



**KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**Ministry of Defense and Aviation  
Meteorology and Environmental  
Protection Administration**

**National Contingency plan for  
Combatting Marine Pollution by Oil  
and other Harmful Substances in  
Emergency Cases**

**According to Council Ministers Agreement  
No : 157**

**Dated : 20 - 11 - 1411 H  
03 - 06 - 1991 G**

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Should the Arabic version differ from the English translation, the Arabic version shall prevail.

3ed Edition 1422 H.

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## ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this plan the following definitions are given to to the following terms :

**the plan** is the National Contingency plan for Combatting Marine pollution by oil and other Harmful Substances in emergency cases

**pollution** means pollution by oil and other harmful substances in emergency cases .

**MEPA** is the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration

## ARTICLE 2 GENERAL POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

### ***a. General Policy***

It is the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the exploration for oil ,and the transportation of oil and other harmful substances , is to be carried out in such a manner as to minimize the risk of environmental and economic damage or threat to public health. In the event that a spillage does occur, swift and effective action will be taken to minimize the environmental and public health risks resulting from the spill.

### ***b. Objectives***

This plan is aimed to formulate a system for responding immediately to, and coordinating the actions required, to protect the Saudi marine and coastal environmental from the effects of oil spilled. This will be done by making full use of the available resources both regionally and internationally. This entails mobilizing and coordinating all of the available equipment, manpower and expertise necessary to combat spill situations.

The Plan is also aims to cope with the Kingdom's obligations embodied in the regional and international agreements for the protection of the marine environment and any other relevant agreement the Kingdom is part of it.

## **ARTICLE 3** **LEVELS OF RESPONSE**

### ***a. National Oil Spill Response***

MEPA will plan and coordinate response activities to control oil pollution in emergency situations and will:

- *formulate a national policy for oil pollution control in the Kingdom's marine environment;*
- *act in accordance with the protocols of regional cooperation in the area of combatting pollution, and any other similar regional or international obligation in the future;*
- *undertake surveillance, monitoring and studies necessary for tracking of oil spills and the determination of pollution impacts;*
- *manage the plan and coordinate implementation procedures;*
- *determine equipment required for the plan.*

### ***b. Pollution Response Activities in the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf***

A committee will be set up for activities in each of the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf. Each committee will consist of concerned responsible personnel from the following authorities:

1. *Ministry of Defense and Aviation (MEPA-Region-Coordinator-to chair the Committee).*
2. *Ministry of Interior (Coast Guard and Civil Defense Authorities).*
3. *Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs.*
4. *Ministry of Municipality and Rural Resources.*
5. *Saudi Ports Authority.*

The area operation committee is permitted to invite representatives from any other authority to participate in these activities. The committee will also plan and coordinate the response activities for pollution situations in both areas where the situation necessitates area wise efforts. The committee is entrusted with the following:

1. *To study the local contingency plans for marine and coastal facilities (paragraph b. Article 4)*

2. *To identify the necessary manpower and equipment required for combatting pollution that are available in the facilities of the concerned area, according to agreements reached with those authorities.*
3. *To supervise the implementation of the plan.*
4. *To prepare and develop a contingency plan for the whole area including the collective local plans (refer to Article 4 paragraph a.) and to take the necessary resources for pollution combatting.*
5. *To follow up reports concerning pollution situations in the area.*
6. *To list the equipment required for pollution combatting and to evaluate their operation status.*
7. *Follow up the training of staff in the response activities.*
8. *To take necessary measures for providing medical supervision to those affected by pollution incidents in coordination with the Ministry of Health.*
9. *Undertake any other tasks the EPCCOM deems necessary.*

The head of the Area operations should submit periodical reports on the activities of the committee to MEPA.

### ***c. Local Pollution Response***

The following authorities will undertake pollution prevention, protection and combatting activities within the marine and coastal areas and facilities belonging to them. Each of these authorities will appoint a responsible person for the response

activities in each facility or area controlled by them

1. *Ministry of Defense and Aviation (MEPA and Royal Navy)*
2. *Ministry of Interior (Frontier Force).*
3. *Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources and associated organizations and companies*
4. *Ministry of Industry and Electricity*
5. *Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs (Municipalities in the coastal areas).*
6. *Saudi Ports Authority*
7. *General Organization for Distillation of Saline Water*

8. *Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu.*
9. *Any other authority having marine or coastal facilities.*

#### **ARTICLE 4** **AREA AND LOCAL PLANS**

The Plan will be implemented by developing and implementing an area plan for pollution combatting in the economic area controlled by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea. It also includes local plans for marine and coastal facilities as follows:

***a. Area Plan.***

The Area Operations Committee will prepare the Area Plan in consultation with the authorities mentioned in paragraph C. of Article 3. The Area Plan will include the executive procedures and instructions that are necessary for response operations in case of pollution in their areas. These procedures will include the following:

