



# PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND OIL SURROGATES WORKGROUP INITIAL EXERCISE PLANNING MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday March 8, 2016 via teleconference

## MEETING PURPOSE

This was an Initial Planning Meeting (IPM) for the Exercise Planning Team, a sub-group of the PWS Oil Surrogates Workgroup. The Planning Team will meet periodically to develop the scenario and exercise plan for an intended field release of oil surrogate materials as part of an on-water exercise or training in Port Valdez.

Our approach to exercise planning follows the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), a standard approach to exercise design and implementation that is widely used across the U.S., particularly by federal and state agencies. We will use a modified Exercise Plan that follows the basic approach outlined in HSEEP, but adapted for our purposes.

For more information about HSEEP, go to: [http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1914-25045-8890/hseep\\_apr13 .pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1914-25045-8890/hseep_apr13.pdf)

## ATTENDEES

C. Berg, NOAA SSC	M. Melton, Chadux
R. Bernhardt, ADEC	R. Robertson, PWSRCAC
S. Decker, Chadux	J. Robida, PWSRCAC
E. DeCola, Nuka Research	W. Wofford, USCG
J. Engle, ADEC	

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

### Review initial workgroup meeting outcomes

The group reviewed the outcomes of the initial work group meeting, the most substantial being the decision to continue with this process and plan for a field exercise that incorporates a surrogate deployment in late 2016.

### Exercise objectives

Two objectives were established:

1. Conduct a field deployment in Prince William Sound that includes the release of one or more oil surrogates to practice tracking and targeting oil slicks for collection.
2. Evaluate whether surrogate use enhances deployment.

### Scenario

- For the purpose of the exercise, a basic scenario involving a diesel spill (1,000 bbl) in Port Valdez will be presented. One or more oil surrogates will be deployed to mimic the oil.



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#### Surrogate release parameters

Materials that may be considered for release:

- Dog food
- Wood chips
- Spruce needles
- Peat moss
- Dye (rhodamine or fluorescence) – ADEC has a gallon in stock

#### Participation in the Exercise

The following people and equipment were identified as possibly participating in the exercise. No firm commitments are in place at this time.

- Everyone in the workgroup will have some role – participant, observer, evaluator, facilitator
- RCAC has potential funding to support contracting a vessel for deployment or observers
- Detection/tracking of surrogate movement (possible):
  - City of Valdez drone
  - OSRI aerostat balloon
- Boom:
  - Chadux (possibly time deployment in conjunction with August hub visit/training)
  - ADEC

#### Tactics to be Exercised

- STAR manual will likely be used for tactic reference
- Precise tactic(s) tested TBD

#### Evaluation criteria

- How does inclusion of surrogates impact (benefit/hinder) the exercise?
  - Training value, particularly to responders who do not have the opportunity to work with actual oil very often or at all
- After action report to include specific information about logistics to inform future activities:
  - How much did it cost? Where did materials come from? How challenging to deploy and retrieve? Etc.
  - Try to inform the broader question of “can/should surrogates be integrated into exercise/training in PWS”?

#### Schedule

- Target late summer/early fall



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- Coordinate with Chadux/SERVS boom training if possible
- Need a minimum of 2 months to get agency approval of exercise plan – which means planning needs to be in place before June.

#### Exercise Plan

- Begin populating exercise plan
- Discuss at next full work group meeting

#### Next Steps

Outstanding questions:

- Should we do some proof-of-concept testing using surrogate materials & different equipment in tanks before hand? (i.e. how long do various materials remain floating in PWS conditions, can you run peat moss through a skimmer, etc.)
- Public communications/perception concerns

Workgroup meeting:

- Input on which surrogate material(s) to include in this exercise

### MEETING MATERIALS

**Project website:** <http://www.nukaprojects.com/#!pws-surrogates/aoc2r>  
(password protected, password to be distributed to participants via e-mail)