



MassDEP Geographic Response Strategy - 2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise - Nantucket, MA

Exercise Plan
October 20, 2022

The Exercise Plan (ExPlan) gives senior leaders, observers, media personnel, and players from participating organizations information they need to observe or participate in the exercise. It includes an exercise overview, objectives and aligned capabilities, roles and responsibilities, logistics, schedule, and communications plan. Some exercise material is intended for the exclusive use of exercise planners, controllers, and evaluators, but players may view other materials that are necessary to their performance. All exercise participants may view the ExPlan.

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

Exercise Name	2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise
Exercise Dates	October 20, 2022
Scope	This is a full-scale exercise, planned for approximately six hours in Nantucket, MA and upon the waters of Nantucket Harbor. Exercise play is limited to Nantucket Harbor in the vicinity of the Steamboat Wharf, Children's Beach and the adjacent shoreline.
Focus Area(s)	Response
Capabilities	Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Operational Coordination, Operational Communications
Objectives	<p>Objective 1: Demonstrate the ability to deploy oil spill equipment from one or more MassDEP pre-positioned oil spill response trailers utilizing common Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) tactics.</p> <p>Objective 2: Demonstrate the ability to assemble a spill response organization utilizing Incident Command System (ICS) principles through development and execution of an Incident Briefing (ICS 201) and implementation of on-site incident management and tactical operations.</p> <p>Objective 3: Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate between multiple local, state, and federal agencies including fire departments, police departments, harbor masters, and other state and federal first responders using UHF and/or VHF communications.</p>
Threat/Hazard	Discharge of oil into a navigable waterway
Scenario	An incident has occurred on board a Steamship Authority vessel and an oil spill threatens Nantucket Harbor. The Nantucket Fire Department and Harbormaster, Steamship Authority, Nantucket DPW, and Harbor Fuel will deploy boom to protect sensitive resources in Nantucket Harbor and the surrounding area.
Sponsor	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Participating Organizations	See Appendix A: Exercise Participants
Point of Contact	<p>Julie Hutcheson, Section Chief Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program 1 Winter St. Boston, MA 02108 (617) 366-7424 julie.hutcheson@mass.gov</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exercise Objectives and Capabilities

The following exercise objectives in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to capabilities, which are distinct critical elements necessary to achieve the specific mission area(s). The objectives and aligned capabilities are guided by senior leaders and selected by the Exercise Planning Team.

Exercise Objective	Core Capability
Demonstrate the ability to safely and effectively deploy oil spill equipment from one or more MassDEP pre-positioned oil spill response trailers and utilize common Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) tactics.	Environmental Response/Health & Safety
Demonstrate the ability to assemble a spill response organization utilizing Incident Command System (ICS) principles through development and execution of an Incident Briefing (ICS 201) and implementation of on-site incident management and tactical operations.	Operational Coordination
Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate between multiple local, state, and federal agencies including fire departments, police departments, harbor masters, and other state and federal first responders using UHF and/or VHF communications.	Operational Communication

Table 1. Exercise Objectives and Associated Capabilities

Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in the exercise. Groups of participants involved in the exercise, and their respective roles and responsibilities, are as follows:

- **Players.** Players are personnel who have an active role in discussing or performing their regular roles and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency.
- **Controllers.** Controllers plan and manage exercise play, set up and operate the exercise site, and act in the roles of organizations or individuals that are not playing in the exercise. Controllers direct the pace of the exercise, provide key data to players, and may prompt or initiate certain player actions to ensure exercise continuity. In addition, they issue exercise material to players as required, monitor the exercise timeline, and supervise the safety of all exercise participants.

- **Evaluators.** Evaluators evaluate and provide feedback on a designated functional area of the exercise. Evaluators observe and document performance against established capability targets and critical tasks, in accordance with the Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEGs).
- **Observers.** Observers visit or view selected segments of the exercise. Observers do not play in the exercise, nor do they perform any control or evaluation functions. Observers view the exercise from a designated observation area and must remain within the observation area during the exercise. Very Important Persons (VIPs) are also observers, but they frequently are grouped separately.
- **Media Personnel.** Some media personnel may be present as observers, pending approval by the sponsor organization and the Exercise Planning Team.
- **Support Staff.** The exercise support staff includes individuals who perform administrative and logistical support tasks during the exercise (e.g., registration, catering).

Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation.

Assumptions

Assumptions constitute the implied factual foundation for the exercise and, as such, are assumed to be present before the exercise starts. The following assumptions apply to the exercise:

- The exercise is conducted in a no-fault learning environment wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.
- Participating agencies may need to balance exercise play with real-world emergencies. Real-world emergencies take priority.

