



Marine Terrorism Response Plan (MTR) Project

Background

The Marine Terrorism Response Plan project is a partnership initiative of the **Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission** and the **Port of Seattle**.



Funded by the **Office for Domestic Preparedness** through an Urban Areas Security Initiatives (UASI) grant, the project is tasked with *"... developing and validating a multi-agency response system and national model plan to aid the safe and effective mobilization of local, state and federal resources to marine terrorism incidents."*



Port of Seattle is recipient of the grant and accountable to OPD for proper use of the funding. The Port assists the Board of Directors of the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission (PSMFC) with project management oversight. Authority to conduct the project is delegated by PSMFC to the MTR Project Team. A. D. Vickery, as Chairman of the PSMFC serves as the MTR Project Team Leader. Team Members responsible for sections of the project include;

- Ed Page: Plan Development and Project Management
- Earl Sodeman: Exercise Sequence
- Luke Carpenter: Training
- Robert Olsen: Logistics
- Bob Bohlman: Finance

The Project Team recognized the need to accomplish four critical objectives.

- Develop a plan that will enable responders to minimize the impact of marine terrorism on life, property and the environment.
- Ensure that the plan provides for a "tiered" response capability.
- Model the tools needed to achieve an enhanced and sustainable maritime terrorism response capability that is also applicable to other marine emergencies.
- Engage local and national agencies and maritime community representatives in the plan development process.

MTR Project work commenced in June 2004 and is scheduled to be completed by December 2005.

Project Status

Outreach: Initial efforts focused on Puget Sound area and national outreach providing information on the MTR project and working to achieve feedback and acceptance for the project tasks and objectives. Elements of the outreach process included extensive communications and coordination with U. S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) Puget Sound, Headquarters Command in Washington D. C. and COTP offices in six other major US ports. Support and involvement of the US Coast Guard in the MTR Project has been excellent.

Puget Sound area outreach included the delivery of project briefings to the Area Maritime Security Committee, the Harbor Safety Committee, the State of Washington Committee for Homeland Security and to HLS Committees in Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. Collectively the briefings achieved quality feedback on the structure and content of the overall project.

Project coordination with elements of the maritime industry has been accomplished through the conduct of two Subject Matter Expert workshops. Representatives of the cruise lines, ferry systems, tankers, container and bulk cargo vessels owners and operators, the Puget Sound Marine Response Alliance, and the Washington State Maritime Cooperative Agreement have participated in the workshops.

In direct response to feedback from the regional briefings, the MTR Project Team worked in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Coast Guard Investigative Service to conduct a workshop focused on law enforcement issues and concerns. The March 4, 2005 event was very beneficial in that it provided the plan writers with significant information and comment on law enforcements elements of the MTR Plan.

A National Senior Advisory Group (SAG) has been assembled to provide the MTR Project with a process of vetting the draft plan. This group consists of 45-60 individuals representing, US Coast Guard commands, Port Authorities, Fire Departments, Law Enforcement agencies, and marine industry from six other US Ports; Los Angeles/Long Beach, Houston, Miami, New York, New Orleans and Delaware Tri-State. The SAG met in Seattle in mid-December 2004 for a two day workshop focused on concepts and issues to be addressed in the MTR Plan. This same group of experts will meet again in Seattle in May 2005 to review the draft plan document and evaluate the utility and application of the technology tools developed by the project team. Several members of the SAG will serve as evaluators during the full-scale exercise scheduled for September 2005.

After action comments relating to the workshops can be found on the MTR website.

Plan Development

From the inception of the MTR Project, team members recognized the need to develop a written plan that would be thorough in it's coverage of relevant issues, flexible in its application to differing maritime areas of operations and acceptable to the first responder community. Based on feedback from Subject Matter Experts and the Senior Advisory Group the national model plan will consist of three volumes: Volume 1 - Preparedness;

Volume 2 - Response; and Volume 3 - Field Operations Guide. Outline of the content for each volume is provided below.