- *a compilation of the area local plans;*
- *a surveillance and monitoring system for discovery of pollution in Saudi waters and the coasts of the region and for notification of such pollution;*
- *a command system for alerting the operations committee;*
- *compile a manual for the area contingency plan;*
- *identification of local support organizations involved in pollution response and key personnel within those organizations;*
- *inventory of pollution response resources within the area including government and private manpower and equipment;*
- *communications and logistic procedures for the allocation of manpower and equipment from one facility to another to assist in the containment of pollution until the immediate danger has been ended;*
- *listing of critical water use facilities and ecologically sensitive areas and methods to be used to protect them;*
- *survey of potential pollution sources and determination of the maximum credible spill from each;*
- *instructions for obtaining oceanographic and marine meteorology data and estimating spill trajectories.*

- *data collection worksheets and instructions on the spill event and documentation procedures;*
- *description of preferable methods for the containment of pollution incidents and cleanup and disposal techniques including instructions for obtaining necessary approval in particular cases;*
- *assessment of the financial expenses incurred as a result of a local pollution incident. As well as the compensation of the concerned party that has undertaken the operation of combatting the pollution in accordance to the arrangements taken so far between the two parties.*

**b. Local Plans**

The organizations mentioned in Article 3 Item (c) have to prepare local plans for combatting pollution within their areas. Such preparation should be done in consultation with MEPA. Such plans should include executive instructions required for pollution response. When prepared the plans should be submitted to the area operations committee with:

responsibilities and duties of key personnel for pollution response activities including their names and the ways of contact.  
 communication and logistic procedures for the deployment of manpower and equipment;  
 procedures identifying how to contact MEPA, Area Operation Committee and other relevant organizations.

**ARTICLE 5**  
**RESPONSIBILITIES**

MEPA and other organizations having marine activities or facilities will be entrusted with the various activities related to the emergency response operations associated to pollution. In addition to responsibilities designated under this plan, MEPA shall prepare, disseminated and monitor implementation of policies, regulations and procedures of combatting and prevention of pollution.

**a. Coordination**

MEPA will coordinate activities of other organizations related to the pollution response operations according to prior arrangements between MEPA and those organizations

**b. Surveillance and Monitoring**

MEPA will use the financial resources available in the budget of the plan. In emergency cases, MEPA will seek help from the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, The Saudi Ports Authority, Civil Defense Authority and Coast



Guard Authority to undertake surveillance and monitoring activities in the water of the economic area privately owned by the Kingdom according to arrangements agreed upon by MEPA and these organizations. The surveillance will include:

- *aerial observations;*
- *sea surveillance;*
- *coastal surveillance;*
- *remote sensing;*
- *observation reports from military, civil and private aircraft and ships;*
- *any other practical means available.*

#### ***c. Protection***

All organizations having marine or coastal facilities (mentioned in paragraph (c) of Article 3) should provide necessary protection to these facilities including manpower, tools and equipment. Equipment should be operational and ready for use in case of any pollution incident.

#### ***d. Combat***

Subject to specifications agreed upon between MEPA and the relevant organizations, all organizations having marine or coastal facilities (Article 3 (c)) will undertake cleanup operations within their areas and shall provide adequate equipment and manpower. Outside these areas MEPA and the appropriate municipalities will undertake cleanup activities within the scope the responsibility of each of them; while the Frontier Forces will extend any necessary capabilities available.

#### ***e. Disposal***

In consultation with affected authorities, MEPA will identify appropriate sites and methods for the disposal of collected oil and oiled debris.

#### ***f. Studies***

MEPA will undertake appropriate scientific studies in coordination with national universities and research centres and other studies related to the above mentioned activities. Authorities undertaking studies on pollution in the marine and coastal areas must coordinate with MEPA in order to make use of former studies in the field and hand over their studies to MEPA.

## **ARTICLE 6** **IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES**

The actions taken to respond to incidents of pollution depend upon many factors including the nature of pollutant, its magnitude and location of the incident. These response actions involve the following phases:

### ***Phase 1 - Notification***

All organizations having marine or coastal facilities or marine activities such as the Coast Guard Authority, the Royal Navy, fishing companies, all ship captains and aircraft pilots etc., should report any pollution observed to the Area Coordinator or MEPA to take the necessary actions. MEPA should circulate explanatory instructions on the notification methods.

### ***Phase 2 - Evaluation***

When emergency notification is received from the area coordinator, the Area Operations Committee will meet in order to evaluate the situation. Evaluation must include the following points:

1. *Classification of the size of pollution as indicated in the plan annex 1.*
2. *Evaluation of the necessity for containment and cleanup operations.*
3. *Evaluation of the feasibility of various options in containment or cleanup operations.*
4. *Undertaking of relevant actions in commencing combatting operations according to the area plan.*

The area coordinator must notify MEPA if the pollution necessitates a response exceeding the locally available resources or if it has regional and international effects.