Artificialities

During this exercise, the following artificialities apply:

- Exercise communication and coordination is limited to participating exercise organizations, and venues.

EXERCISE LOGISTICS

Safety

Exercise participant safety takes priority over exercise events. The following general requirements apply to the exercise:

- A Safety Controller is responsible for ensuring the exercise is conducted in a safe environment; any safety concerns must be immediately reported to the Safety Controller. The Safety Controller and Exercise Director will determine if a real-world emergency warrants a pause in exercise play and when exercise play can be resumed.
- For an emergency that requires assistance, use the phrase **“emergency - emergency.”** The following procedures should be used in case of a real emergency during the exercise:
 - Anyone who observes a participant who is seriously ill or injured will immediately notify emergency services and the closest controller, and, within reason and training, render aid.
 - The player or controller aware of a real emergency will initiate the **“emergency - emergency.”** and provide the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Lead Controller, and Exercise Director with the location of the emergency and resources needed, if any.

Site Access

Security

If entry control is required for the exercise venue(s), the sponsor organization is responsible for arranging appropriate security measures. To prevent interruption of the exercise, access to exercise sites is limited to exercise participants. Players should advise their venue’s controller or evaluator of any unauthorized persons.

Media/Observer Coordination

Organizations with media personnel and/or observers attending the event should coordinate with the sponsor organization for access to the exercise site. Media/Observers are escorted to designated areas and accompanied by an exercise controller at all times. Identify a designated location for the media prior to the start of the exercise. Sponsor organization representatives and/or the observer controller may be present to explain exercise conduct and answer questions. Exercise participants should be advised of media and/or observer presence.

POST-EXERCISE ACTIVITIES

Debriefings

Post-exercise debriefings aim to collect sufficient relevant data to support effective evaluation and improvement planning.

Hotwash

At the conclusion of exercise play, a controller or evaluator will lead a Hot Wash to allow players to discuss strengths and areas for improvement, and evaluators to seek clarification regarding player actions and decision-making processes. All participants may attend; however, observers are not encouraged to attend the meeting. The information gathered during a hotwash contributes to the AAR/IP and any exercise suggestions can improve future exercises.

Participant Feedback Forms

Participant Feedback Forms provide players with the opportunity to comment candidly on exercise activities and exercise design, and to share their observed strengths and areas for improvement. Participant Feedback Forms should be collected at the conclusion of the Hot Wash.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Exercise Rules

The following general rules govern exercise play:

- Real-world emergency actions take priority over exercise actions.
- Exercise players will comply with real-world emergency procedures, unless otherwise directed by the control staff.
- All communications (including written, radio, telephone, and e-mail) during the exercise will begin and end with the statement **“This is an exercise.”**

Players Instructions

Players should follow certain guidelines before, during, and after the exercise to ensure a safe and effective exercise.

Before the Exercise

- Review appropriate organizational plans, procedures, and exercise support documents.
- Sign in when you arrive.

During the Exercise

- Respond to exercise events and information as if the emergency were real, unless otherwise directed by an exercise controller.
- Controllers will give you only information they are specifically directed to disseminate. You are expected to obtain other necessary information through existing emergency information channels.
- If you do not understand the scope of the exercise, or if you are uncertain about an organization’s participation in an exercise, ask a controller.

After the Exercise

- Participate in the Hotwash at your venue with controllers and evaluators.
- Complete the Participant Feedback Form. This form allows you to comment candidly on emergency response activities and exercise effectiveness. Provide the completed form to a controller or evaluator.
- Provide any notes or materials generated from the exercise to your controller or evaluator for review and inclusion in the AAR.

APPENDIX A: EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS

Participating Organizations	
Town of Nantucket, MA	
Nantucket Fire Department	6-10
Nantucket Harbormaster	2
Nantucket Police Department/EMA	2
Nantucket DPW	TBD
SSA	6-9
Harbor Fuel	6
Madaket Marine	2-3
State	
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	2
Moran Environmental Recovery (MER)*	2
Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC (Nuka Research)*	2
Federal	
United States Coast Guard	2
	TOTAL 32-40

* - Contractors for MassDEP

APPENDIX B: INCIDENT/SAFETY BRIEFING (ICS 201 AND 208)

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

1. Incident Name: 2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise	2. Incident Number: XX-22	3. Date/Time Initiated: 20OCT22
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4. Tactics Map:



5. Situation Summary and Health and Safety Briefing (for briefings or transfer of command):

An incident has occurred on board a Steamship Authority vessel and an oil spill threatens Nantucket Harbor. The Nantucket Fire Department and Harbormaster, Steamship Authority, **Nantucket DPW**, and Harbor Fuel will deploy boom to protect sensitive resources in Nantucket Harbor and the surrounding area.

