



# MassDEP Geographic Response Strategy - 2022 Nantucket FR Exercise - Nantucket, MA

## After-Action Report/Improvement Plan

---

October 20, 2022

The After-Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) aligns exercise objectives with preparedness doctrine and related frameworks and guidance. Exercise information required for preparedness reporting and trend analysis is included; users are encouraged to add additional sections as needed to support their own organizational needs.

**NOTE:** The actual on-water deployment/GRS test was cancelled due to high winds in Nantucket Harbor. This AAR captures general information related to the hands-on training that was completed prior to termination.

## EXERCISE OVERVIEW

<b>Exercise Name</b>	2022 Nantucket First Responder Exercise
<b>Exercise Date</b>	October 20, 2022
<b>Scope</b>	This was a full-scale exercise, planned for approximately four hours in Nantucket, MA at the Steamboat Wharf in Nantucket Harbor, however the on-water deployment portion of the exercise was cancelled due to weather.
<b>Mission Area(s)</b>	Response
<b>Capabilities</b>	Planning, Environmental Response/Health and Safety, Operational Coordination, Operational Communications
<b>Objectives</b>	<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>
<b>Threat/Hazard</b>	Discharge of oil into a navigable waterway
<b>Scenario</b>	An incident has occurred on board a Steamship Authority vessel and an oil spill threatens Nantucket Harbor. The Nantucket Fire Department and Harbor master, Police Department, Steamship Authority, Nantucket DPW, Madaket Marine, and Harbor Fuel will deploy boom to protect sensitive resources in Nantucket Harbor and the surrounding area.
<b>Sponsor</b>	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
<b>Participating Organizations</b>	See Appendix A: Exercise Participants
<b>Point of Contact</b>	<p>Julie Hutcheson, Program Coordinator  Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  Oil Spill Prevention and Response Program  100 Cambridge St.  Boston, MA 02114  (617) 366-7424  <a href="mailto:julie.hutcheson@mass.gov">julie.hutcheson@mass.gov</a></p>

