

CHAPTER 1. POLLUTION REPORTING SYSTEM (CARIBPOLREP)

1.1 Dissemination of Information on Oil Spill Incidents

4.1.1 An Island State or Territory first receiving a report of an oil spill incident should immediately inform neighboring Island States and Territories that the incident may affect their related interests, giving as much detail as possible about the incident. In the event that a spill has occurred, that information should include date, time, position, type and amount of oil spilled, the prevailing and forecast weather conditions, proposed actions and recommendations. As the situation develops, information to these Island States or Territories must be updated continuously, and a regular synopsis provided to keep them informed. The procedures for such reports and communications are described in this chapter of the Plan. Transmission of such reports should not be delayed if complete information is not immediately available.

4.1.2 Available meteorological and hydrographical data should be analyzed to give rough early predictions of general spill movement. More sophisticated spill movement prediction methods may be subsequently used. However, visual observation of any spill is essential and the responsible authority under the appropriate National Contingency Plan should use those resources already identified, such as charter, military or commercial aircraft for surveillance. It is essential that the results of such observation and prediction be transmitted to other States and Territories which may be affected by the spilled oil until it no longer threatens any Island States and Territories in the area covered by the Plan.

4.1.3 Participating Island States and Territories should make every effort to transmit information that may aid in establishing liability for pollution removal costs, damages, and related fines and penalties, to requesting national authorities from other participating Island States and Territories that are, or may have been, affected by an oil spill incident.

4.1.4 The initial report of an oil spill to a Spill Notification Point may be received from a variety of sources and may require confirmation by the Lead Agency that receives the report. After confirmation, the Lead Agency will draft a POLREP, message to all the Lead Agencies of the other Island States or Territory's Caribbean Plan Regional Organization which may have an interest in the spill. If overflights or surface vessel observations determine that one or more States or Territories could be affected by the movement of the oil on the surface of the water, then speed of drift and direction shall be calculated and reported along with all other pertinent information.

1.2 Message Routing Procedure (CARIBPOLREP)

4.2.1 After receipt of the initial report of an oil spill incident the Lead Agency may require conformation of the spill sighting. After the spill has been confirmed the Lead Agency, utilizing the Caribbean Oil and Hazardous Material Spill Alerting Mechanism will prepare a CARIBPOLREP message to notify neighboring Island States and Territories that may be effected by the spill.

4.2.2 The CARIBPOLREP message will be sent directly to neighboring islands and to REMPEITC-Carib, (Tel (+5999) 868-4612 or 868-3409, Fax (+5999) 868-4996 / email: rempeitc@cep.unep.org . – 24 hour notification through the Coast Guard of Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (5999-463-7700 / email: rcc.curacao@gmail.com or rcc.curacao@rnavy.mindef.nl)

4.2.3 Once the initial CARIBPOLREP message has been sent subsequent messages will be routed through the established routing network until the spill emergency has been concluded.

1.3 CARIBPOLREP Format

4.3.1 The following is a summarized list of the composition of the CARIBPOLREP message.

4.3.2 HEADING

1. Date time group:
2. From:
3. To:
4. Subject:

4.3.3 SITUATION

1. Date and Time.
2. Position.
3. Incident.
4. Outflow.
5. Characteristics of Pollution.
6. Source and Cause of Pollution.
7. Wind direction and speed.
8. Current or tide.
9. Sea state and visibility.
10. Drift of pollution.
11. Forecast.
12. Source of Report

4.3.4 ACTION TAKEN

1. Implementation of National Contingency Plan.
2. Incident surveillance.
3. Photographs or samples.
4. Names of other states informed.

4.3.5 FUTURE PLANS

Various types of information such as anticipated changes of command; reducing information exchange to encompass only relevant, affected parties; etc.

4.3.6 ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

1. Source of assistance.
2. Estimated cost.
3. Prearrangement for delivery.
4. Assistance to where and how.
5. Other states requested.
6. Names and passport numbers of persons.
7. Description of equipment.
8. ETA and arrival information.
9. Place of embarkation.
10. Place of disembarkation.

4.3.7 If the CARIBPOLREP is used in exercises, the text is to be introduced with the word EXERCISE and finished with this word three times. Each of the subsequent reports which deal with the exercise is to be introduced and finished with the word EXERCISE as well.

