

# Exercise Truth

During the Prince William Sound Area Exercise 2004, the scenario and subsequent events, (also called injects) are managed by the Exercise Control staff. These persons maintain the simulated spill picture and track the impact of the players' response actions.

In the Control Room, Controllers will be tracking response actions, resources, weather, tidal impacts, wildlife impacts, and recovery of product initiated by players. In exercise situations, it is often difficult for the participants (also called Players) to visualize or track the impact of their decisions on the scenario event. For this reason, Exercise Control is the gatekeeper for scenario related information and is usually referred to as "Exercise Truth".

As part of the exercise, Division/Group Supervisors from APSC will be located in the Control Room (two trailers located adjacent to the VEOC building). The Supervisor work area will be populated with charts and materials that would have been generated during the first operational period and represent the "simulated field".

Exercise Control staff will be located in an adjacent room to interface with the Supervisors. Using the Pollution Incident Simulation, Control, and Evaluation System (PISCES), and the Geographic Resource Database (GRD), Exercise Control will maintain the actual "truth" regarding spill status and impact. Periodic information updates will be given to the Supervisors that reflect the current situation and site picture.

The Division/Group Supervisors will be the primary source of information back to the Operations Section, as well as to the Situation Unit by way of the assigned Field Observers. Field Observers may be contacted by calling the Control Room. Supervisors will function in their normal manner and obtain or pass information in their normal manner. If a question arises that cannot be answered based on the information currently available to the Division/Group Supervisors, then Exercise Control may be contacted to obtain the most current "truth" picture.

Exercise Control will additionally perform over flight simulation. Any over flight requests will be directed to a designated Air Operations phone number. Flight information, if any, will be relayed back to the requester. In order to reduce artificialities, a reasonable time frame will be used between receiving the over flight request and the actual relay of information.

# Exercise Rules

1. All verbal communications external to the exercise will begin and end with “This is an exercise”. All written communications will include the words “This is an exercise” on all pages.
2. Participants in the exercise should take all actions they would take in an actual situation.
3. Contact with people or organizations will be made as needed to meet exercise objectives and injects. However, DO NOT make any real purchases or mobilize any real equipment.
4. The exercise will begin with an Operations Briefing provided by APSC to all hands.
5. The exercise will be conducted in real time. The scenario will “freeze” at the end of the first day. On Day 2, the IMT will play like 0800 on Day 2 of the incident.
6. Environmental truth is predetermined and will consist of NOAA trajectories and the products produced by the Pollution Incident Simulation, Control, and Evaluation System (PISCES) program. The IMT Unit and Exercise Control will have the Environmental Unit data for the first 12 hours and will use the GRD (Geographic Resource Database). Exercise Control is the gatekeeper for Environmental Truth. (Note: Exercise participants may use a variety of other models or software programs that have different outcomes. For exercise purposes, information supplied by Exercise Control is to be considered the correct and current field picture for decision-making purposes).
7. All players must report to the check-in desk daily upon arrival to the APSC VEOC. Participants reporting to locations other than the VEOC should ensure they are checked-in at their location and their presence is reported back to the VEOC.
8. Field players boarding APSC vessels check-in through APSC security before boarding vessels for Prince William Sound.
9. All participants will follow ICS procedures to guide their activities (including meeting attendance and other IMT activities).

10. Observers and Evaluators are not to interfere with the IMT conducting their activities.
11. If conflicts arise regarding use of ICS procedures, Exercise Control will determine the proper process to be followed.
12. Fire response, evacuation, rescue, and terrorism WILL NOT be played in this exercise.
13. The scenario was created to facilitate exercising the objectives set forth by the Executive Steering Committee. As such, there are some artificialities. *Focus on the response issues and not the plausibility of the scenario.*
14. The exercise is intended to be a learning experience and to better prepare IMT and response personnel to better respond to an actual incident. Participants should carry out their assigned functions as they would in a real incident. Do not hesitate to ask a Controller if you are uncertain about some element of the exercise that impacts your area of responsibility.
15. Contact Control for weather and sea state information; however, tides and currents are actual.
16. In order to assist players through an artificial IMT mobilization, IMT positions have been pre-planned by the Joint Design Team (JDT). However, players should feel free to re-assign personnel as desired during the exercise.

# Exercise Artificialities

Exercise designers attempted to maintain realism for the event while also maximizing training opportunities for the participants. In instances where the two conflicted, realism was sacrificed to maximize the training benefit. Participants should be aware of the associated exercise “artificialities” and consider potential implications for responding to/planning for future events.

## GENERAL ARTIFICIALITIES

1. Exercise play begins at hour 12 of the incident, at the beginning of the second operational period, in accordance with a pre-scripted Incident Action Plan.
2. Some actual equipment deployment will occur during the first day of the exercise. However, to eliminate confusion between actual and simulated equipment deployment activities, exercise Control will be the point of interface between the field and the IMT. Players must contact Control for any communications with personnel in the field (real or simulated).
3. Equipment deployment will only occur on Day 1. Real equipment mobilization and deployment will be limited to specific assets pre-planned and managed by Control.
4. ConocoPhillips CMT and CMST will be activated in remote locations (Anchorage and Houston), but will only play on Day 2. An IMT Claims Representative in the VEOC will receive incoming calls on both days. Claims processing by the CMST will only occur on Day 2.
5. Initial recovery rates are less than normally expected to facilitate development of the scenario. It is acknowledged that actual recovery rates by APSC responders would be substantially higher.
6. Not all potential aspects of a response will be played-out in this exercise. Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Team (SCAT), Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), incident investigation, and salvage issues will not be exercised in this exercise. Certain IMT sections, such as Ground support, medical unit, etc., have also not been staffed as separate functions.
7. For training purposes, ConocoPhillips has mobilized significantly more personnel to the exercise than would probably be demanded by the scenario.
8. Due to the numbers of participants, some IMT sections will be relocated to play spaces outside the VEOC.
9. Resource ordering & tracking of spill response equipment and vessels will be coordinated through Exercise Control.
10. All fishing vessels assigned are capable of deploying boom. Type of fishing vessel is not a consideration.

11. For resource tracking purposes, fishing vessels will be assigned numbers instead of hull names.
12. Weather and sea state are artificial – contact Control for updates. (Tides are actual.)
13. Due to the numbers of participants, attendance at the various meetings is greater than would be anticipated in an actual event and attendees have been pre-designated by position.

#### **EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT ARTIFICIALITIES**

1. Jack Bay equipment deployment will be based on a modified GRS.
2. After deploying its equipment, the 500-2 will simulate the stricken tanker in Jack Bay.
3. All communications related to exercise equipment deployment should be directed to Steve Hood in Control. Field personnel will communicate with Control instead of directly to IMT personnel in the VEOC.
4. Equipment that the 500-2 would be directed to deploy near the source will actually be deployed in the vicinity of Jack Bay.