

Exercise 2 Port of Cork

Pollution incident in Port

Command and control exercise

Fleet work simulators as follows

1. Work boat with ROV
2. Coast guard
3. Navy
4. Local Authorities/Emergency Services
5. Port Authority
6. Media
7. Coordinator (at control station)

Background

Time: 09:30 Local Time

Date: 5th May 2015

High Water 06.57

Low Water 13:23

Wind westerly 8 knots

Location: Port of Cork on the south coast of Ireland

A slick is discovered from an underwater source off a jetty in an unused area of a busy port. The Harbour Master is unsure of the nature of the slick and fears it may be HNS. He immediately cordons off the area and alerts the authorities. A small boat is used to enforce the cordon. A work boat with an ROV is in Port and is deployed in the area.

The ROV is deployed and locates the pollution source. A photograph is taken of the bar code on the pollution source and sent to experts ashore to determine the contents. The contents are determined to be non-hazardous and the cordon is lifted.

What procedures must the harbourmaster put in place?

Who determines the nature of the pollution source?

Who handles the media during the operation?

Step	Time	Script
1	09:30	Narrator: the exercise has commenced at 09:30 local time in the Port of Cork. A slick from a chemical spill has been seen coming from under a disused jetty in the port close to the centre of Cork city. It is a bright morning with clear skies and the wind is south west 5kts. It is 2 hours 33 minutes after high tide and the river currents will increase for the next couple of hours A work boat leaving the City docks sees a slick on the surface of the river. It appears to be coming from under a disused jetty. In the exercise we will see the response of the harbour master to the spill and the reaction of the port authority and the local authority.
2	09:05	Work boat: Cork harbour radio Cork harbour radio this is the “Lee Runner” there is a slick of pollution on the surface of the river at Kennedy Quay over

2a		Cork Harbour radio: “Lee Runner” This is Cork Harbour radio go ahead over.
2b		Work boat: Cork harbour radio there is a slick of pollution on the surface of the river at Kennedy Quay over
2c		Cork harbour radio: “Lee Runner” this is cork harbour radio thank you for the information can you remain at the scene at a safe distance up wind over.
2d		Work boat: Cork harbour radio will do over.
2e		Cork Harbour radio: “Lee Runner” out.
3	09:10	Narrator: Cork harbour radio informs the Harbour master of the situation.
4	09:15	Narrator: the Harbour master informs the coast guard that there is a potential HNS spill in the river close to the city. The Harbour master also informs the Coast guard of the weather conditions.
5	09:19	Narrator: the Harbour master informs the local authority. The local fire service respond by sending fire trucks to the area and with the help of the Guards (Police) enforce a cordon around the quay.
6	09:45	Narrator: The fire service launches a rib

		to enforce a cordon on the river. There is an Irish Naval Service vessel alongside Anderson quay 1 kilometre away and upon request from the harbour master the Naval service launch a second RIB to help the fire service to cordon off the area from the river.
7	10:00	Harbour master: calls a salvage company based in Cobh 10km down river asking for the use of a work boat with an ROV.
8		Harbour Master: contacts the local media to inform them of the events that are unfolding in the port.
9		Social media: reports on social media suggest that a major incident has happened in the port
10		Narrator: A crowd have started to gather near the pier and the Guards have to enforce a cordon. As the speculation on social media increases the fire service issue a statement through the media that accurately reflects the situation on the ground and dispels some of the reports on social media.
11	11:15	Narrator: the Work boat with the ROV

		arrives at Kennedy Quay.
12	12:23	Narrator: When the tide has slackened the ROV is launched to search under the pier for the possible source of the pollution
13	12:36	Narrator: The ROV locates a drum in 5 meters of water; it manages to get a photo of the barcode and the label.
14	12:48	Harbour Master: contacts the coast guard “I am sending you photos of a barcode and label found on the drum that is the source of the pollution. Can you please advise a course of action?”
14a	12:49	Coast Guard: “we will check the label and revert as soon as possible”
14b	12:56	Coast Guard: contacts the Harbour Master “The container is not harmful to personnel or the environment you can recover the container and dispose of it.
14c	12:59	Harbour Master: thanks for your assistance
15	13:10	Narrator: the scale of the cordon is reduced by the Harbourmaster
16	13:22	Harbour Master: orders a portable crane from the port to the scene to recover the

		drum.
17	14:20	Salvage boat: deploys a diver to connect a lifting strop to the drum.
17a	14:35	Salvage boat: the diver connects the strop to the crane and informs the surface.
18	14:35	Narrator: the drum is removed from the river and placed on a truck. The drum is taken away for disposal.
19	15:00	Narrator: the Harbour master Lifts the cordon and the port reopens.
20		End exercise