1.4 CARIBPOLREP EXPLANATION

| | REMARKS |
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| 4.4.1 <u>HEADING</u> | |
| 1. Date time group: | The day of the month as well as the time of day of the message. |
| 2. From: | Lead Agency of the Island State or Territory that is initiating the message. |
| 3. To: | Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib), Willemstad, Curaçao, requesting the |

REMPEITC-Carib pass the message to other Island States or Territories. Lead Agencies may pass information directly to other Island States of Territories that may be affected by the spill.

4. Subject: CARIBPOLREP, sequential number of the report and the name of the vessel on facility involved in the spill incident.

4.4.2 **SITUATION**

1. Date and time: Date and time of the incident.
2. Position: Lead Agency of the Island State or Territory that is initiating the message.
3. Incident: The nature of the incident should be stated here, such as BLOWOUT, TANKER GROUNDING, TANKER COLLISION, OIL SLICK, etc.
4. Outflow: The nature of the pollution, such as CRUDE OIL, CHLORINE, DINITROL, PHENOL, etc., as well as the total quantity in tons of the outflow and/or the flow rate, as well as the risk of further outflow. If there is no pollution but a pollution threat, the words NOT YET followed by the substance, for example, NOT YET FUEL OIL, should be stated.
5. Characteristics of Pollution: Gives type of pollution, e.g., type of oil with viscosity and pour point, packaged or bulk chemicals, sewage. For chemicals, give proper name or United Nations number, if known. For all, give also appearance, e.g., liquid, floating solid, liquid oil, semi-liquid sludge, tarry lumps, weathered oil, discoloration of sea, visible vapor. Any markings on drums, containers, etc., should be given.
6. Source and Cause of Pollution: e.g., from vessel or other undertaking. If from vessel, say whether as a result of a deliberate discharge or casualty. If the latter, give brief description. Where possible, give name, type, size, call sign, nationality and port of registration of polluting vessel. If vessel is proceeding on its way, give course, speed and destination.
7. Wind Direction and Speed: Indicates wind direction and speed in degrees and MPH. The direction always indicated from where the wind is blowing.

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| 8. Tides and Direction of Current: | Indicates current direction and speed in degrees and knots and tenths of knots. The direction always indicates the direction in which the current is flowing. |
| 9. Sea State and Visibility: | Sea state indicated as wave height in meters. Visibility is in nautical miles. |
| 10. Drift of Pollution: | Indicates drift course and speed of pollution in degrees and knots and tenths of knots. In case of air pollution, (gas cloud), drift speed is indicated in m/s. |
| 11. Forecast: | e.g., arrival on beach with estimated timing. Results of mathematical models, or computer trajectory modeling. |
| 12. Reporting Source: | Indicates who has reported the incident. If a ship, ship on Scene name, homeport, flag and call sign must be given. Ships on scene can also be indicated under this item by name, home port, flag and call sign, especially if polluter cannot be identified and the spill is considered to be of recent origin. |

4.4.3 **ACTION TAKEN**

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| 1. Implementation of National Contingency Plan: | Indicate if National Contingency Plan has been Contingency Plan: activated. If appropriate, give name of Lead/ Response Agency and On-Scene-Commander. |
| 2. Incident Surveillance: | Indicate type of spill surveillance such as aerial or vessel. Number of over flights per day, etc. |
| 3. Photographs or Samples: | Indicates if photographs or samples from the pollution have been taken. Contact numbers of the sampling authority should be given. |
| 4. Names of Other States Informed: | Lead agency initiating message concerning the spill incident should name the other Island States that have been notified directly. This is important if the control of communications is being passed to REMPEITC-Carib in Curacao. If communications are being passed identify Island States to whom the alert is to be readdressed. |

4.4.4 **FUTURE PLANS**

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| 1. Future Plans: | Describe the action contemplated in response to |
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the discharge or threat of discharge.

