2008 International Oil Spill Conference: Assessment of Oil Spill Response Capabilities: A Proposed International Guide for

Oil Spill Response Planning and Readiness Assessments

2008 International Oil Spill Conference

OSR readiness is not done in one set of tasks. Instead readiness evolves from recognizing the need for preparedness, to allocating resources to address the issue, and gaining participation. Readiness is an ongoing process that requires continued effort, testing, evaluation, and improvement (Figure 2).

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5.4 Pre-Planned response

Emergency measures should have been pre-defined to reduce the number and type of potential effects from a spill. Equipment should be pre-staged. Contingency plans should be pre-developed for specific, high-risk spills. Potential places of refuge should be identified and procedures put in place for their implementation.

- 5.4.1 Equipment pre-staged and/or plans pre-developed for defined high risk
- 5.4.2 Potential Places of Refuge In November 2003, the IMO Assembly adopted two resolutions addressing the issue of places of refuge for ships in distress:
 - A.949(23), Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of Assistance... intended for use when a ship is in need of assistance but the safety of life is not involved. Where the safety of life is involved, the provisions of the SAR Convention should continue to be followed.
 - A.950(23), Maritime Assistance Services (MAS)- recommends that all coastal States should establish a maritime assistance service (MAS). The principal purposes would be to receive the various reports, consultations and notifications for monitoring a ship's situation.
- 5.4.3 Initial Spill Controls
 - Source Control
 - Shut-in procedures
 - Emergency lightering and transfers

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