

COVID-19 Operational Considerations

A summary for responders conducting at sea containment and recovery operations during the COVID-19 outbreak 

COVID-19 Operational Considerations

Vessel Checklist



As part of the OSRL's Vessel Of Opportunity selection process, ensure the following:

- Vessel Master has control measures to ensure vessel crew is healthy. Examples are:
 - ✓ Record of health declaration forms
 - ✓ Temperature monitoring

- Vessel has a schedule for sanitisation and disinfection of all working and living areas.

- All working and living areas to be disinfected after each rotation of personnel or crew change.

- Vessel has provision to accommodate a designated quarantine area/cabin or spare bunk to isolate a suspected COVID-19 case.

- Consideration during vessel selection for the ability to remain offshore on station overnight to minimise infection risk or coming ashore daily (subject to full risk assessment).

- A large deck space (preferably 100m²) to ensure enough deck space for all the equipment and also to allow the physical distancing measures to be more effective.

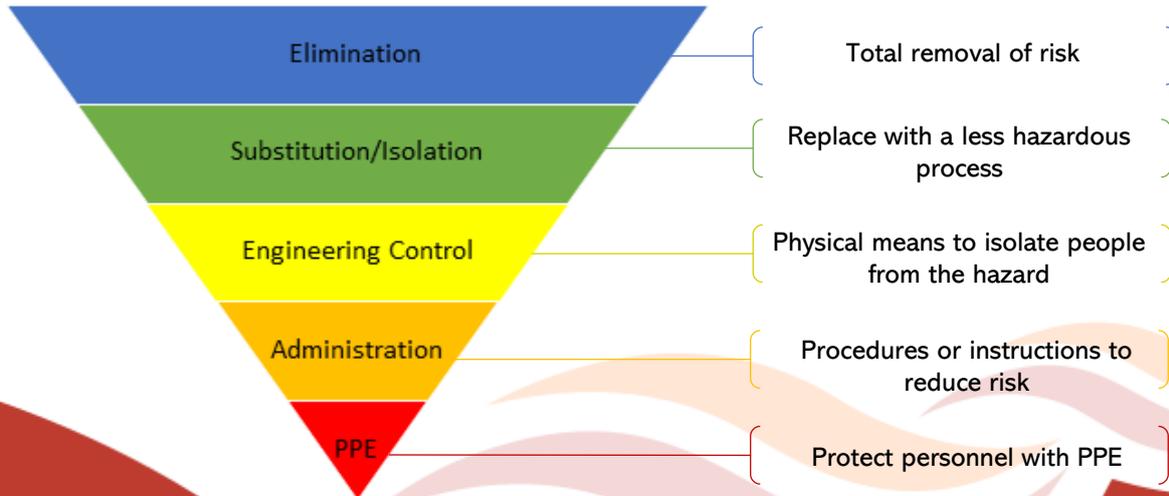
- Vessel has a suitable crane, capstan and winch for deploying and recovery of equipment to help minimise the amount of personnel needed for deployment.

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Hierarchy of Controls

- This guide assumes that a systematic approach to developing a response strategy has been followed, which combines a spill impact mitigation assessment and considerations for minimising the risk to responders and communities posed by COVID-19 – and that at-sea containment and recovery has been identified as an appropriate response technique.
- A hierarchy of controls is used to manage risk related to COVID-19 during at-sea containment and recovery operations.



COVID-19 Operational Considerations

Containment and Recovery



Substitution

- Where possible, the use of single-vessel systems will help to reduce the number of vessels required during offshore operation. Thus, limiting the number of personnel involved in operation.

Recovered oil can be stored in:

- Vessel storage/bilge tanks thus minimum manpower involvement.
- Temporary storage which can be unloaded into a shuttle tanker as an intermediate waste storage facility to reduce trips back to port. Examples of temporary storage that can be used are storage barges and IBCs. This will also increase the efficiency of the offshore operation.

- Select/use skimmers that are simple systems, which require minimal number of hydraulic hoses. This will help to reduce the weight of the skimmers to make it easier for fewer responders to manage the hoses.

- The use of smaller offshore skimmers will allow easier deployment using: capstans, gantry hoists or vessel cranes. This will allow the operation to be less labour intensive as it mainly depends on mechanical handling aids.

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Containment and Recovery



Substitution

- Select booms that can be deployed with minimal amount of manpower during deployment.
 - Where possible use of boom that makes use of a support vessel to conduct skimming operations.
 - Use of active boom system which can reduce the need for a skimmer system on deployment vessel which will result in less personnel needed on the deployment vessel.
- Selecting a boom recovery system with a built-in powerpack into the reel, or smaller powerpacks capable of running boom reel/air blower will allow more space on the vessel deck to mark out the direction of travel and the different working zones.

Administration

- Staggered rest breaks and mealtimes to minimise contact with others, along with facilities to accommodate breaks whilst maintaining physical distancing.
- Crew change during the duration of the operation should not be allowed, unless approved by management after careful considerations and risk assessments.
- All equipment, where possible, should be wiped down and sterilised after each use.

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Containment and Recovery



Administration

Personnel are to be reminded to take their temperature daily before and after their work shift

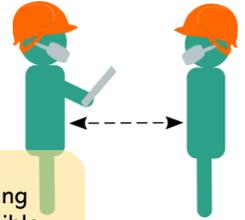
Administration

Personnel are to conduct self-assessment and record their temperature/self-assessment in a log-book



Administration

Personnel are to maintain physical distancing according to local regulation wherever possible and practicable



Administration

Regularly wash/sanitise hands with clean water and soap or utilise alcohol-based sanitiser. Avoid touching the face/mouth/eyes/nose



Do refer to [Specific Measures for In-field Response](https://www.oilspillresponse.com/covid-19/) document which can be found at <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/covid-19/> for more specific details. Task specific risk assessment should be used to govern the specific measures implemented.

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Containment and Recovery



Administration

Personnel are to communicate via VHF radio when in-field and avoid in-person communication as much as possible



Administration

Ensure that proper waste management is carried out at all sites. Respirators and masks are to be disposed of properly



Administration

Avoid large gatherings – stagger meals and breaks where possible



PPE

Don appropriate PPE based on risk assessment and do not share PPE and personal items



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