Participants practice tossing heaving line



Participants practice connecting sections of boom

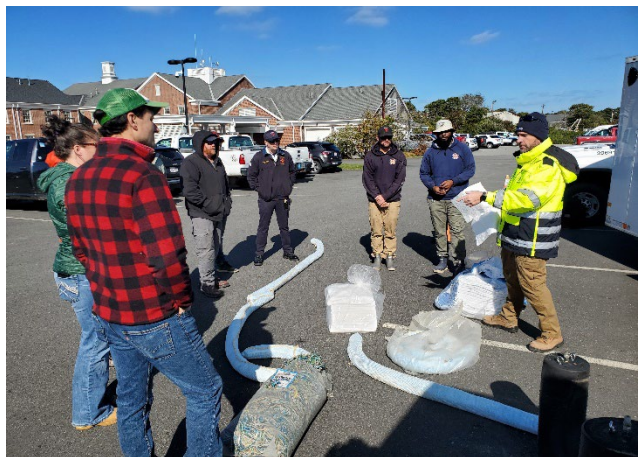


Photos courtesy of Nuka Research

Participants practice setting up a shoreside anchor system



Participants learn of the various types of sorbent boom



Photos courtesy of Nuka Research

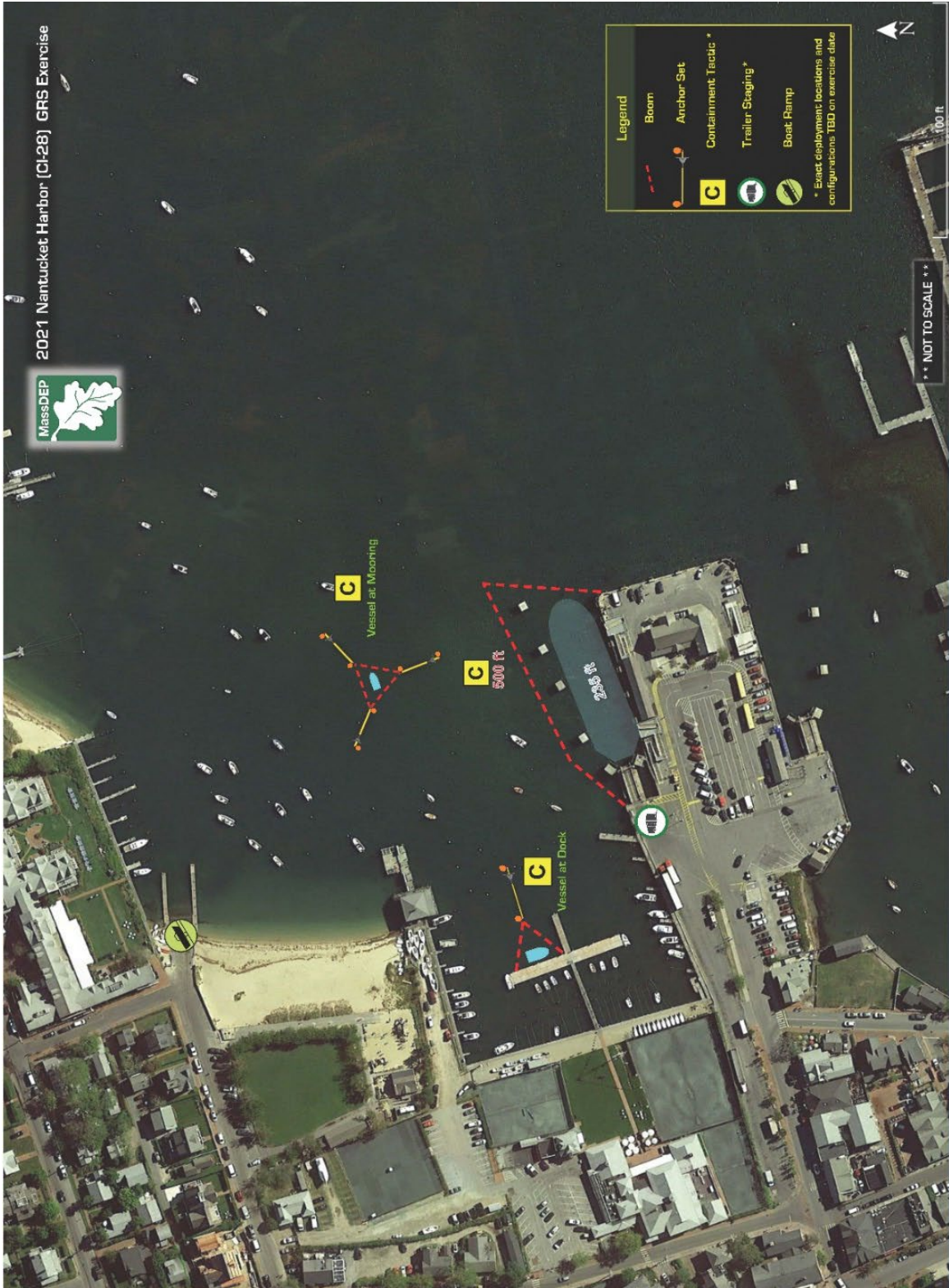


Figure 1. Exercise Tactics Map

## ANALYSIS OF CAPABILITIES

Aligning exercise objectives and capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation that transcends individual exercises to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes the exercise objectives, aligned capabilities, and performance ratings for each capability as observed during the exercise and determined by the evaluation team.

