



Maritime &  
Coastguard  
Agency

## Oil Spill Responder Health & Safety

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## The First Steps

- Who is at risk from potential hazards
- What is the hazard/risk
- Assessing the hazard/risk
- Control measures
- Monitoring
- Feedback

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## Who

- Clean-up personnel
  - supervisory staff
  - observers
- General public
  - local residents
  - volunteers
  - media (TV & radio)

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## Hazards

- ⚠ Oil
- ⚠ Weather
- ⚠ Clean up equipment
- ⚠ Clean up chemicals
- ⚠ Working area
- ⚠ Simultaneous operations  
ship movements etc...

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## Oil

- Toxicity
  - liquids / solids
    - contact
    - ingestion
  - vapours / gases
    - inhalation
- Flammability
  - explosion / fire

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## Weather

- Cold
  - exposure, wind-chill, hypothermia
- Wet
  - discomfort / reduced moral
- Heat
  - heatstroke, dehydration
- Sun
  - sunburn, sunstroke

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## Clean-up Equipment



- Rotating equipment
- Vacuum equipment
- Complexity / size
- Hand tools

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## Clean-up Chemicals



- Product information sheets
- Hazard Data Sheets

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## Working Area



- Shoreline
  - cliffs
  - beaches / intertidal zone
- At sea
  - vessel movement
  - cluttered working area
- Wildlife

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## Control Measures

- Safe working practices
  - control of work (permit control)
  - task risk assessments
  - information/instruction/training
- Site control
  - barriers, police, access control
  - control zone concept
- PPE, last resort



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## Site Safety Assessment

- Unfamiliar working environment
- Safety assessor
  - qualifications
  - experienced
  - analysis of risk
- Reporting
  - site assessment pro-forma
  - liaise with planning / operations

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## Safe Working Practices

- Supervision and training
- Communications
  - emergency contacts
- Welfare considerations
  - personal protective equipment
  - food and shelter
- Decontamination
  - cleaning stations
  - personnel and equipment

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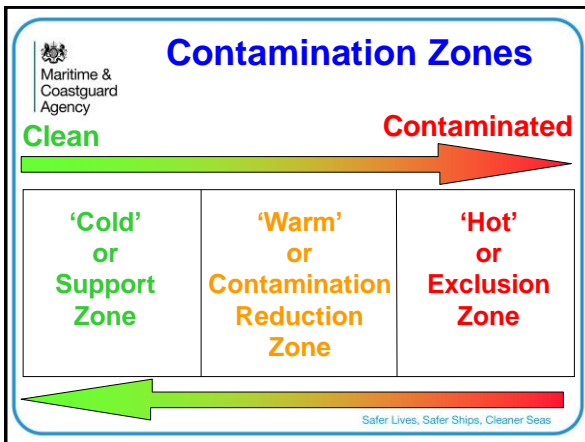
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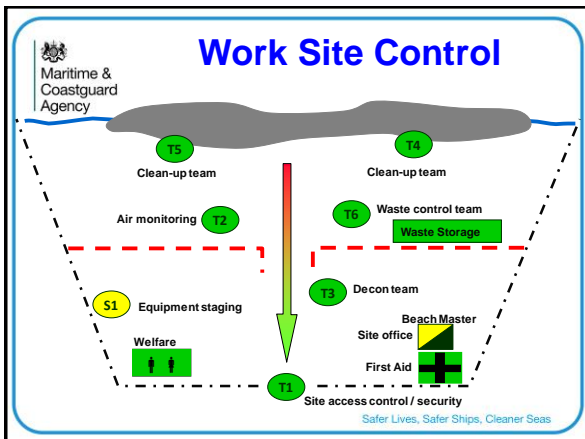
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**Final Thoughts**

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- Stop (don't just start work) **Take 5**
- Think (what is my job)
  - do I understand my instructions
  - am I at risk of harm
  - will my actions harm others
  - don't be afraid to ask questions
- Reassess
  - has the job changed
- Feedback
  - changes
  - requirements
  - progress

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