

10. Emergency, Pollution, Marine Incidents

The aim of this section is to provide guidance to the port community and Maritime Safety Queensland's personnel in the initial response procedures in the event of dangerous incidents, emergencies and disasters.

ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE
Hervey Bay Police	000 or +61 7 4125 9666
Hervey Bay Water Police	+61 7 428 709 744
Ambulance	000
Fire	000
Port Control (Gladstone VTS)	+61 7 4839 0208 (24 hours)
Pollution reports Gladstone VTS	+61 7 4839 0208
Regional Harbour Master	+61 7 4971 5200 or +61 7 4839 0208
Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (Canberra)	1800 020504
Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (Gladstone)	+61 7 4972 0038
Australian Customs Service (Gladstone)	+61 7 4976 3600 or +61 417 767 105
Maritime Safety Queensland (Gladstone)	+61 7 4971 5200
RCC (Canberra)	1800 641 792
Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) Hervey Bay	+61 7 4128 9666 or VHF 16, 67, 22, 73
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	+61 7 4972 9045

Table 9 – Emergency contacts

10.1 Authorities

Maritime Safety Queensland's emergency procedures are prepared under the provisions of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) and the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#). All emergencies should be reported to Gladstone VTS on VHF channel 16, who will activate the Emergency Response Plan and call the appropriate emergency response service.

10.2 Marine Pollution

The [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) is designed to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising deliberate and negligent discharges of ship-sourced pollution. Discharges of oil, noxious liquid substances, packaged harmful substances, sewage and garbage (MARPOL Annexes I, II, III, IV and V) from ships are prohibited in Queensland coastal waters and pilotage areas.

Maritime Safety Queensland has the authority to detain any vessel suspected of causing marine pollution and to intervene where there is imminent danger to the coastline.

10.2.1 Reporting

Section 67 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Pollution\) Act 1995](#) requires the master of a ship to report a discharge or probable discharge without delay to the harbour master. The report should be made via Gladstone VTS (24 hours) on:

VHF radio:	VHF channel 13 and 16
Phone:	+61 7 4839 0208
Email:	VTSGladstone@msq.qld.gov.au

The following details should be provided in a report of marine pollution:

- date/time of incident
- location (latitude, longitude and physical site)
- report source and contact number
- nature, extent and estimated quantity of spill
- type of oil or description
- spill source and point of discharge from source
- identity and position of nearby ships or name of alleged polluter
- nature and extent of spill and movement and speed of spill
- local weather/tide/sea conditions
- whether a sample of the substance spilled has been collected

And any additional information that relates to the spill.

The VTS centre will complete [Marine Pollution Report \(form 3968\)](#) based on the above information and email to the relevant authorities.

10.3 Marine Incidents

A marine incident is an event causing or involving:

- the loss of a person from a ship
- the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, a person caused by a ship's operations
- the loss presumed loss or abandonment of a ship
- a collision with a ship
- the stranding of a ship
- material damage to a ship
- material damage caused by a ship's operations
- danger to a person caused by a ship's operations
- danger or serious damage to a ship
- danger or serious damage to a structure caused by a ship's operations
- another event prescribed by regulation

Section 124 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) requires ships masters to assist if a marine incident involves two or more ships. The master of each ship involved in the marine incident must to the extent that he can do so without danger to his ship or persons on board his ship:

- give the other ship involved in the incident, its master and persons on board the ship the help necessary to save them from danger caused by the marine incident
- stay by the other ship until no further assistance is required
- give the master of the other ship reasonable particulars adequate to identify the ship and its owner

10.3.1 Reporting

Section 125 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) requires the master of a ship involved in, or believed to be involved in a marine incident to report the situation to the Regional Harbour Master immediately. For category 1 incidents the Regional Harbour Master will complete a Marine Incident – Preliminary Advice Form within 48 hours of the incident occurring ([Marine Incident Report Form 3071](#))

Section 129 of the [Transport Operations \(Marine Safety\) Act 1994](#) requires the master of a ship to promptly report dangers to navigation including, an abandoned ship, a damaged aid to navigation, severe weather conditions and so on.

A [marine incident report](#) is also to be submitted to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority – refer to website for details.

10.3.2 Procedures Subsequent to Serious Marine Incidents

In the case of a vessel grounding or if structural damage has occurred, the vessel is to be removed to a position of safety.

Immediate advice from the Regional Harbour Master should be sought in this instance. The vessel will require an in water hull survey by the appropriate authority (the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and classification society) to ensure seaworthiness before it leaves port limits.

10.3.3 Community Responsibilities

As a responsible member of the maritime community, any person witnessing an incident which was or is capable of becoming an emergency is obliged to report the matter to the Regional Harbour Master's office (VTS) and/or the emergency response agencies of police, fire or ambulance.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority requests pilots, stevedores, port authority officers and others to notify them of suspected deficiencies on ships, or of any complaints relating to a vessel.

10.3.4 Environmental Incident Reporting

Incidents with potential to cause or which have caused 'environmental harm' as defined in the [Environmental Protection Act 1994](#) within the port including land and facilities under the control of the port authority must be reported to the authority as soon as reasonably practicable. Failure to report an incident that impacts adversely on the environment is an offence.

Port users, owners, masters and organisations are reminded it is their responsibility to notify the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and/or Gladstone Regional Council where the incident is of the nature that requires notification under the [Environmental Protection Act 1994](#) and environmental protection policies.