Volume 1: Preparedness

Introduction / Overview

References

- A. Background: (Marine terrorism response, the MTR Project, NIMS application, Plan Development Process, National Application)
- B. Organization and ICS Assignments (Organization Tailored for MTR Area Command, ICS Taskings Unique to MTR)
- C. Command Centers and Command Posts (Location, Size, Outfitting, Technology)
- D. Training
- E. Resource Management (Typing Resources, Certifying and Credentialing, Inventory, Resource Acquisition, Resource Recovery, Reimbursement)
- F. Drills and Exercises
- G. Plan Dissemination
- H. Web Applications
- I. Plan Security
- J. Readiness Measures
- K. Glossary

Volume II: Response

Introduction / Overview

- A. Incident Assessment / Size-Up (Vessel Incident Checklist, Vessel Incident Information Form, Facility Incident Checklist, Facility Incident Information Form)
- B. Notifications (Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, Briefing Sheets)
- C. Organization (Organization Stand-Up Checklist, Command Structures, ICS 201 Forms)
- D. Command Centers
- E. Resource Management (Incident Requirements, Ordering and Acquiring, Mobilization, Tracking and Reporting, Recovery, Subject Matter Experts)
- F. Communications
- G. Technology (Resource Tracking, Automated Notifications, Web Information Exchange)
- H. Emergency Response (Law Enforcement, Fire & Chemical, Bio/WMD, Mass Rescue, Medical)
- I. Incident Triage
- J. Protection of Vessels and Facilities
- K. Recovery of Maritime Operations
- L. Public Affairs
- M. ICS Forms
- N. Glossary.

Volume III: Field Guide

Vessel Actions Guide

Facilities Actions Guide

Law Enforcement Guide

Fire & Chemical Guide
Bio/WMD Guide
Mass Rescue Guide

Training: Training developed within the MTR Project was designed to meet ODP Emergency Responder Guidelines. Firefighter specific curricula were written to comply with three guidance documents;

- NFPA 1405 – Guide for Land-Based Firefighters Who Respond to Marine Vessel Fires,
- NFPA 1005 – Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters (Proposed),
- Washington State Standard for Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters.

Awareness level training for all responders and emergency management personnel is available online at the MTR Project website; www.marineresponse.org. This training is provided at no cost to the student or to the student’s parent organization. Two courses are provided. *“The Marine Environment for First Responders: Awareness”* is designed for persons other than firefighters. *“Marine Terrorism Response (Firefighter): Awareness”* is specifically for volunteer and professional firefighters.

Following the completion of the awareness level course the individual will possess a basic understanding of the following concepts:

- What is terrorism?
- Terrorism rationale, methods and potential maritime targets.
- The Marine Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA).
- Terminology of the marine environment (definitions).
- The marine environment and related hazards.
- Marine terminals / facilities.
- Vessel types, vessel familiarization, ship’s documents, flag state and shipboard personnel.
- Response to an incident in the marine environment.
- How to protect against hazards in the marine environment.
- Protocols used to detect the potential presence of WMD agents or materials.
- Self-protection measures for WMD events and hazardous material events.
- Procedures for protecting a potential crime scene and request additional assistance.
- How to use the US Department of Transportation’s (DOT) North American Emergency Response Guidebook.
- How the National Response Plan (NRP) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) are used to efficiently manage domestic incidents.

Three advanced courses of instruction are provided for firefighters. Two of these courses are provided online at the MTR project website. *“Marine Terrorism Response (Firefighter): Performance - Defensive”* and *“Marine Terrorism Response (Firefighter): Performance – Offensive.”* This online training is also provided at no cost to the student or to the student’s parent organization.

The third course of instruction is *“Marine Terrorism Response (Firefighter): Live Fire Training.”* Live fire training is conducted in a 2-day, hands-on session at the Washington State Fire Training Academy where participants demonstrate both offensive and defensive techniques using petrochemical fuels in a simulated vessel apparatus.