Objective	Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
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.	Environmental Response/Health and Safety				U
Demonstrate the ability to assemble a spill response organization utilizing Incident Command System (ICS) principles through execution of an Incident Briefing (ICS 201) and implementation of on-site incident management and tactical operations.	Operational Coordination				U
Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate between multiple local, state, and federal agencies including fire, police and harbormaster departments using VHF and UHF communications	Operational Communications				U
<p>Ratings Definitions:</p> <p><b>Performed without Challenges (P):</b> The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.</p> <p><b>Performed with Some Challenges (S):</b> The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. However, opportunities to enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency were identified.</p> <p><b>Performed with Major Challenges (M):</b> The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s), but some or all of the following were observed: demonstrated performance had a negative impact on the performance of other activities; contributed to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers; and/or was not conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.</p> <p><b>Unable to be Performed (U):</b> The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were not performed in a manner that achieved the objective(s).</p>					

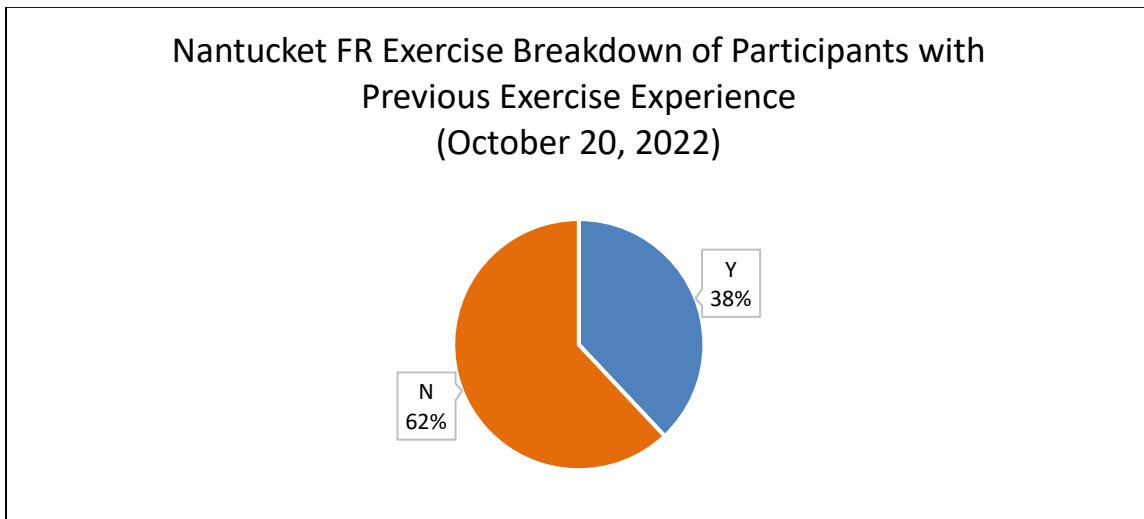
**Table 1. Summary of Core Capability Performance**

## APPENDIX A: IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Improvement Plan section of this AAR was not completed because the deployment/GRS test in Nantucket Harbor was cancelled due to high winds on the day of the exercise.

## APPENDIX B: PARTICIPANTS & RESOURCES

Participating Organizations	
<b>Town of Nantucket, MA</b>	
Nantucket Fire Department	4
Nantucket Harbormaster	5
Nantucket Police Department/EMA	3
Nantucket DPW	1
SSA	6
Harbor Fuel	5
Madaket Marine	2
<b>State</b>	
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	1
Moran Environmental Recovery (MER) *	1
Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC (Nuka Research) *	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>



List of Resources			
Agency	Resource	Kind	Exercise Function
Nantucket FD	Oil spill response trailer		Equipment Demo

## APPENDIX C: PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participant feedback was not gathered because the deployment/GRS test in Nantucket Harbor was cancelled due to high winds on the day of the exercise.



## APPENDIX D: EXERCISE PLANNING TEAM COORDINATION TIMELINE

This exercise was originally scheduled to occur in the Fall of 2018 in accordance with a previously established long-term training schedule developed by MassDEP and Nuka Research. However, due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances, the exercise was postponed and rescheduled several times. The timeline below summarizes a history of exercise postponements and rescheduling's from 2019 - 2022:

