

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT)

Objective: Provide an introduction and instruction on the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique and its tools, aiding in critical near-water or waterborne incident planning.

Narrative: Oil spill preparedness is paramount to assuring a timely and cost-effective approach towards an event that is highly variable in complexity. Shorelines vary greatly requiring a systematic and habitat specific approach to cleanup operations. The physical properties of the released material and the degree of shoreline contamination should be factored along with the physical and biological makeup of the habitat. Subsequent cleanup guidelines and endpoints provide important structure to response efforts.

The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique had its genesis during the Exxon Valdez spill where a segmented and systematic approach to containment and cleanup efforts was necessary. NOAA has developed this system with input from the USEPA, USCG and USFWS. This methodology continues to be refined with recent releases on the Yellowstone and Kalamazoo rivers providing valuable insights to the critical role of SCAT in the management of an incident. The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, in concert with many, have put together freshwater versions of habitat fact sheets.

Located in the Planning section of the Incident Command System (ICS), the SCAT Team provides critical input towards incident objective creation. The team continues its role by evaluating tactics as to their effectiveness and environmental impacts of the spill and associated cleanup efforts.

This presentation will provide an overview of the SCAT process and the role of the responsible party in the SCAT. Specific roles within the system are reserved for the responsible party allowing for input toward endpoint setting and tactics to reach those goals. Past incident specific examples will be used to underscore the benefits associated with a responsible party's understanding of the process and importance of their inclusion of trained representation in this process.