

COVID-19 Operational Considerations

A summary for responders conducting offshore in-situ burning 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.

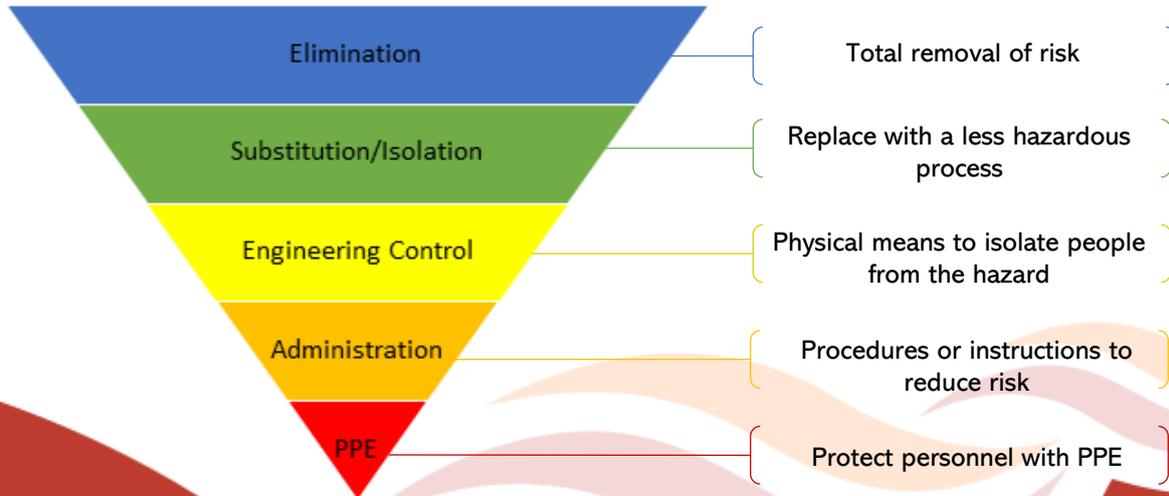
- Vessel has a suitable crane, capstan and winch for deploying and recovery of equipment to help minimise the amount of personnel needed for deployment.

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 offshore in-situ burning has been identified as an appropriate response technique.
- A hierarchy of controls is used to manage risk related to COVID-19 during offshore in-situ burning operations.



COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Offshore In-Situ Burning

Substitution

- Consideration during vessel selection to allow more space on the vessel deck to mark out the direction of travel and the different working zones.
- Only essential personnel to be allowed on the deployment vessel.
 - For effectiveness monitoring, where possible substitute physical involvement with the use of UAVs or similar alternatives.
- For ignition method, consider using the safe start ignitor over the other ignition methods such as heli-torch.
 - This will avoid the safe distancing issue when using helicopters for heli-torch ignition.
 - This may also reduce the personnel involved as the safe start ignitor can be deployed from the fire boom-deployment vessel.
- Consider using smaller offshore skimmers to recover any floating residue after the burn.
 - This will allow easier deployment using: capstans, gantry hoists or vessel cranes.
 - This operation will be less labour intensive as it mainly depends on mechanical handling aids.

Administration

- Use of digital/electronic means such as emails and Microsoft Teams to transfer information, instead of passing physical items to each other such as papers and thumb drives.
 - If required to pass items physically, personnel are to sanitise their hands after sharing/passing items.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Offshore In-Situ Burning

Administration

- Ensure that all trained personnel have their own personal equipment (such as cameras and GPS) to avoid sharing among the team.
- Deploy same vessel crew on sorties to reduce cross-contamination, where applicable.
 - Consider, if appropriate and permitted, the creation of 'bubbles' of vessel crew and responders to minimise contact outside of these bubbles, for example: if more than one set of vessel crew are being deployed, responders are to follow alternate shift arrangement.
 - Vessel crews and personnel to be transported immediately to accommodation at the end of each operational period.
 - Vessel crews and personnel to self-isolate between work shifts and remain in accommodation to reduce exposure.
- 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.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Offshore In-Situ Burning

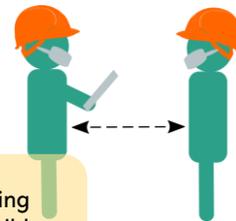


Administration

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

Administration

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



Administration

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



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.

COVID-19 Operational Considerations



Offshore In-Situ Burning

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.