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## Overview

This standard covers the skills and knowledge required to respond to emergency situations.

The Vessel Traffic Services Operator is required to comply with local, national and international regulations relevant to emergency situations in the Vessel Traffic Services area. The Vessel Traffic Services Operator must prioritise and respond promptly to both internal and external emergency situations, correctly selecting and using the appropriate contingency plan in the event of an emergency. The Vessel Traffic Services Operator must also be able to co-ordinate with and support allied services whilst also maintaining a safe waterway throughout emergency situations.

Additionally, Vessel Traffic Services Operators must be able to respond effectively to internal emergencies within the Vessel Traffic Services Centre. In particular, ensuring the continuity or resumption of services interrupted by incidents that impact the safety and security of the personnel and/or operation.

There are six elements in this standard:

1. Comply with local, national and international regulations
2. Prioritise and respond to incidents
3. Use contingency plans
4. Co-ordinate with and support stakeholders and allied services
5. Maintain a safe waterway throughout emergency situations
6. Respond effectively to internal emergencies within the Vessel Traffic Services Centre

### **Target Group**

This standard applies to an authorised Vessel Traffic Services Operator who has a duty to ensure the safety of navigation and protection of the environment within their area.

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## Respond to emergency situations

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### Performance criteria

#### Comply with local, national and international regulations

*You must be able to:*

- P1 recognise the various types of emergencies that may arise in a Vessel Traffic Services area, including collision, grounding, environmental pollution, fire, emergency involving hazardous cargoes, sinking, capsized, man overboard search and rescue incidents
- P2 apply local, national and international regulations appropriate to emergency situations in a Vessel Traffic Services area
- P3 apply the regulations governing transit of vessels in special circumstances
- P4 discharge own responsibilities and within limits of own authority in an emergency situation
- P5 report to the appropriate person(s) in an emergency situation
- P6 contact supporting and allied services according to the local emergency plan
- P7 identify the assets that might be available for deployment

#### Prioritise and respond to incidents

*You must be able to:*

- P8 ascertain the nature of the incident using all available means to collect and evaluate essential and relevant data
- P9 commence alerting procedures
- P10 establish and maintain communications with concerned individuals or units if possible
- P11 broadcast navigational warnings
- P12 maintain a record of activities relating to emergency situations
- P13 identify the objective of recording activities during emergency situations
- P14 follow standard operating procedures to record essential and reliable data during emergency situations
- P15 keep the recorded information in a safe and secure environment in accordance with standard operating procedures

#### Use contingency plans

*You must be able to:*

- P16 identify individual(s) who have the authority to prepare, implement, issue and update checklists
- P17 select the correct contingency plan/checklist for the emergency
- P18 implement the contingency plan correctly
- P19 use checklists appropriately

#### Co-ordinate with and support stakeholders and allied services

*You must be able to:*

- P20 maintain communications with emergency response units during emergency situations
- P21 maintain communications with vessel traffic during emergency situations
- P22 maintain communications with allied services during emergency situations
- P23 update situation reports as appropriate

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### **Maintain a safe waterway throughout emergency situations**

*You must be able to:*

- P24 maintain a traffic image throughout the emergency situation
- P25 maintain a safe waterway throughout the emergency situation in accordance with standard operating procedures and contingency plans
- P26 maintain traffic management and monitoring procedures
- P27 inform all appropriate authorities in accordance with standard operating procedures

### **Respond effectively to internal emergencies within the Vessel Traffic Services Centre**

*You must be able to:*

- P28 observe safety and security procedures and regulations
- P29 relocate and resume operations with minimal loss of services and with as short an interruption as possible in response to events

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## Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the hazards and risks of the workplace that may affect people and the environment
- K2 how to make and apply decisions based on the assessment of risk
- K3 how to apply practices that maximise the health, safety and welfare of self and others in the workplace
- K4 the national and international regulations, statutory authority, codes of practice and industry good practice in relation to Vessel Traffic Services and the role of Vessel Traffic Services Officer
- K5 your organisation's policies, procedures and working practices relevant to Vessel Traffic Services operations
- K6 the different roles within Vessel Traffic Service operations, their priorities and responsibilities
- K7 vessel movement and data record systems, their operating principles and how they are maintained
- K8 where to find sources of information relating to port marine and vessel traffic services
- K9 lines and methods of communication/reporting in the workplace
- K10 principles of effective communication
- K11 how verbal and non-verbal communications work
- K12 how to collect valid data
- K13 how to evaluate data
- K14 own organisation's contingency plans
- K15 how to operate equipment and systems in the Vessel Traffic Services area
- K16 the assets that might be available for deployment in an emergency situation

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### Additional Information

#### Scope

##### **Traffic management and monitoring procedures include:**

- 1 alternative routing arrangements,
- 2 diversionary procedures (traffic in immediate incident area)
- 3 anchorage areas
- 4 introduction of emergency speed restrictions
- 5 emergency alterations to VTS Sailing Plans and Passage Plans
- 6 exclusion zones, safety control zones

##### **Emergency events to include:**

- 1 terrorism threat
- 2 fire
- 3 building evacuation
- 4 flood
- 5 prolonged loss of power or other essential services
- 6 other emergency situations

##### **Equipment in Vessel Traffic Services areas include:**

- 1 Radio telephone equipment including Global Maritime Distress Safety Systems (GMDSS)
- 2 Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC)
- 3 Geographic Information System (GIS)
- 4 Automatic Identification System (AIS)
- 5 Shore-based radar tracking system
- 6 Ship-based radar
- 7 Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA)
- 8 Gyro and magnetic compass
- 9 Echo Sounder
- 10 Speed log
- 11 Satellite and terrestrial position fixing systems (e.g. Global Positioning System, Long Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN)
- 12 Local Area Augmentation (e.g. Differential GPS)
- 13 Automatic Identification System (AIS)

#### External Links

The important contribution of Vessel Traffic Services towards maintaining the safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and the protection of the marine environment is recognised nationally and internationally. International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation & Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) guidelines on recruitment, qualification and training for Vessel Traffic Services Operators have been adopted and are regulated in the UK through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. These Vessel Traffic Services National Occupational Standards take cognisance of and complement the IALA guidelines and model courses.

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**Relevant occupations** Vessel Traffic Service Operators; Vessel Traffic Service Supervisor; Vessel Traffic Service Manager; Harbour Masters; Marine Pilots; Ship's Master; Bridge Team

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**Suite** Vessel Traffic Services Operations

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**Key words** Vessel Traffic Services; harbour; marine; port; safety of navigation; radiotelephone; electronic messaging; signalling; data recording