MTR Project funding for attendance at live fire training is provided to the Fire Department's parent fiscal agency by reimbursement at the standard labor rate. Registration for live fire training is arranged through Luke Carpenter, lcarpenter@marineresponse.org. Scheduling and funding arrangements for this live fire training beyond calendar year 2005 will be made through the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission.

Emergency Management Divisions, Emergency Services Coordinating Agencies, Law Enforcement Agencies, and Fire Departments can register online with the MTR Training Administrator www.marineresponse.org. Once the registration process is complete, each agency will manage its own scheduling of employee training.

Following completion of the MTR Project, administration of the online training will transfer to the Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission.

Technology

MTR Website www.marineresponse.org: The website was developed to provide project information and communications with first responders, emergency management personnel, Subject Matter Experts and members of the National Senior Advisory Group. The courses of instruction mentioned above are located on the website. The site also provides a means of e-mail communications with the MTR Team. The website will be used as a means of distribution of the draft and final MTR Plan documents. The MTR Network discussed below will be accessed through the website.

MTR Network: The Project Team has selected the WebEOC software developed by ESI Acquisition, Inc. of Augusta, GA as the application for a marine terrorism response network. Network development will occur between April and December 2005. The network will be made available to industry and response community users participating in the MTR Full Scale Exercise (FSE).

Our task is to develop a model link between maritime industry and the emergency management community, first responders and federal and state agencies. The network will be suitable for use before, during and after a marine terrorism incident. The MTR Network is expected to be compatible with, but independent of, the WebEOC networks currently used by the State of Washington Emergency Management Division and numerous county and city Emergency Operations Centers in the Puget Sound area.

Resource Management: The National Incident Management System (NIMS) manual Chapter 4 identifies eight processes for managing resources. Working in coordination with the NIMS Integration Center, the MTR Project team will work to accomplish the following processes within the 2005 project period.

- Typing of marine specific resource / response units using the methodology in use at the NIMS Integration Center.
- Inventorying a sample of the response resources located within the Puget Sound marine area.
- Identify best practices for mobilizing resources
- Identify and test methods of real-time tracking of resource units.

Methods to identify resource requirements, order and acquire resources and to recover resources will be incorporated into the checklists of the MTR Plan Volume II – Response Plan and into Volume III - Field Operations Guide.

Exercise Sequence

Validation of the MTR Plan and its employment of technology tools will be accomplished through a complete sequence of exercise events. Schedule for the sequence is as follows:

- Table-Top Exercise (TTX): March 18, 2005 – **Completed**. The TTX After Action Report will be posted on the MTR website by April 15, 2005.
- Functional Exercise (FEX): June 30, 2005
Initial Planning Conference April 15, 2005; 0800-1200
- Full Scale Exercise (FSE): September 26-29, 2005

Attendance at the Functional Exercise is by invitation. MTR Team Point of Contact is Randy Hansen, (206) 465-3643, randy.hansen@comcast.net

Expectations

Plan Development versus Plan Implementation. The project task is to develop a national model plan for response to marine terrorism. Implementation of the plan within a specific area of operations will be the collective decision of the primary stakeholders (Industry, First Responders, Authorities Having Local Jurisdiction and State and Federal Agencies.) There is not sufficient time or funding within the current project to implement the model plan within the Puget Sound area of operations. The Project Team is working to identify tasks and resources to implement the plan in Puget Sound once that collective decision has been.

Contact Information

Additional information on the Marine Terrorism Response Plan Project can be obtained by contacting one or more of the following individuals;

Randy Hansen; randy.hansen@comcast.net Exercise Sequence

Luke Carpenter; lcarpenter@marineresponse.org Training Program

Richard Fife; rfife@marineresponse.org Resource Management, MTR Network, Outreach, Workshop Coordination

John Veentjer; jveentjer@marineresponse.org MTR Plan Development, National Senior Advisory Group (SAG)

Ed Page; epage@marineresponse.org MTR Plan Development, SAG