12. 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.

12.1 Emergency Contact Numbers

Organisation	Telephone
Police (Gladstone)	000 or +61 7 4971 3222
Water Police	+61 7 4971 2560
Ambulance (Gladstone)	000
Fire	000
Gladstone Ports Corporation	+61 7 4976 1333 or a/h +61 7 4976 1371
Gladstone VTS	+61 7 4839 0208 (24 hours)
Pollution reports Gladstone VTS	+61 7 4839 0208
Hospital (Gladstone General)	+61 7 4976 3200
Regional Harbour Master	+61 7 4971 5200 or +61 7 4839 0208
Manager pilotage services	+61 7 4976 8201
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)	+61 7 4972 3333 or VHF 16 and 82
Australian Maritime Safety Authority	+61 7 4972 9045

Table 31 – Emergency contact numbers

12.2 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 13, who will activate the Emergency Response Plan and call the appropriate emergency response service.

Fire/ Police/ Ambulance: 000

12.3 Fire

Call the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS phone 000) and notify Gladstone VTS on VHF channel 16. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is the lead agency when the ship is at the berth and Maritime Safety Queensland when the ship is off the berth. The Regional Harbour Master (Gladstone), in consultation with the facility operator and the Gladstone Ports Corporation, will make the decision if the vessel is to be removed from the berth for the safety of the port.

12.4   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.

Ships should dispose of all waste ashore using waste reception facilities available (see Waste).

12.4.1   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 marine unit coordinator for the Gladstone Ports Corporation can be contacted on:

Phone:	+61 7 4976 1333 (24 hours)

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.

12.5   Marine Incidents

A marine incident is an event causing or involving:

- the loss of a person from a ship, or
- the death of, or grievous bodily harm to, a person caused by a ship's operations, or
- the loss presumed loss or abandonment of a ship, or
- a collision with a ship, or

- the stranding of a ship, or

- material damage to a ship, or

- material damage caused by a ship's operations, or

- danger to a person caused by a ship's operations, or

- danger or serious damage to a ship, or

- danger or serious damage to a structure caused by a ship's operations, or

- 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 onboard 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.

12.5.1   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.

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.

12.5.2   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.

12.5.3   Port 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.

12.5.4   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.