Recognize potential incident Health and Safety Hazards and develop necessary measures (remove hazard, provide personal protective equipment, warn people of the hazard) to protect responders from those hazards.

6. Prepared by: Name: M. Popovich	Position/Title: Exercise Controller
ICS 201, Page 1	Date/Time: 20OCT22

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

1. Incident Name: 2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise	2. Incident Number: XX-22	3. Date/Time Initiated: 20OCT22
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7. Current and Planned Objectives:

- Establish VHF or UHF Communication Channel or Frequency
- Deploy 500 feet of containment boom around a docked vessel.
- Deploy Containment Boom around a vessel at a mooring.

Tidal Information for Nantucket Harbor on 20OCT22

HIGH				LOW			
AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft
9:08	2.8	9:16	3.2	2:45	0.6	2:51	0.9

8. Current and Planned Actions, Strategies, and Tactics:

Time:	Actions:
0930	Mobilize and Stage Equipment
1000	Conduct First Responder Classroom Training - Nantucket Police Dept., 4 Fairground Rd., Nantucket, MA
1130	Conduct MassDEP trailer equipment familiarization and hands-on training
1215	LUNCH
1300	Transit to Children’s Beach Boat Ramp and Steamboat Wharf
1330	Final Safety and Operational Brief at Children’s Beach Boat Ramp
1400	Deploy/Test 500 ft Containment Boom strategy around west SSA slip at Steamboat Wharf
1445	Demobilize Steamboat Wharf Containment Boom
1515	Deploy Containment Boom around a vessel at a mooring
1545	Demobilize, rinse, and repack all equipment
1615	Conduct Hot Wash. Complete and turn in all Participant Feedback Forms
1630	Secure from Exercise

6. Prepared by: Name: M. Popovich	Position/Title: Exercise Controller
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ICS 201, Page 2	Date/Time: 20OCT22
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INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

1. Incident Name: 2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise	2. Incident Number: XX-22	3. Date/Time Initiated: 20OCT22
9. Current Organization:		
Incident Commander [ENTER NAME]	Comms [ENTER CHANNEL OR FREQ]	Safety Officer [ENTER NAME]
Strike Teams		
Vessels		
Call Sign	Priority	Type
		Horsepower
		Assignment
		PAX Capacity
<small>Shoreside Assignments: Boat Staging, Anchoring, Other Support</small>		
<small>Vessel Assignments: Boom Deployment, Safety/Security, Support</small>		
Shoreside		
Call Sign	Assignment	Location
Shore 1		Shore 3
Shore 2		Shore 4
Last Name	Organization	Assignment
<small>Personnel Assignments: IC, SO, Shore Team, Vessel, Evaluator, Observer</small>		
6. Prepared by: Name: M. Popovich		Position/Title: Exercise Controller
ICS 201, Page 3	Date/Time: 20OCT22	

COMPLETE
 DURING OPS
 BRIEF ON
 DATE OF
 EXERCISE

INCIDENT BRIEFING (ICS 201)

1. Incident Name: 2022 Nantucket GRS Exercise		2. Incident Number: XX-22		3. Date/Time Initiated: 20OCT22	
10. Resource Summary:					
Resource	Resource Identifier	Date/Time Ordered	ETA	Notes (location/assignment/status)	
28' SeaArk/250 HP	P-1			Nantucket Harbormaster	
20' Privateer	TBD			Madaket Marine	
15' Carolina Skiff	Oil Boom Boat			SSA	
NPD Incident Command Vehicle	TBD			Nantucket Police Department	
Response Trailer	NFD			Equipment Demo/ Boom Deployment	
Response Trailer	SSA			TBD	
6. Prepared by: Name: M. Popovich			Position/Title: Exercise Controller		
ICS 201, Page 4			Date/Time: 20OCT22		

APPENDIX C: SUPPLEMENTAL EXERCISE INFORMATION

Safety Marine Information Broadcast (SMIB)

Mariners are advised that an oil spill exercise will be conducted in Nantucket Harbor in the vicinity of Steamboat Wharf, Children's Beach, and the adjacent shoreline on **October 20, 2022, from approximately 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.** Containment boom will be deployed in the water and vessels with the Nantucket Fire Department, Harbormaster, Steamship Authority, and other port partners will be operating in the area. Mariners are advised to use caution when transiting this area. Interested mariners may contact the Nantucket Harbormaster or the U.S. Coast Guard by VHF radio.

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