

# General Safety

Each organization is responsible for the safety of its personnel and visitors. On APSC property and on-water assets under Alyeska control, participants and visitors will follow APSC safety rules. On Coast Guard platforms or facilities, Coast Guard rules will be observed.

Safety challenges for this exercise include field deployments of various oil recovery vessels and equipment, Coast Guard vessels and aircraft, commercial fishing vessels, and small boat operations. The APSC Valdez Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and Exercise Control will be populated with numerous individuals from multiple organizations who may be unfamiliar with the facilities.

## **SAFETY OFFICER ROLES**

APSC, ConocoPhillips and the Coast Guard each will have Safety Officers (SO) whose primary assignment will be to ensure the on-going safety of the field operations during the exercise. APSC/TCC Field Safety Officers will be at all equipment deployment locations. Real time safety issues will be addressed at all levels of the organization.

Safety Officers in the VEOC may be given artificial exercise injects that test the safety process and do not represent reality in the field.

## **SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

Large exercises and spill control events tend to have an increased number of injuries for various reasons. Everyone is responsible for looking out for his or her own safety as the Number 1 priority- especially in an exercise. Health & Safety is always first. The most successful exercise in execution is a total failure if one person is injured.

## **EVERYONE IS A SAFETY OBSERVER**

In an event of over 200 persons from various organizations with multiple missions, there can never be enough personnel dedicated to observing for safety hazards. Most injuries occur because we become focused on our operational task and lose perspective of the overall situation and site picture.

In this exercise, "Everyone is a Safety Observer." In other words, a key role in your activities throughout the exercise, regardless of your position (player, support, data collector, controller, etc.), all personnel are to be constantly on guard for hazards, conditions, or activities that may cause injury or illness, even outside your normal scope or area of responsibility. If you observe any unsafe activity or condition, immediately call "ALL STOP" and notify the nearest Exercise Controller or Safety Officer so the hazard can be corrected or mitigated.

## **IN CASE OF A SEVERE OR LIFE-THREATENING INJURY OR ILLNESS FOLLOW YOUR NORMAL NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES.**

It is important to distinguish from real and simulated events. During communications back to the VEOC, MSO, or Exercise Control Room, the format described below should be used for emergency events requiring emergency medical services, or events such as fires, explosions, or other imminently hazardous conditions:

Persons transmitting radio or phone communications TO THE VEOC or Exercise Control Room should emphasize-

**“This is a real emergency- THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE”.**

### **EMERGENCY PLAY STOP**

Bring all unsafe conditions or real-time injuries/events to an Exercise Controller at the location. The Controller will ensure that the VEOC and Control Room are advised and may immediately stop play at that location until the emergency condition is corrected. The Exercise Controller, in conjunction with the Lead Exercise Controller in the VEOC Exercise Control Room and applicable Safety Officers, will decide when the situation is safe to resume play activities.

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

Whether part of exercise play or not, operational risk management should be employed at every point during decision-making. Prior to making operational assignments, part of the decision-making process should always focus on the following questions:

1. What are the potential hazards?
2. Have these occurred before?
3. What is the probability of these occurring?
4. Can we change our approach to eliminate the potential hazards?
5. If we cannot eliminate the hazards, how can we reduce their probability or severity?

### **PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Personal Protection Equipment (ex. hard hats, safety glasses, safety shoes, etc.) is governed by the safety requirements of the facility or vessels on which activities are taking place, or as designated by the Safety Officer. Both Exercise Safety Officers and Incident/Field Safety Officers may designate PPE. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) must be worn when activities are taking place on or adjacent to water, where an unintentional fall into the water could occur.

### **APPROPRIATE EXERCISE APPAREL**

Persons participating in the exercise should wear uniforms or attire appropriate to the activities they will be performing. Field deployment and underway activities should be cognizant of hazards and required personal protective equipment and apparel. If there is any doubt regarding appropriate apparel, see a designated Safety Officer or Exercise Control Staff.

## **FIELD ACTIVITIES**

Persons performing field activities should be constantly aware of potential hazards. Hazards that should be considered include slips, trips, and falls; being struck or crushed by moving equipment; weather related injuries such as sunburn; and animal/ plant-related injuries.

Footwear should protect against injury from broken/cobbled beaches and weather-washed rocks. Appropriate ankle protection is required.

## **SAFETY BRIEFINGS**

Safety briefings, tailgate meetings, etc. should be conducted prior to commencing any field activities to ensure all potential hazards have been identified, corrected, or eliminated.

## **COMMAND POST ACTIVITIES**

VEOC activities are always hectic, confusing, and usually over crowded, a great recipe for injury. VEOC and Exercise Control personnel should be particularly vigilant of safety hazards, no matter how minor or incidental they may seem. It is everyone's responsibility to be aware of where the emergency exits are located, location of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND DRIVING SAFETY**

Transportation will be provided to many of the venues to reduce the need for additional vehicles on the road. Try to leave plenty of time for arriving at the command post. Remember- this is an exercise- being in a vehicle accident while trying to hurriedly reach the Command Post or field location may impact the overall success of the exercise. Use caution. If delayed notify the Command Post or activity supervisor rather than hurrying recklessly.

## **FATIGUE**

Fatigue may become an issue, especially if one is driving for an extended period of time. Everyone should use the buddy system to look out for fellow participants. If someone appears too tired to drive, offer to help make alternate arrangements. Prior to and during the exercise period, participants are highly encouraged to get extra rest, eat sensibly, and avoid excessive alcohol intake.