

# 2019 Oil Spill Response Exercises Lessons Learned

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Spill Prevention and Response



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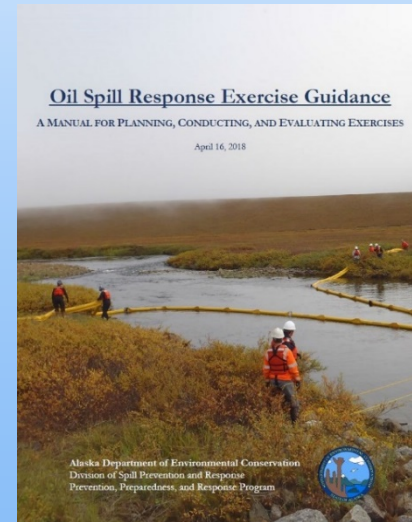
# Introduction



- In 2019, ADEC participated in 37 exercises where Lessons learned were gathered from ADEC after the exercise
- ADEC is sharing selected lessons learned from oil spill response exercises to encourage continual improvement
- These lessons learned are based on the most common & broadly applicable observations
- All exercises have lessons to be learned
- Intent is to encourage improvement in oil spill response readiness

# 2019 Notable Improvement

- An increasing number of ODPCP holders used the ADEC Oil Spill Response Exercise Guidance
- Many ODPCP holders notified ADEC of exercise meetings earlier in the planning process than previous years
  - Timely notification provides ADEC and the ODPCP holder the opportunity to jointly plan an exercise
  - ADEC can provide guidance on meeting 18 AAC 75.485 early in the design process



# Top Lessons Learned

A number of lessons learned found in 2016 - 2018 were also found to be recurring in 2019 and continue to be important considerations for improvement planning

- Exercise planning could be improved:
  - Involve ADEC in exercise planning from the beginning
  - Consider exercising both IMT & field response at the same time
  - Establish robust MSEL & SimCell for IMT exercises
- Players could be more familiar with the ODPCP
  - Specifically: notification procedures, contact info, emergency action checklists, facility diagrams, & available equipment
- Players could use additional IMT training
  - Who should communicate with whom in the IMT
  - Filling out ICS forms & QA/QC of forms
- Players could use additional training in deploying response equipment & adjusting tactics to be effective
- Consider fully deploying & running response equipment

These lessons learned continue to be important considerations for improvement planning and can be found at <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/prevention-preparedness/exercises/>

# Additional Lessons Learned from 2019: Organization Charts

- Org Charts should include all exercise participants
- The Org Chart for the Current Operations Period (COP) should be filled out completely with names of every person checked into the incident, including
  - IMT staff
  - Field responders
  - Contractors
  - Agency staff
  - Stakeholder representatives
  - Observers
- This will help ensure
  - All resources are counted & tracked for safety & accountability
  - IMT & field command staff can find out who they need to work with

# Additional Lessons Learned from 2019: IMT Maps

## ■ IMT Maps

- Situation Unit should display & maintain the official maps for the IMT
  - Planning may create additional maps to work through trajectories, sensitive area prioritization & protection, and SCAT planning
  - Ops may use large working maps to track field units & plan tactics
  - Maps in Situation Unit, Planning and Ops all need to be maintained & aligned

# Additional Lessons Learned from 2019: IMT Maps in Ops

- Ops may need its own dynamic working maps of the facility, the affected area, and surrounds to determine locations for tactics & track field resource locations and progress
- Ops is the primary contact for field units, so visually tracking resource movement & progress and conditions based on field comms is important
- Working maps located in Ops help Ops staff visualize what they are managing
- Info sharing between Ops, Planning and the Situation Unit should flow in all directions: Ops and Planning provides Situation with the information to update the Situation Board, and Situation provides Ops and Planning with info to update their working maps (trajectories, wildlife sightings, etc.)
- Most IMT level responses will need 2 working maps, one for the Current Ops Period (COP) and one for Next Ops Period (NOP)
  - COP & NOP maps should display info such as:
    - Location of the spill,
    - Impact area(s) & plume
    - Wind direction
    - Air monitoring sites
    - Site control points
    - Decon, waste management, & staging area(s)
    - Location of currently deployed resources & tactics, etc
    - Wildlife sightings, etc
  - NOP map should also include locations of planned tactics/task forces/deployment & resources

# Cool Ideas from 2019

- Ops and Planning staff had specific positions identified on the back of their IMT vests
  - It was helpful for Players to easily identify who was COP DOSC, NOP DOSC, Ops Salvage, Ops Land Based Recovery, Ops On-Water, Ops Nearshore, Ops Staging Area Manager, Ops Protection, etc...



- After response equipment from a conex was deployed, the conex was repurposed as a shelter for field command to work from
  - Provided field command a space to work from and display maps & plans



# Recommendations...

- Continue to refer to ADEC's Oil Spill Response Exercise Guidance for planning exercises
- Including ADEC in exercise planning from the very beginning allows ADEC to provide guidance on meeting 18 AAC 75.485
- Consider exercising both Field & IMT together
- Objectives & evaluation criteria should be specific to the ODPCP and scenario being exercised
- Functional & Full Scale exercises should have a robust MSEL & SimCell

# ... More Recommendations

- ODPCP holders could consider conducting additional
  - Training on content of their ODPCP and referenced documents
  - IMT training & practice to ensure IMT staff understand ICS processes
  - Training on field deployment to ensure responders know how to deploy & operate equipment and adjust tactics
- Fully deploy and operate equipment during equipment deployments
- Completely fill out Org Charts with all personal checked in to the exercise and continue to update as the response grows
- IMT maps should be aligned and consistent between Situation Unit, Ops and Planning
  - Ops could use dynamic maps located in Ops to work through COP and NOP tactics & information



# Questions?

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