### ***Phase 3 - Containment and Preventive Measures***

Whenever the situation necessitates undertaking containment measures, the key personnel in the response activities must coordinate their efforts to take the preventive measures within their areas. The safety of the people involved in these operations and the public safety must be taken into consideration.

These measures include:

- *attempts to stop pollution from its sources;*
- *placements of booms to prevent spread of spill and to protect the sensitive installations and locations;*

- minimize hazards of the pollution incident;
- to use dispersant specified by MEPA already agreed upon with the concerned authorities.

#### ***Phase 4 - Cleanup and Disposal***

The importance of collecting oil and other harmful substances from the sea and coastal areas should be taken into consideration. Should circumstances require it, the response key figures in the local sites must try their best to use the appropriate means e.g. skimmers, sorbents, dredgers etc. from their facilities. They must also follow the Area Plan to identify the priorities of the areas to be cleaned, and to identify the areas for the disposal of aggregated substances.

The Area Operations Committee will undertake supervision and follow up tasks.

#### ***Phase 5 - Documentation***

The Area Operations Committee, through the response key personnel, undertakes the collection of necessary data and documentation to identify the responsible party for the pollution incident, to evaluate the effectiveness of combatting, to assess the costs and to study environmental impacts. Documentation includes films, photographs (if possible), statements of witnesses, completed forms, letters, telexes, contracts, field records, samples, results of analyses, information, press releases, communication logs and other documentation.

As soon as the pollution response operations are completed the Area Coordinator submits, within 30 days from the completion of the of the response operations, comprehensive reports to MEPA describing the development of the incident, actions taken, resources utilized, financial costs and problems and obstacles encountered in the response operations

### **ARTICLE 7** **FINANCING**

Combatting activities of limited pollution mentioned in the Plan will be financed from and within the funds allocated for the plan in MEPA budget and in the budgets of the other organizations participating in pollution combatting within their areas in accordance with the Plan.

In emergency situations which exceed the available capabilities, MEPA will be permitted, by an agreement to be made between the President of EPCCOM and the Ministry of Finance, to sign contracts and agreements with any other specialized party e.g. private companies, government agencies, regional or international organizations, no matter whether Saudi or non Saudi. This requirement is to provide swift assistance required for observations, surveillance, monitoring, combatting, cleanup, disposal and to evaluate the studies necessary to cope with such situations and to identify the impacts of these situations

**ARTICLE 8**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MARINE POLLUTION**  
**COMBATting**

To implement the National Plan, a working committee will be formed to review the pollution issues and recommend instructions related to the policies and trends to be adopted.

The committee consists of the following:

Ministry of Defense	MEPA (Chairman)
Ministry of Interior	Royal Navy
	Frontier Forces
	Civil Defense
	Authorities General
	Secretariat for Higher
	Commission for
	Industrial Security
Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources	
Ministry of Finance and the National Economy	
Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs	
Ministry of Industry and Electricity	
Saudi Ports Authority	
General Organization for Saline Water Distillation	
Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu	

The committee is permitted to invite any other relevant authority from time to time as consultations or observers.

***Committee Main Tasks:***

- *to review the policy for controlling oil pollution and other harmful substance;*
- *to review the plan;*
- *to approve the area plans;*
- *to follow-up the implementation and management of the plan;*
- *to review the expenses of the plan.*

- *to issue recommendation for equipment purchase;*
- *to review the status of the training programme required for the plan;*
- *to discuss matters related to marine pollution.*
- *to identify the responsibility of the polluter and take the necessary measures for formulating a claim and follow-up its settlement.*
- *This committee can hold a meeting on periodical or exceptional basis accordi.g to any member request.*

**ARTICLE 9**  
**ISSUE EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

It is with the competence of HRH the President of EPCCOM to approve the decisions of the National Committee for Marine Pollution Combatting and to issue the executive decisions for this plan.

## APPENDIX SPILLAGE CLASSIFICATIONS

### **1. *Limited Pollution Incident***

This is an incident that occurs within an area belonging to any of the organizations responsible for pollution combatting (according to Article 5 of the Plan) and having marine or coastal facilities. Such incidents could be combated or controlled by local resources of the affected organizations without assistance from other organizations. In this situation the local plan is applicable.

### **2. *Major Pollution Incident***

This is an incident that occurs within an area belonging to any of the organizations responsible for pollution combatting (according to article 5 of the Plan) and having marine or coastal facilities. It is provided that such pollution incident exceeds the capabilities of the organization concerned; hence, it seeks assistance in combatting the pollution through the Area Coordinator of the Area Operations Committee.