

Report on the POSOW Valencia National Pilot Training



25-27 November 2013



Introduction

The Emergency Directorate of Generalitat Valenciana, in collaboration with the Port Institute for Studies and co-operation – Feports and the Rehabilitation Centre “La Granja”, organised a National Training Course on Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup, Volunteers Management and Wildlife Response between the 25 and 27 November 2013 in the training Centre IVASPE (“Instituto Valenciano de Seguridad Pública y Emergencias”) in Ceste, Valencia.

The training targeted volunteers of the Red Cross who could be involved, under the supervision of the competent authorities, in oil spill shoreline response operations. The objective of the training was to provide knowledge on oiled shoreline assessment and cleanup as well as oiled wildlife response.

This training was organised in the framework of the POSOW project co-financed by EU under the Civil Protection Financial Instrument developed in cooperation with ISPRA, *Cedre*, Sea Alarm and CPMR and coordinated by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre for the Mediterranean Sea - REMPEC a regional Centre of the Barcelona Convention.

Thirty-two volunteers from the Red Cross participated in the Training Course, together with five representatives from national and regional departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain. The list of participants is attached to the present report in **Annex I**.

Mrs Inmaculada Pilez-Alepuz, Officer at the Emergency Service of the Generalitat Valenciana, welcomed the volunteers and thanked them for their participation. Ms Souade Nasser, Junior Programme Officer at REMPEC took the floor to introduce the POSOW project.

Mrs Asunción Quinzá, The General Secretary of Gobernación, Mrs. Irene Rodríguez, Emergency General Director, and Mrs Angeles Navarro, Director of the training centre IVASPE, welcomed the participants underlining the importance of this training.

The programme of the 3 day training course is reported in **Annex II**. The language of the course was Spanish.

Course Delivery

Day 1

Oiled Shoreline Assessment

Mr David Incertis from FEPORTS, delivered a presentation on shoreline assessment, and stressed the importance of assessing the pollution type and extent prior acting. He gave examples at a regional level.

Oiled Shoreline Cleanup

Mr Incertis then introduced the general principles of shoreline cleanup, worksite organisation and relevant techniques according to the type of substrates.

Discussions on the availability of equipment in the region and roles and responsibilities for cleanup between volunteers and trainers took place.

Oiled Wildlife Response

Mr Jorge Crespo-Martinez, Wildlife Recovery Centre Technician at “La Granja”, delivered presentations on the wildlife response and handling, from the collection to the stabilisation of the animals. He also gave some advices to the Red Cross volunteers who work on the beaches of the regions, and often face injured birds on the beach. Volunteers and trainers also discussed the main contact points to be used in case of an emergency in the region, and the limit of action of those entities.

Day 2

Oiled Wildlife Response

Mr Crespo-Martinez continued his presentations on Oiled Wildlife Response, explaining the setting-up of a wildlife recovery centre.

Practical exercise

A practical exercise on Oiled Shoreline Assessment and Cleanup took place on a sandy beach of El Saler. Volunteers were given Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and briefed on Health and Safety prior to starting the practical exercise which consisted in:

- Shoreline assessment
- Worksite set-up
- Techniques of cleanup: sorbents
- Decontamination

Visit of the rehabilitation centre “La Granja”

Following the practical exercise, volunteers visited the Wildlife Recovery Centre “La Granja” in El Saler. Mr Crespo-Martinez gave information on the birds and turtles currently at the Centre, and made a demonstration on intubation to rehydrate contaminated birds. Volunteers were also invited to try the intubation techniques.

Day 3

On the last day of the training, Mrs Inmaculada Pilez-Alepuz, introduced the Volunteer Management explaining the response plan approved in the Valencia Community, and the roles assigned to the volunteers in those plans. She highlighted the main elements to take into account to ensure a safe and organised management of volunteers under the established chain of command. She also discussed with volunteers the relationship with media during oil pollution incident.

Mr José Manuel Corbal Gonzalez, from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, presented the National Response System in place in Spain.

Discussion between facilitators and volunteers took place, with particular emphasize on the role of volunteers and main contact points for each shoreline pollution issue in the region of Valencia.

Conclusion of the training

Evaluation of the training

Following the exercise, participants were invited to fill-in an evaluation sheet to provide the POSOW partners with their feedback on the National Training Course. The following table summarizes the evaluation given by 32 participants of the training. The rating is based on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being bad and 5 excellent.

