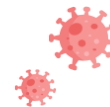


COVID-19 Operational Considerations

A summary for responders conducting inland operations during
the COVID-19 outbreak

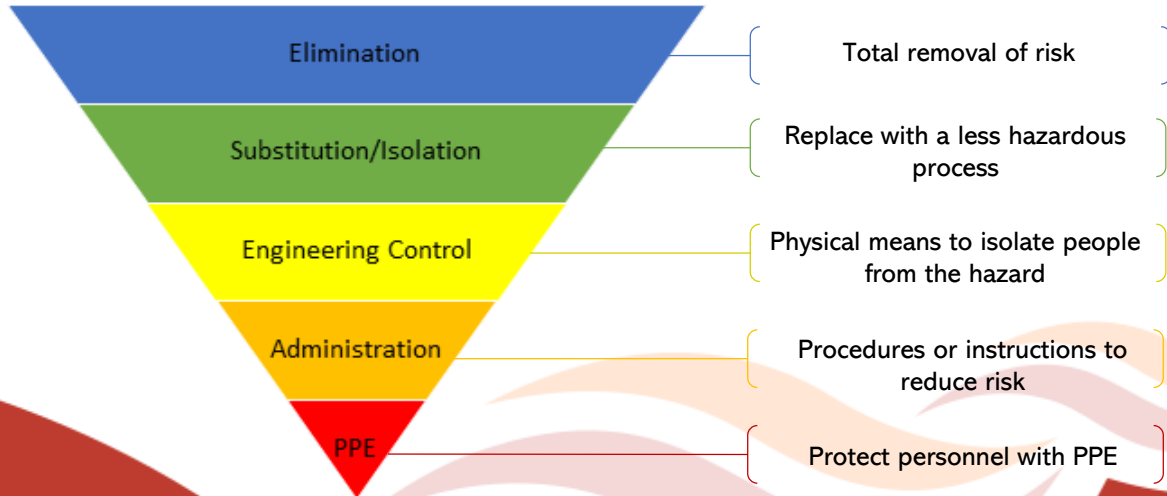


COVID-19 Operational Considerations



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 inland operations have been identified as an appropriate response technique.
- A hierarchy of controls is used to manage risk related to COVID-19 during inland operations.



COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Inland Operations

Substitution

- To minimise contact with public, containment/collection site could be set up away from local populations. This can be achieved by practicing the following considerations such as:
 - Deliberately allowing the spill to migrate downstream to a less populated location for collection.
 - Containing the spill higher up the stream where it is less populated.
- Consider employing in-situ burning technique instead of manual clean up to minimise the manpower requirements.
 - The decision to use in-situ burning technique should be assessed with systematic approach to developing a response strategy, which includes a spill impact mitigation assessment and considerations.
- If booming is the most appropriate means of protecting sensitive resources during an inland response, consider the appropriate selection of boom type and length to reduce the number of responders needed, for example:
 - Consider rigid/fence boom over inflatable boom, where suitable such as slow or still inland waterways.
- For damming operations, the following considerations could be practiced to reduce the manual handling required:
 - Wood and straw bales should be considered over sandbags.
 - Other damming methods such as use of polyethylene sheets or 'quick dam Watergate' could also minimise manpower requirements.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Inland Operations

Substitution

- Use alternative clean-up methods wherever possible as a substitute for manual clean-up, to reduce the number of personnel, for example:
 - Mechanical removal method
- Select skimmers that are light weight and simple to set up, this will reduce the amount of hydraulic hoses and ancillaries needed to operate. This will make it easier for fewer responders to manage safely.

Engineering Control

- Where possible, use engineering aids such as forklifts, ATV, wheelbarrows or other small vehicles to transport equipment and waste. This helps reduce manual handling and minimises the number of personnel involved.
- During boom deployment / tending / recovery, consider the use of engineering aids to reduce the number of responders needed and to help maintain physical separation. This may include using the fast water booming system to assist line-handling.
- Where possible, use engineering aids such as excavators and trencher machines to assist in digging trenches, excavating pits and storage pits for containment and waste storage for inland operations.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Inland Operations

Administration

Site set up considerations

- Manage congestion at site entrance such as staggered working hours and safe distancing demarcations.
- Safe entry record keeping including health declaration should be implemented.
- Set-up a temperature-recording station, recommended to be located at the entrance of the site.
 - Consider the weather and heat stress from the work which might elevate temperature readings. Allow a cool-down period, before temperature recording.
 - Ensure that a quarantine area is also set-up for personnel who have elevated temperatures after conducting temperature checks.
- Appropriate rest areas should be provided with proper safe distancing measures.
- Safe distancing should also be implemented for transportation of the labourers and volunteers.
- Sanitation facilities should be provided with handwashing stations which are appropriately distanced from each other and that are preferably hands-free (pedal, knee or elbow operated).

No. of personnel on site	No. of hand washing stations to be on-site*
1-5	2
6-25	4
26-50	6
51-75	8
76-100	10

**Numbers stated are doubled from the minimum number recommended by UK Health Safety Executive*

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Inland Operations

Administration

Personnel planning and management

- Personnel on-site to be limited to the core crew, wherever possible, such as:
 - Trained Responders
 - Min. number of labourers and volunteers
 - Dedicated staff to manage controls and sanitation measures
 - Medical professional
- Staggered rest breaks and mealtimes to minimise contact with others, along with ensuring sufficient facilities are available, suitably distanced to accommodate breaks whilst maintaining physical distancing.
- To minimise contact with local communities
 - Restrict public access to response sites with security measures, barriers, etc.
 - Put up notices onsite to inform public e.g. official media statement, contact number of Public Liaison Officer
- For multiple inland sites, limit different teams to individual sites and avoid cross-deployment where possible
- All equipment, where possible, should be wiped down and sterilised after each use.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Inland Operations

Administration

Personnel planning and management

- Work with the IMT to ensure an appropriate safe distancing management system in place to enable responders to maintain safe distancing from local populations to minimise the exposure risks to all parties.
 - This system should be developed with local authorities, other stakeholders and support of landowners.
 - Where possible, include provision of local liaisons to communicate with the public, necessary translations, crowd management and security.
- Training programmes should practice safe distancing measures when training volunteers and labourers on the fundamentals of inland operations.
 - Training on COVID-19 safety measures should also be included.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations

Inland Operations



Administration

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

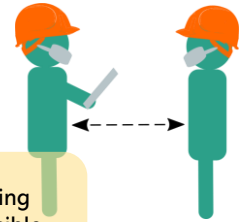
Administration

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 preferably with clean warm 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.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations

Inland Operations



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



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.