

# EMERGENCY PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (EPPR) Work Plan (2015 - 2017)

## Benefit to people in the Arctic Region

- Commitment to Arctic Council MOSPA exercises raises awareness of pan-Arctic pollution risks and promotes readiness for coordinated response
- Overview of oil spill response limitations in Arctic conditions will support optimized prevention and response strategies
- Helping small communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to disasters will be an area of focus for EPPR during the 2015-17 period
- The Arctic response equipment database will inform regional contingency planning and provide a comprehensive snapshot of the actual response capability in the Arctic.
- Safety of oil spill response workers is a critical element of a successful response operation

## SUMMARY

The EPPR is following-up the work in the last work plan, and taking into consideration the priorities of the incoming U.S. Chairmanship., It is also following-up on applicable recommendations from the Framework Plan developed by the Task Force on Oil Pollution Prevention and undertaking projects in support of the SAR Agreement.

## DELIVERABLES/ACHIEVEMENTS

International exercise under the auspices of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic (MOSPA)

Building on the first successful exercise of the agreement, hosted by Canada in 2014, the second functional exercise is being planned by the United States. The proposed planning concept includes a workshop in 2015, and a live exercise in 2016. The planning phase will include identification of spill scenarios by each Arctic Council state, from which, one high risk scenario will be selected for the 2016 live exercise. Objectives for the exercise include execution of the Agreement and Operational Guidelines notification and request for assistance procedures. (U.S. lead)

## Circumpolar Oil Spill Gap Analysis

This initiative will determine the necessity and viability of a comprehensive Circumpolar Marine Environmental Risk Analysis (CMERA) with a Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Gap Analysis as a first step. The goal is to build upon existing country gap analyses and, by applying common parameters, produce a pan-Arctic perspective. This will avoid duplicating work, but also identify

where gaps exist. The Gap Analysis will provide an evaluation of mechanical and alternative oil spill response strategies based on available data throughout the Arctic. A scoping workshop is planned for 2015. Participation will include consultants, member states and PP delegates, invited experts as well as interested observers and industry representatives. Further work depends on funding (leads: Norway, Kingdom of Denmark, U.S.).

### Prevention, Preparedness and Response for small communities

The objective of this project is to provide guidance to small communities on best practices related to Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural incidents (flooding, avalanches, destroyed infrastructure, effects of severe weather, etc.), oil spills and accidental releases of radionuclides that might threaten living conditions. Small communities in the Arctic will benefit from information sharing among Arctic states, which will lead to the development of guidelines and other tools for handling emergency prevention, preparedness and response within local communities. The project will begin with a scoping workshop to be held before June 2015. This project responds to the U.S. Chairmanship priority of improving economic and living conditions. The project will also be relevant for observer countries (leads: U.S., Norway, Canada, ICC and AIA).

### Development of a Database of Arctic Response Assets

In May 2013, the member states of the Arctic Council signed the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollutions Preparedness and Response in the Arctic. Both the Agreement and Operational Guidelines speak to spill notification processes, requests for assistance, movement of equipment and resources across borders, and other information critical to an expeditious response to a large oil spill affecting one or more countries. The documents also address requirements for training and exercises. Key to Arctic response preparedness and response is an understanding of the types, quantities, and locations of oil spill response assets that are currently utilized by Arctic countries. The objective for the project is to develop a searchable oil spill response database and populate it with detailed information on Arctic-specific equipment, vessels, dispersant stockpiles and application platforms, *in situ* burn boom, well containment and cap-and-flow devices, and other resources owned by or regionally available to all member states of the Arctic Council. At this time, a comprehensive database of available response assets in the Arctic does not exist. The proposed project would address this gap and is a priority of the U.S. Chairmanship of the Arctic Council (leads: U.S. and Norway).

### Development of Safety Systems in the Implementation of Economic and Infrastructural Projects

The overall goal of these projects is the improvement of industrial and environmental safety related to economic and infrastructural projects, primarily the development of hydrocarbons on the Arctic continental shelf and hydrocarbons transportation. In support of these projects, SAR and Oil Spill Response exercises are undertaken on an annual basis. In 2014, the first regional

Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Center opened, with the purpose of accumulating monitoring results and managing rapid reaction forces in strategically important spheres. This will make it possible to conduct efficient activities during emergencies. In 2015, the second Arctic Complex Search and Rescue Center will open in Murmansk (Russia lead).

### Arctic Rescue Project

The focus of this project is to elaborate best practices, recommendations and key elements of the emergency risk assessment system and the system for improving safety of potentially hazardous facilities. Significant outcomes include developing recommendations on joint activities aimed at ensuring industrial and environmental safety in major transportation corridors in northern Europe, as well as the development of legal regulation and management tools based on best international practices. The overall goal is the international promotion of advanced national experience and improvement of emergency preparedness through information exchange. Implementation of the project includes conducting research, seminars and conferences on relevant subject areas. The next international conference is planned for August 2015, in Salekhard, Russian Federation. The subject of the conference will be safety provisions of Arctic projects implementation (Russia lead).

### Occupational Safety and Health in Arctic Oil Spill Response Workers

This project will produce an EPPR report of the data availability, accessibility and quality to assess worker risk. Possible next steps may include development of solutions to occupational safety and health hazards to oil spill response workers. This type of information could supplement EPPR's Field Guide for Oil Spill Response to benefit the response community (US lead).

### Search and Rescue

EPPR's mandate has expanded to include SAR. EPPR will address SAR tasks in its work plan, including follow up to the SAR Agreement and addressing relevant findings from SAR exercises. Projects to implement the Framework Plan developed by the TFOPP  
Pending Arctic Council approval of the Framework Plan, EPPR will discuss and initiate possible follow-up activities.