

APPENDIX A: CORE COMPONENTS FOR EXERCISING RESPONSE PLANS

During each triennial (quadrennial for ACPs) cycle, the following 15 core components must be exercised at least once for a response plan. All of these components may not be contained in each response plan. As such, the plan holder shall identify those that are applicable from this list, adding or deleting as appropriate.

A.1 Notifications: Test the notifications procedures identified in the response plan being exercised.

A.2 Staff Mobilization: Demonstrate the ability to assemble the response organization identified in the response plan being exercised.

A.3 Ability To Operate Within the Response Management System Described in the Plan:

1. Unified Command: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to work within a UC.
 - a. Federal Representation: Demonstrate the ability to consolidate the concerns and interests of the other members of the UC into a unified strategic plan with tactical operations.
 - b. State Representation: Demonstrate the ability to function within the UC structure.
 - c. Local Representation: Demonstrate the ability to function within the UC structure.
 - d. Responsible Party Representation: Demonstrate the ability to function within the UC structure.
2. Response Management System: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to operate within the framework of the response management system identified in their respective plans.
 - a. Operations: Demonstrate the ability to coordinate or direct operations related to the implementation of action plans contained in the respective response and contingency plans developed by the UC.
 - b. Planning: Demonstrate the ability to consolidate the various concerns of the members of the UC into joint planning recommendations and specific long-range strategic plans. Demonstrate the ability to develop short-range tactical plans for the Operations Section.
 - c. Logistics: Demonstrate the ability to provide the necessary support of both the short-term and long-term action plans.

- d. Finance: Demonstrate the ability to document the daily expenditures of the organization and provide cost estimates for continuing operations.
- e. Public Affairs: Demonstrate the ability to form a Joint Information Center (JIC) and provide the necessary interface between the UC and the media.
- f. Safety Affairs: Demonstrate the ability to monitor all field operations and ensure compliance with safety standards.
- g. Legal Affairs: Demonstrate the ability to provide the UC with suitable legal advice and assistance.

A.4 Source Control: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to control and stop the discharge at the source, and to effectively coordinate source control activities within the response management system used for the overall incident. Source control actions may involve specialized operations including, as applicable:

- 1. Salvage: Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy salvage resources identified in the VRP for the following salvage services:
 - a. Hull and bottom survey;
 - b. Emergency towing;
 - c. External emergency transfer operations;
 - d. Emergency lightering;
 - e. Other refloating methods;
 - f. Making temporary repairs;
 - g. Diving services support;
 - h. Subsurface product removal; and
 - i. Heavy lift.
- 2. Marine Firefighting (vessels): Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy the firefighting resources identified in the VRP for fire suppression.
 - a. External firefighting teams; and
 - b. External vessel firefighting systems.
- 3. Lightering: Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy the lightering resources identified in the response plan.
 - a. Emergency lightering (not applicable to NTVs under 250 barrel capacity).

4. Other Salvage Equipment and Devices: Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy the other salvage devices identified in the response plan.
 - a. Specialized salvage operations;
 - b. Special salvage operations plan;
 - c. Subsurface product removal; and
 - d. Heavy lift.
5. Well Control: Where applicable, demonstrate the ability to regain well control and secure the source of a discharge.

A.5 Assessment: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to provide an initial assessment of the discharge or potential discharge and provide continuing assessments of the effectiveness of the tactical planning.

1. Salvage (vessels): Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy salvage assessment and consultation resources identified in the VRP for the following salvage services:
 - a. Remote salvage assessment and consultation;
 - b. On-site salvage assessment;
 - c. Assessment of structural stability;
 - d. Salvage plan; and
 - e. Special salvage operations plan.
2. Marine firefighting (vessels): Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy the firefighting assessment and planning resources identified in the VRP for the fire assessment and planning.
 - a. Remote fire assessment and consultation; and
 - b. On-site fire assessment.

A.6 Containment: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to contain the discharge at the source or in various locations for recovery operations.

A.7 Mitigation (formerly Recovery): Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to mitigate the discharged product through the use of oil spill countermeasures, including, but not limited to, dispersants, *in-situ* burning, and bioremediation, in addition to mechanical oil recovery.

A.8 Protection: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to protect the environmentally and economically sensitive areas identified in the ACP and the respective industry response plan.

1. Protective Booming: Demonstrate the ability to assemble and deploy sufficient resources to implement the protection strategies contained in the ACP and the respective industry response plan.
2. Water Intake Protection: Demonstrate the ability to quickly identify water intakes and implement the proper protection procedures from the ACP or develop a plan for use.
3. Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation: Demonstrate the ability to quickly identify these resources at risk and implement the proper protection procedures from the ACP to develop a plan for use.
4. Population Protection (Protect Public Health and Safety): Demonstrate the ability to quickly identify health hazards associated with the discharged product and the population at risk from these hazards, and to implement the proper protection procedures from the ACP to develop a plan for use.

A.9 Disposal: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to dispose of the recovered material and contaminated debris.

A.10 Communications: Demonstrate the ability to establish an effective communications system for the response organization.

1. Internal Communications: Demonstrate the ability to establish an intra-organization communications system. This encompasses communications at the command post and between the command post and deployed resources.
2. External Communications: Demonstrate the ability to establish communications both within the response organization and other entities; e.g., RRT, claimants, media, regional or headquarters agency offices, and nongovernmental organizations.

A.11 Transportation: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective multimode transportation, both for execution of the discharge and support functions.

1. Land Transportation: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective land transportation for all elements of the response.
2. Waterborne Transportation: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective waterborne transportation for all elements of the response.
3. Airborne Transportation: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective airborne transportation for all elements of the response.

A.12 Personnel Support: Demonstrate the ability to provide the necessary support of all personnel associated with the response.

1. Management: Demonstrate the ability to provide administrative management of all personnel involved in the response. This requirement includes the ability to move personnel into or out of the response organization with established procedures.
2. Berthing: Demonstrate the ability to provide overnight accommodations on a continuing basis for a sustained response.
3. Messing: Demonstrate the ability to provide suitable feeding arrangements for personnel involved with the management of the response.
4. Operational and Administrative Spaces: Demonstrate the ability to provide suitable operational and administrative spaces for personnel involved with the management of the response.
5. Emergency Procedures: Demonstrate the ability to provide emergency services for personnel involved in the response.

A.13 Equipment Maintenance and Support: Demonstrate the ability to maintain and support all equipment associated with the response.

1. Response Equipment: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective maintenance and support for all response equipment.
2. Support Equipment: Demonstrate the ability to provide effective maintenance and support for all equipment that supports the response. This requirement includes communications equipment, transportation equipment, administrative equipment, etc.

A.14 Procurement: Demonstrate the ability to establish an effective procurement system.

1. Personnel: Demonstrate the ability to procure sufficient personnel to mount and sustain an organized response. This requirement includes ensuring that all personnel have qualifications and training required for their position within the response organization.
2. Response Equipment: Demonstrate the ability to procure sufficient response equipment to mount and sustain an organized response.
3. Support Equipment: Demonstrate the ability to procure sufficient support equipment to support and sustain an organized response.

A.15 Documentation: Demonstrate the ability of the response organization to document all operational and support aspects of the response and provide detailed records of decisions and actions taken.

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