidents have occurred in the BVI dating as far back as the 1500's. There are hundreds of known shipwrecks lying everywhere from the reefs of Anegada to Road Town Harbour. With the number of vessels, ranging from charter boats to cruise ships, navigating the VI waters maritime accidents and oil spills are perhaps the most common threat to the environment and ecosystems in the VI. The resulting damage could be a disaster to the VI tourist industry and economy. Industrial accidents and illegal dumping are also a threat to the health and wellbeing of the VI and people. Oil spills are unique in the fact that unlike most other disasters, the cost of response and recovery may be billable to the responsible party. This makes documentation and following procedures very important. Large oil spills will be manpower and equipment intensive, agreements and memorandums of understanding are in place to aid in the process.

## **Concept of Operations:**

Organize responders and resources. Prioritize assignments by greatest needs and best outcome. Minimize loss of life and injuries. Minimize impact to community. Minimize loss of property. Restore area to normalcy. Establishing the ICS early is essential to provide organization and chain of command. A complete damage assessment must be done to determine the resources that will be needed and prioritize assignments. Request and coordination of external assistance should be done early on. Planning for a long term event should start as soon as practicable.

## **Organization:**

For large oil spills where the NEOC is activated, the DDM will provide the Incident Commander and Operations Chief. An Alert Level 5 and Response Level 2 or greater (See BP 5.2) should be confirmed. DDM will provide support for incident needs. All other support Agencies shall function under the ICS structure established by the IC. Activate the NEOC (RF-3, SP-14). General Roles and Responsibilities are covered in BP 7.0.

On smaller oil spills, Conservation and Fisheries will provide the Incident Commander and Operations Chief for land based incidents and the RVIPF Marine Section will provide the Incident Commander and Operations Chief for sea based incidents.

## **Actions:**

At any disaster, situations will arise that require actions be taken. It is impossible to identify and list all of these actions. The following are actions that have been identified over time and experience. Some were lessons learned, while others are the result of progressive thinking. An effort has been made to organize the actions in an order of importance or reasonable steps to be taken. This does not imply that they must be done in the order listed. In each phase of operations, efforts must be made to identify additional actions that may be required. There will also be the unforeseen situation that will require action by responders. Not all actions will fall on the primary agency to perform. However, the primary agency should coordinate with support agencies to ensure that actions are being addressed. There may be written plans or procedures for some situations that arise, if so, then these plans or procedures should be carefully reviewed for guidance.

## **Pre-Incident:**

- Develop/review plans or guidelines for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.5, 4.3, SP-15).
- Develop/review agreements with external resources (BP 12.5, MA-1, MA-5, MA-10).
- Specialized training of personnel for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.3).
- Develop specialized teams for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.2, 4.3).
- Procure equipment for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.2, 4.1.4).
- Department exercises for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.6).
- Exercises with support agencies for dealing with specific event (BP 4.1.6).
- Maintain resource management (BP 4.1.4)
- Monitoring and surveillance (BP 5.1)

## **Incident:**

- Complete threat assessment and impact assessment as needed (RF-5, SP-2)

- Activate any relevant internal plans, guides or teams (SP-15, MA-1, MA-5, MA-10)
- Notify DDM and support agencies
- Establish ICS (RF-1)
- Active NEOC as needed (RF-3, SP-14)
- Active warning system as needed (SF-4)
- Maintain responders safety
- Maintain Community safety
- Address Law and Order and security as needed (RF-6)
- Assure crowd and traffic control
- Complete evacuation assessment and evacuate as needed (RF-4, SP-7, SP-8)
- Assess shelter needs and active shelters as needed (SP-6)
- Request and coordinate external assistance as needed (SF-2)
- Complete damage assessment (if needed) and prioritize needs (RF-5, SP-2)
- Coordinate information dissemination (SF-15, SP-5, SP-16)
- Continue resource and personnel management
- Complete needed documentation (BP 4.1.10, SP-14)

**Post-Incident:**

- Complete Investigation
- Conduct a debriefing
- Complete Documentation (BP 4.1.10, SP-14)
- Conduct an Incident Review
- Complete After Action Reports (BP 4.1.10)
- Pursue Law Enforcement against criminal action