

COVID-19 Update - 6th November 2020

We are pleased to confirm we have de-escalated the alert level for three of our OSRL bases. Bahrain and Ghana from Red to Amber and Norway from Amber to Yellow.

The alert status is important to each of our operating locations since they determine the activities, we are able to conduct, the extent of the controls we put in place, and the methods by which we review and approve both the activities and the controls.

The de-escalation of these locations comes following a detailed assessment of the level of Covid infection in the community, the availability of adequate health care in the area, the availability of Covid testing capacity, the international advice relating to the location, and how you, our members are operating within the region.

We continue to monitor the status of all our locations weekly. The monitoring involves looking carefully at all the indicators and how they are trending. We use a range of data sources and cross-check the data wherever possible. Typically, these datasets are the ones distributed by the relevant national health authorities. It's important to note that we consider both local, regional, and national data in the assessment process.

On the 15th October, we ran an internal exercise in Singapore incorporating Assurance No Notice Drill on International Air Response (IAR), operator for OSRL C130 Aerial Dispersant Aircraft. The focus was to verify readiness and the IAR call-out procedures with an actual flight and simulation of spray run with water from the C130 Hercules. It was also an opportunity to familiarise and put into practice the COVID-19 health and safety measures for the duty team in the EOC environment.

The exercise went very well; the team successfully achieved the objectives set. There were no safety concerns; the duty team members were well-accustomed to the COVID-19 health and safety measures put in place. It was clear that the OSRL Duty Team understood the COVID related measures that enable their physical presence in the EOC. The team worked efficiently, and the measures did not impede effectiveness.

Further testing and exercising with the IAR using different location scenarios will take place as part of ongoing assurance. Testing and exercising are pertinent, given the changing impacts of the pandemic on international mobilisation.

The benefit of practising in an exercise setting allows all parties to identify challenges and valuable learnings from the experience which can be addressed in peacetime and applied to managing a real response.

In the UK, the Southampton team held a No-Notice Drill this week (3rd and 4th Nov) which included shoreline and offshore deployments for our teams and also mobilisation of the UKCS aerial surveillance asset and the B727. These drills and exercises are crucial in providing OSRL, and its Members, with the assurance of our maintenance of team competence and that safe, effective and efficient spill response can still be delivered. In-field Covid-19 measures were well observed in all cases, and we met all exercise objectives.

We will publish Lessons Learnt from both drills in the coming weeks.

This week we have published a NEBA guidance document which details NEBA considerations under COVID-19, we have also talked about this in a previous webinar. [Click here](#) to download the guidance and [click here](#) to watch the webinar on Guidance Documents for Response During a Pandemic.

We have also published our latest webinar recording which ran last week; *No such thing as a bad exercise?* presented by Lee Barber. Lee, Preparedness Solutions Manager, gives an overview of the different types of exercises usually conducted as well as what we have found works and also what doesn't work. We received some good feedback and great questions.

Over the last two weeks we have updated Country Response Plans for Brazil, Japan, Gabon, The Netherlands and Senegal. We have also published Tunisia translated into Arabic. These Country Response Plans can be found on our Covid micro-site [here](#).

As always, we remain just a phone call away, ready to virtually support you and your operations. Should you have any questions, please email CMT@oilspillresponse.com or contact our Duty Managers.

