

Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Marine Oil Spills

International Maritime Organization

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The Instruments

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- The International Convention on Oil Preparedness, Response and Cooperation 1990 (OPRC 1990)
- The Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000)



The OPRC Convention & OPRC-HNS Protocol

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Both provide...

- a framework for the development of national and regional capacity to prepare for and respond to oil/HNS pollution incidents, and...

A platform to:

- facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to major oil/HNS pollution incidents



Background

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- The OPRC Convention was initially established in 1990 following the March 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster
- Entered into force five years later in May 1995.
- The HNS Protocol followed in 2000, in recognition of the increasing threat of pollution incidents involving chemicals
- The HNS Protocol entered into force on 14 June 2007



Current Status

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Instrument	Number of Contracting Parties	% of world's tonnage
OPRC 1990	90 (EOF 13 May 95)	65.17
HNS Protocol 2000	18 (EOF 14 June 07)	17.83



Obligations of parties

- National level -

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1. Pollution emergency plans
2. Reporting requirement
3. A national system for responding to Oil/HNS pollution incidents
4. Preparedness and response capacity



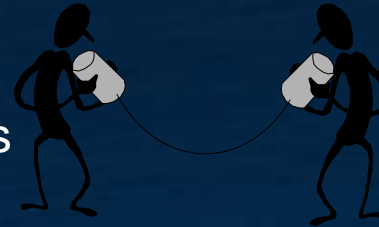
Obligations of Parties

- International level -

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Requirement for...

- Informing neighbouring States of spills which could affect them



- Providing assistance if requested by another party



- Parties agree, to the extent of their capability, to provide international assistance to other State parties, and;



- Requesting Parties agree to facilitate the receipt of such assistance in-country

- Involve oil, chemical & shipping industries in preparedness & response activities



The Role of IMO

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1. Information Services
2. Education & Training
3. Technical services
4. Technical assistance



Co-operation - a tiered approach

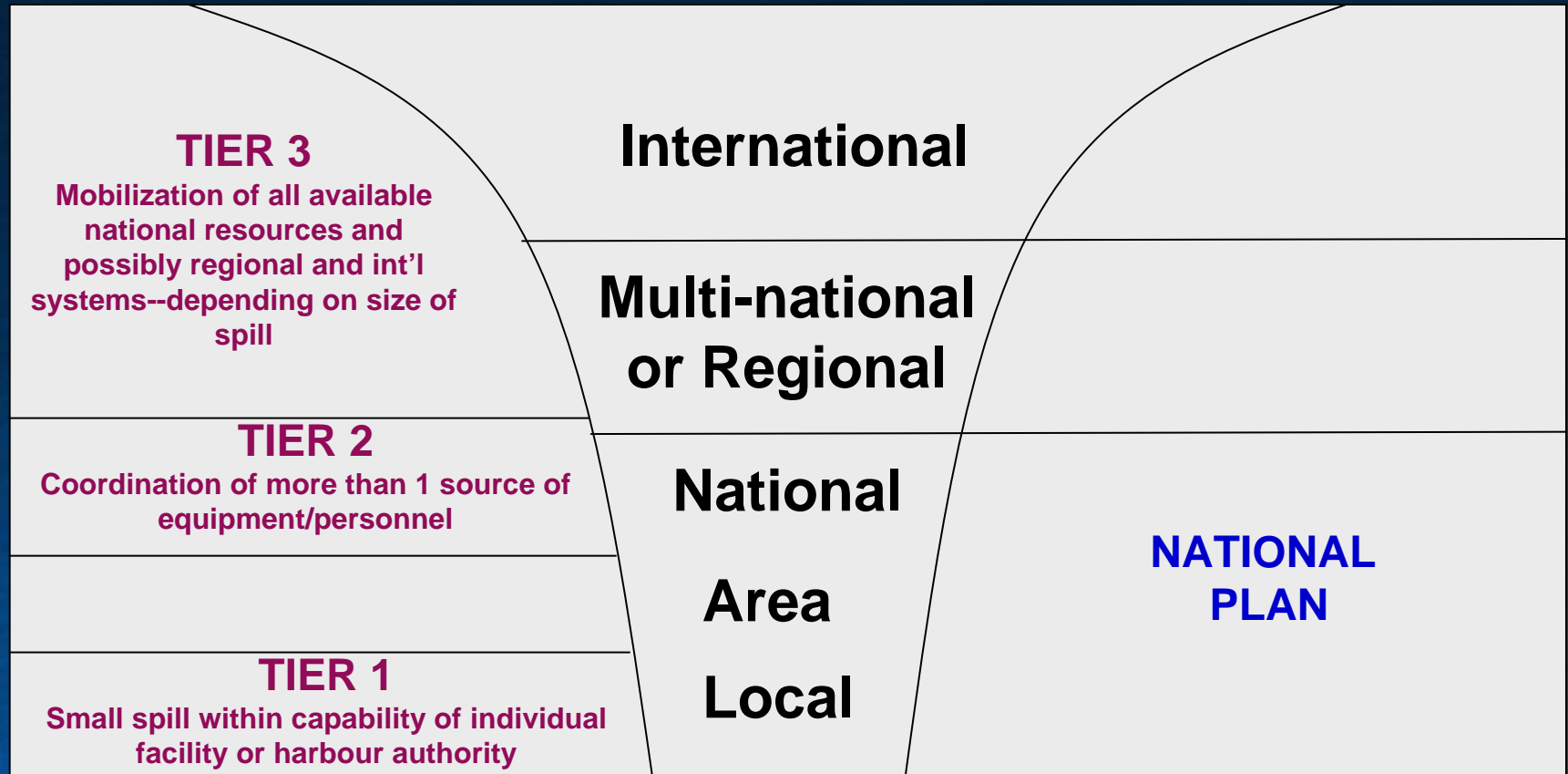
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- **National**
 - oil, industry, government (local, regional, national), academia
Shipping, ports, offshore
 - **National Oil Spill Contingency Plans**
- **Bilateral**
 - **Bilateral agreements**
- **Sub Regional/Regional**
 - Regional seas, agreements, organizations, institutions,
 - **e.g. Abidjan Convention**
- **Global**
 - International Conventions
 - **OPRC 1990, OPRC-HNS Protocol**



Global Response Framework

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**INDUSTRY
APPROACH**

**INTERNATIONAL
FRAMEWORK**



Mutual Assistance – basic provisions

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- Recognize the importance of and promote bilateral & multilateral co-operation (agreements, conventions, other...)
- Financing of assistance
 - Follows the principle that the Party requesting assistance shall reimburse the assisting Party
- Promote technical co-operation



Mutual Assistance – basic provisions cont'd

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- Important to involve the oil & shipping industries
- ‘Global Initiative’ – A Joint initiative between IMO and industry



Co-operation

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- IMO promotes and supports a regional approach to pollution preparedness and response
- This can be achieved through a regional instruments, such as regional protocols and agreements
- Further reinforced and supported by regional centres



The OPRC-HNS Technical Group

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- A subsidiary body of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- The OPRC-HNS Technical Group that meets in conjunction with MEPC to:
 - Share experiences among a network of partners – Member States, Regional Agreements and Industry
 - develops tools, resources, manuals, guidance documents and training courses to help assist countries in building capacity



Ingredients for long-term success

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- **Co-operation involving government, industry and other stakeholders who share the risk and responsibilities for:**
 - assessment of the risk and potential economic, social & ecological impacts
 - development of credible response strategies
 - clear definition & allocation of responsibilities
 - commitment to exercise, maintain and update (*sustainability*)



Thank you

