



STAGING AREA

OBJECTIVE & STRATEGY



The primary objective of the Staging Area tactic is to provide a location where equipment and personnel can be received and prepared for deployment to the spill site. The staging area also receives demobilized equipment returning from the field and prepares it for either remobilization or demobilization. The Staging Area Manager will establish a system to track resources and personnel to ensure an efficient, organized, and safe response.

Other response activities that may occur at/near a staging area are: personnel and equipment sign-in and sign-out, a field or forward command center, security, personnel and equipment decontamination, wildlife treatment, and responder break areas. The Operations Section Chief will work with the Staging Area Manager to establish the scope of the operations that occur in the staging area.

The general strategy used in establishing a Staging Area is to:

1. Identify the location and trajectory of the spill or potential spill.
2. Establish scope of operations.
3. Select a site that best supports the operations.
4. Deploy equipment and personnel to the location.
5. Set up equipment and begin operation.
6. Demobilize equipment and return to long-term storage.

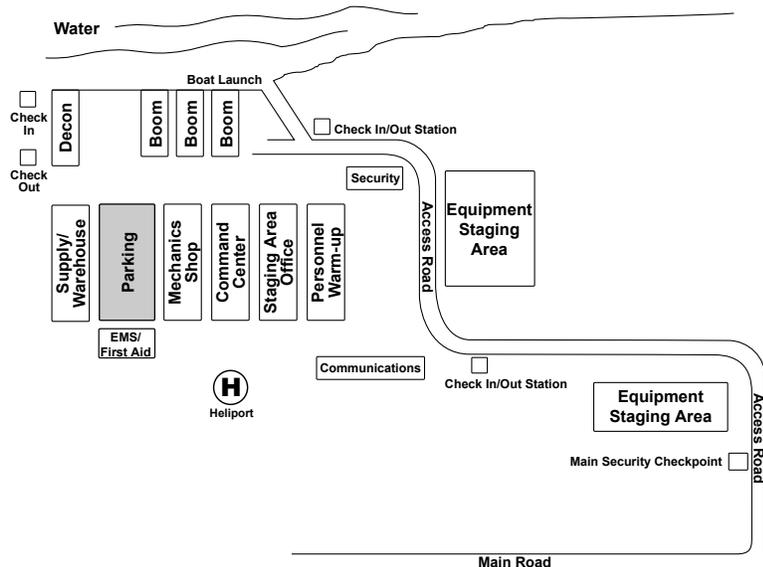


Figure SA-1. Example of a layout for a Staging Area.





TACTIC DESCRIPTION

A staging area is a designated place, but more importantly it is a system, established and monitored by a Staging Area Manager, that assembles functional response units/teams that can be deployed to achieve response objectives. During larger protracted spills involving numerous response and recovery sites, a Rear Supply Area may be established for the entire response effort with Forward Staging Areas near individual response operations. Every staging area requires a manager or a deputy manager.

Considerations for locating the staging area include:

- Enough area for maneuvering anticipated equipment,
- Space for receiving, temporary storage, and deployment of equipment,
- Space and equipment for repair and refurbishment of response equipment,
- Communications systems,
- Medical first aid and shelter for responders,
- Space for storing and distributing supplies for responders,
- Space for providing food, water, shelter, and sanitation facilities for responders,
- Space for storing and providing supplies, fuel, and parts for equipment,
- Decontamination areas for personnel and equipment, if appropriate,
- Ease and safety in accessing with the anticipated modes of transport (trucks, helicopter, boats, etc.),
- Close proximity with easy access to the incident site,
- Electric power, telephone, and fax, and
- Office space.

All staging areas should be established as close to the spill site as safely feasible. The staging area should always be in a safe place in the Cold Zone. Anticipate changes in wind direction and the possibility of an increase in size of the hot zone when selecting a staging area. Staging Areas should be scalable to the expected maximum size of the response and provide safety, ease of access, and comfort for operations. Forward staging areas occur in the environments where the spill occurs. They are used as a platform to land, temporarily store and prepare equipment for immediate deployment. These areas should be as flat as possible with firm ground and adequate space for equipment. Frequently, in marine based responses, a larger vessel at an anchorage may serve as a staging area.





DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

SAFETY

- Staging areas should be monitored to ensure a safe environment. Consider the following hazards:
 - Aircraft and heavy equipment operations,
 - Slips, trips and falls,
 - Hypothermia,
 - Exposure to contamination and hazardous materials,
 - Heavy equipment and crane operations,
 - Hearing impairment,
 - Respiratory exposure, and
 - Eye protection.

DEPLOYMENT

- Consider archeological and cultural impacts when selecting staging areas.
- The Staging Area Manager serves under the direction of the Operations Section Chief and coordinates closely with the Logistics Section and the Resources Unit.
- Inventory contained in the area should be determined by the Operations Section Chief and must be tracked and maintained to ensure adequate resources for field operations.
- Resources should be ready for deployment at times specified by the Operations Section.
- The Staging areas should be maintained in an orderly fashion.
- Establish a one way traffic pattern if possible.

REFERENCES TO OTHER TACTICS

Other tactics associated with Staging Area include:

-  Personnel Decontamination
-  Vessel Decontamination





EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES

Resources for establishing a Staging Area will be determined by the size and the needs of the response. Resource sets may need to be refined as site-specific requirements dictate.



Staging Area

Equipment	Function	Quantity	Notes
Staging area office	Office operations	1	Portable offices are available from most Primary Response Action Contractors
Generator	Provide electricity for operations	2	Deployed at remote sites
Loader	Move equipment and resources at the site	1	Deployed during larger response
Fork Lift	Move equipment and resources at the site	1	Organize and prep of equipment
Pickup trucks	Misc. support	Response specific	Delivery of personnel and equipment
Communication systems	Communications	1	Establish communication with the Command and field operations
Temporary shelters	Shelter for activities	Response specific	Shelter for working, breaks, first aid, repair, supplies, communications, and check-in/out recorders
Portable restroom facilities	Sanitary wastes	Response specific	Number of units depends on area functions
Mechanical truck or shop	Repair and support of equipment	1	May be established in portable shelters
Decontamination Unit	Decontamination	1	Depending on response activities
Portable lighting	Visibility at night	Response specific	Proper lighting is a safety and security concern
Personnel	Function	Quantity	Notes
Staging Area Manager	Supervises operations under the Direction of the Operations Section Chief	1	Managers established for permanent or high volume, active sites
Office Support	Assist in tracking equipment and personnel	1 to 2	Depending on response activities
Skilled Technicians	Work under the direction of Staging Area Manager	2 to 4	Depending on response activities
General Technicians	Work under the direction of Skilled Technician	2 to 4	Depending on response activities