4.4.5 **ASSISTANCE REQUESTED**

1. Source of Assistance: Name of Lead Agency and name of Island State or and the type of assistance required in form of: specified equipment with trained personnel complete strike teams personnel with special expertise with indication of Island State or Territory requested.
2. Estimated Cost: Requirements for cost information to requesting Island State or Territory of delivered assistance.
3. Prearrangement Delivery of Assistance Information concerning customs clearance, access to territorial waters, etc. in the requesting Island or Territory.
4. Assistance to Where and How Information concerning the delivery of the assistance, e.g., rendezvous at sea with information on frequencies to be used, call sign and name of on scene commander of the requesting Island State or Territory or land-based authorities with telephone number, fax, telex number, or email and contact person.
5. Other States Requested: Only used if not covered by 4.4.5.1 if further assistance is later needed by other Island States or Territories.
6. Personnel Names, Passport info: Names of persons responding from an assisting Island State including their passport numbers. This information is necessary to facilitate rapid entry into the requesting Island State or Territory.
7. Description of Equipment: A brief description of the equipment including serial and model numbers. Also included a list of any component parts that are being shipped with the equipment.
8. ETA and Arrival Information: Time and place of arrival of equipment and of personnel should be given to accommodate clearance with customs and immigration officials in the requesting Island State or Territory.
9. Place of Embarkation: The responding Island State should include the airport or seaport where responding personnel are departing from. The information should give flight names and numbers and/or vessel names.

10. Place of Disembarkation: The responding Island State should give the airport or seaport where responding personnel will be arriving at in the requesting country.
11. Spare: Any relevant information pertaining to the spill should be included such as results of field inspections or surveys. Statements of ship's personnel. Vessel and cargo owners and if the owners are members of a co-operative association, etc.

1.5 EXAMPLE: CARIBPOLREP MESSAGE NO. 1

(Heading)

Date Time Group: 181100GMT
 From: Lead Agency Grenada
 To: REMPEITC-Carib, Curaçao – Netherlands Antilles.
 Pass To: Lead agency St Vincent, Tobago, St. Lucia and Trinidad for immediate alert

(Subject)

Caribpolrep No 1: M.T. West Passage

(Situation)

Tankship M.V. West Passage on fire and in danger of sinking
 Date and Time: Fire reported 180745GMT
 Position: Vessel at 12°-30'N 61°-15'W
 Incident: Engine room fire spreading to cargo tanks. Some crude oil reported to be leaking. Risk of loss of vessel and entire cargo of 156,000 tons. Oil is forming a slick to the west.
 Source of Pollution: Ruptured cargo tanks - 3 starboard, 3 center and 3 port.
 Wind Direction/Speed: Wind is from 090 degrees (East) at 10 miles per hour.
 Current: Current is towards 270 degrees (West) at approximately 1 Knot.
 Sea State & Visibility: Wave height 3 feet and visibility is 10 miles.

(Action Taken)

Air sea rescue units enroute.
 Crew still aboard the vessel.
 Grenada Lead Agency activating National Contingency Plan and has commenced aerial surveillance.
 Name of Other States and Territories Informed: Informed all other Caribbean Plan members for information alert only at this time.

1.6 EXAMPLE: CARIBPOLREP MESSAGE NO. 2

(Heading)

Date Time Group: 181645GMT
From: Lead Agency Grenada
To: REMPEITC-Carib, Curaçao – Netherlands Antilles
Pass To: Trinidad Lead Agency for Action

(Subject)

Caribpolrep No 2: M.T. West Passage leaking oil.

(Situation)

Tankship M.V. West Passage on fire, leaking oil, and in danger of sinking.

Date and Time: Fire reported 180745 GMT

Position: Vessel now dead in the water at 12°-30'N 61°-15'W.

Incident: Vessel sustained engine from fire which spread to cargo tanks and is out of control. Crew has abandoned vessel and air sea rescue units on scene. Vessel contains 156,000 tons of Arabian crude. Oil slick observed from aerial observations to be spreading west northwest. Slick 1/2 mile wide and 8 miles long.

Wind Direction/Speed: Wind is from 140 degrees at 15 miles per hour.

Current: Current is towards 270° at approximately 1 knots.

Sea State & Visibility: Wave height 4 feet and visibility is 10 miles.

Request Assistance: Request vessel dispersant spray equipment and available dispersant chemicals. Inform the Grenada Lead Agency of the quantity and type available. Request dispersant spray operating personnel to accompany equipment.

Estimate Cost: If known, cost of rental rate for dispersant spray equipment, dispersant spray chemicals by the drum and daily charges for operating personnel.

Assistance to Where/How: Assistance needed at mobilization area at the Port of St. George, Grenada as soon as possible. Please arrange air transportation equipment and operating personnel.

(Action Taken)

Grenada Response Agency assuming on scene responsibility for pollution abatement in Grenada's EEZ. Chemical dispersant response to oil at sea initiated.

Name of Other States Informed: Pass to St. Vincent, Tobago, St. Lucia for information.