Title of the conference/presentation/exercise	Content adequacy mark (from 1 to 5**)	Presentation mark (from 1 to 5**)	Observations
Oiled shoreline assessment	4.38	4.31	More exercise on this part
Oiled shoreline cleanup	4.31	4.31	More exercise on this part
Oiled Wildlife Response	4.63	4.50	More exercise on this part More information on specific species such as turtles
Exercise	4.22	4.31	More preparation and time on it.
Volunteer Management	3.91	3.95	More explanation on the risk related to an oily working environment, more information on PPEs

The above responses shows that the participants appreciated and valued the training content, material and the facilitators. According to the participants, improvements should be made on the following points:

- The exercise should be longer and take into account more aspects of the theoretical part, and wildlife exercises;
- The manuals should be translated in Spanish, it is too complicated to follow the manuals in English;
- More time should be dedicated on the Oiled Shoreline Assessment.

General discussion took place between volunteers and facilitators:

- Training such as the POSOW Course should be delivered to municipalities staff, who do not always have the basic knowledge needed to face shoreline oil pollution, in particular oiled wildlife rescue

- Communication between Wildlife Rescue Centre and Volunteers should be facilitated: contact points and duty hours should be clearly defined. It was also underlined that there is no 24/7 contact point for wildlife collection in the region.
- The language barrier was clearly stressed out by the volunteers: manuals and information related to the topics of the POSOW project can be found in Spanish from the following organisations and projects:
 - Cedre: <http://www.cedre.fr/index-es.php>
 - Arcopol and Arcopol + Projects: <http://www.arcopol.eu/home.aspx?id=es>
 - REMPEC guidelines, such as the Mediterranean Oiled Shoreline Assessment Guidelines available in Spanish
http://www.rempec.org/rempec.asp?theIDS=2_224&theName=RIS&theID=15&daChk=2&pgType=1
- Volunteers of the Red Cross suggested that with more trainings and trained people on the topics of the project, public awareness can be done by the organisation.

Certificate Delivery and conclusion of the training

At the end of training, Mrs. Irene Rodríguez from the General Directorate for Prevention, Fire fighting and Emergencies took the floor to thank the participants and the POSOW team for the valuable training, highlighting the importance of the volunteers' contribution in the response in case of a major incident. Certificates of the training were delivered to the volunteers together with the POSOW USB key containing all the material produced within the Project.

ANNEX I LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PILOT TRAINING COURSE

**Instituto Valenciano de Seguridad Publica y Emergencias
IVASPE**

25-27 November 2013

NAME AND SURNAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	CERTIFICATE NUMBER
CRUZ ROJA – RED CROSS		
ARNES FERNANDEZ, IGNACIO Elche, ALICANTE	nafal18@gmail.com	Certificate No. 188
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Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente		
OLIETE MARTI, MARIA Demarcación de Costas en Valencia		Certificate No. 219
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MARTINEZ GONZALEZ, VICENTE RAMON Demarcación de Costas en Alicante		Certificate No. 221
CARMONA ROIG, PEDRO Servicio de Costas de Castellón		
GINER CARCELLER, ALFONSO J. Servicio de Costas de Castellón		Certificate No. 222
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Facilitators		
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ANNEX II PROGRAMME

“Tratamiento de la costa y fauna silvestre afectadas por contaminación de hidrocarburos”

	Día 25	Día 26	Día 27
09.00 – 10.00	Inauguración del curso S.A. Gobernación Presentación del curso Responsable Proyecto POSOW	Fauna Silvestre Transporte Montaje de una Instalación	Voluntariado Gestion logística
10.00 - 11.00	Evaluación de la costa	Funcionamiento centro de recogida avanzado Centro de mando	Cadena de mano
PAUSA CAFE			
11.30 - 12.30	Principios generales de limpieza	PRACTICAS EN LA PLAYA DEL SALER	Roles de voluntariado
12.30 – 13.30	Organización del lugar de trabajo		Sistema Nacional de Respuesta
13.30 – 14.30	Técnicas de limpieza		CLAUSURA DEL CURSO D.G Prevención, Extinción de Incendios y Emergencias
COMIDA			
15.30 - 16.30	Fauna silvestre – Introducción Seguridad y Salud	VISITA AL CENTRO DE RCUPERACIÓN DE FAUNA DE ‘LA GRANJA’	
16.30 - 17.30	Busqueda y Recogida		

