

Exercise 3 Entrance to Cork Harbour

Exercise Cork Harbour

Command and control exercise

Fleet work simulators as follows

1. Coast guard
2. P41
3. P52
4. Work boat 1
5. Work boat 2
6. Local Authorities/Emergency Services
7. Harbour master
8. Media
9. Coordinator (at control station)

Background

Time: 07:30 Local Time

Date: 10th – 11th August 2015

High Water 02:30-Low Water 08:58

High water 15:05-Low Water 21:33

Wind south westerly 5 knots

Location: Entrance to Cork Harbour on the south coast of Ireland

A Coast Guard helicopter patrolling the south coast of Ireland is heading to Cork airport to refuel when it spots what appear to be a slick on the surface of the sea just to the west of the entrance to cork Harbour. The helicopter informs the coast guard radio station for the area and proceeds to cork to refuel.

When MRCC Dublin is informed they task the Naval Service to send a ship to the location to investigate and report back to MRCC. An ROV from the Naval Service is used to detect the source of the pollution a sunken container and to identify the contents by taking pictures of the identifying labels on the container.

What procedures must the harbourmaster put in place? Should he close the harbour?

Who determines the nature of the pollution source?

Who handles the media during the operation?

Step	Time	Script
1	07:30	Narrator: this exercise begins at 07:30 local time. The scenario takes place approximately one nautical mile west of Cork harbour on the south coast of Ireland. A coast guard helicopter patrolling the south coast of Ireland is heading to Cork airport to refuel when it spots a slick on the surface of the sea approximately 1 nautical mile west of the entrance to Cork harbour (one of the country's busiest ports). During the exercise we will see the response from the coast guard in managing the incident and the handling of the media. The assuming of onscreen command by the Naval Service. The response from the local authorities and the harbour master as the incident progresses.
1a	07:30	CG Helicopter: Valentia radio Valentia radio this is rescue 117 over
1b	07:30	Valentia radio: Rescue 117 this is Valentia radio go ahead over
1c	07:30	CG Helicopter: Valentia radio we have spotted a slick on the surface of the sea

		approximately 1 nautical mile west of the entrance to Cork harbour close to the shore over
1d	07:30	Valentia Radio: understood I will relay the information to MRCC Dublin over
1e	07:31	CG Helicopter: Valentia radio this is rescue 117 we are heading to Cork airport to refuel over
1f	07:31	Valentia radio: understood out
2	07:35	Narrator: Thinking that it could be a potential HNS spill MRCC tasks the naval vessel LE ORLA P41 to proceed from the naval base to the scene a short distance from the naval base approximately 5 miles. The officer commanding P41 is to assess the situation and report back to MRCC.
3	07:45	Narrator: MRCC contacts the harbour master and informs him of a potential incident at the entrance to the harbour. The local authority is also informed and told to be on standby to implement the local action plan for the area for a possible HNS spill coming ashore.
4	08:40	Narrator: P41 has arrived on scene and assumes the role of on scene commander.
6	08:50	Narrator: the P41 discovers a slick in the surface about Half a kilometre long and 200m wide. The slick is close to the shore and is

		drifting south west away from the entrance to the harbour
7	09:05	P41: MRCC this P41 we suggest an exclusion zone from the western side of cork harbour to the Old Head of Kinsale be enforced. We are about to launch a rib to take some samples of the slick over.
8	09:06	MRCC: understood we will broadcast the exclusion zone out.
9	09:07	Valentia radio: all stations all stations all stations this is Valentia radio Valentia radio an exclusion zone in now in place from the western edge of Cork harbour to the old Head of Kinsale up to 2 nautical miles from the coast all vessels to obey the exclusion area until further notice. Out
10	09:30	Narrator: P41 launches a rib with sampling equipment, the crew of the rib are all wearing PPE. P41 requests the assistance of the Naval diving section and their ROV to help locate the source of the spill. A second Naval ship is on standby in the naval base the LE Niamh P52 will transport the naval divers with their equipment to the scene
11	09:44	Narrator: The coast guard contact the local and national media and inform them of the situation evolving on the south coast. The rib crew return to the P41 with samples

		of the slick they will later be analysed.
12	10:15	Narrator: P52 arrives on scene with a detachment of naval divers and an ROV, the on scene commander and the officer commanding the Naval Diving section develop a plan to investigate a possible submerged source of the slick.
13	11:20	P41: MRCC this is P41, P52 is about to deploy an ROV near where the slick appears to be coming to the surface they will record what they find and we will send you in the images over
13a	11:21	MRCC: P41 thanks for the update standing by over
13b	11:21	P41: MRCC this is P41 out
14	11:25	Narrator: The coast guard have mobilised a group of volunteers they have reported to the coast guard station in Crosshaven and are preparing to embark booms on to a work boat that has arrived from Cobh. The Harbour master had considered closing the harbour to vessels but decides against it when he found out that the slick was to the west of the harbour and drifting westerly.
15	12:24	P41: MRCC this is P41 we have located a submerged 40ft tank container in 12 meters of water there it is a leak in a valve that is partly open and it is the source of the slick,

		we have taken a series of images of the container and will send them to you over
15a	12:25	MRCC: P41 thanks for the information as soon as we identify the contents we will let you know over
15b	12:26	P41: MRCC understood if you think is safe the diving team believe they can get to the valve and shut it off over
15c	12:28	MRCC: P41 wait for further instructions over
15d	12:28	P41: understood out
16	13:10	Narrator: the work boat arrives on scene and the Naval vessels deploy the booms a second work boat arrives with more booms and the spill is contained in the booms
17	13:15	Narrator: MRCC informs the onscreen commander that the slick is oily waste and that the divers can carry out diving operations to close the valve.
18	14:00	Narrator: The first attempt by the divers fails but the second dive is successful and the source of the leak is stopped.
18a	14:05	P41: MRCC this is P41 naval divers have succeeded in closing the valve the spilling from the container has been stopped over
19	14:10	Narrator: MRCC informs the Local authority and the harbour master but keeps them on standby should the oily slick drift ashore or into the harbour.

		The media are informed that the slick has been contained. And a clean-up and recovery will begin as soon as a vessel can get from Cork to remove the pollution from the sea
20	15:05	Narrator: The recovery operation begins and lasts for 5 hours The Navy vessels maintain the exclusion zone while the operation is in place
21	22:15	Valentia radio: All stations all stations all stations this is Valentia radio Valentia radio the exclusion zone from west of cork harbour to the old head of Kinsale is no longer in effect out
22	15:20 11 th August	Narrator: A jack up vessel is brought in from the UK the next day and recovers the container from the sea bed. The container is removed and disposed of.
23	16:00 11 th August	End Ex