

Department of Transportation and Communications
PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th St., Port Area
Manila 1018

22 July 2009

HPCG/CG-3

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES

NUMBER 002-09

INTERIM GUIDELINES ON PCG ALERT CONDITION/ LEVELS

I. **GENERAL:**

By virtue of its mandate, capabilities and resources, the PCG must be prepared at all times to deal with maritime incidents, disasters, security threats, and related crisis situations brought about by natural and man-made factors. Any such incident, crisis situation or imminent threat may be prevented or its adverse effect significantly minimized through the PCG's well planned anticipation, preparedness, prompt action and implementation of prescribed guidelines and procedures in handling such situations.

II. **PURPOSE:**

This SOP sets forth the interim guidelines on the determination of appropriate alert status and procedures to be adopted by the Command in order to have a more uniform, consistent or commensurate system of declaring alert status or condition level, and for more effective preparations, response, dissemination, coordination, and/or collaborative efforts with other uniformed services specifically the AFP and PNP, the NDCC, PCGA, shipping companies, government agencies, NGOs and the public.

III. **SCOPE:** This SOP applies to all PCG units afloat and ashore.

IV. **DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

A. **Heightened Alert** – an alert condition maintained for a certain period of time whenever there is a weather disturbance in the scale of PSWS 1; or incident of marine casualty of considerable magnitude or increased risk to the public and facilities brought about by a security incident or threat.

B. **Full Alert** – an alert condition maintained for a certain period of time whenever there is a severe weather disturbance in the scale of PSWS 2 and above; or incidents of major marine casualty or related maritime disasters of significant magnitude or security incident or threat of alarming proportion.

V. **PROCEDURES:**

(1) The alert status or condition will normally be prescribed by the Commandant, PCG. However, in the absence of such orders, Unit Commanders shall exercise prudent judgment in declaring alert status or condition as deemed necessary and appropriate under the existing circumstances in their respective AORs and shall inform CPCG Attn: CGAC of such action as soon as possible.

(2) On **Heightened Alert**, units' respective OPCON assets such as available vessels and aircraft, and transport vehicles/ ambulances shall be ready for deployment while deployable response teams of CGSOG/CGATU, CGK-9, SMART/Medical Teams, MEPGRU/OSRT, Sea Marshals and Boarding Teams, to include respective Action Centers and Crisis Management Committees shall be in full manning complement. Logistical requirements of OPCON assets such as POL products, and other peculiar provisions and supplies shall be filled-up in accordance with current command policies.

(3) On **Full Alert**, in addition to the preparations and requirements enumerated in paragraph 2 above, units shall ensure that all other uniformed personnel with their peculiar equipment/equipage shall be physically present on board their respective Headquarters/Offices and shall be ready for deployment in case of maritime incidents/disasters.

(4) In both alert levels, all units shall render SITREP every four (4) hours. Maritime incidents shall be reported as soon as possible to CPCG Attn: CGAC, with emphasis on the particulars of the incident and the action taken by cognizant unit(s).

(5) During **heightened and full alert condition**, cognizant units shall strictly observe 24-hour monitoring/listening watch using all available means of communications. Likewise, same shall monitor significant/relevant developments in respective AOR through the use of tri-media.

(6) Respective units' PIOs shall prepare press releases (Copy furnished CPCG Attn: CGPIO) on the preparations undertaken, and in case of maritime incidents, to focus on the action taken by cognizant units with progress reports rendered as necessary until the conduct of operations is officially terminated. In all cases, the overall objective of unit and personnel vigilance and preparedness, effective capability deployment, and achieving optimum mission performance shall be of utmost consideration.

(7) When an LPA or ITCZ is affecting AOR or locality, cognizant District, Station and Detachment Commanders shall ensure fill-up of logistical requirements and preparedness of available equipment, OPCON vessels/aircraft, vehicles and deployable response teams as per existing Command policies, procedures and guidelines.

(8) When **PSWS Nr One (1)** is raised by PAG-ASA within AOR, cognizant District and/or Station/Detachment Commanders shall automatically declare and implement **Heightened Alert Status or Condition**. On the other hand, when **PSWS Nr Two (2)** and above is raised within AOR, cognizant District, Station and Detachment Commanders shall automatically declare and implement **Full Alert Status**. All units shall strictly implement the Guidelines on Movement of Vessels During Heavy Weather (HPCG MC Nr. 01-09).

(9) Should other situations warrant, such as in the case of major maritime incidents or disasters where SAR and/or oil spill response operations are essential, and or when a security incident or threat is obtaining or becomes imminent within AOR, the District, Station and Detachment Commanders shall likewise exercise utmost discretion in declaring and implementing the appropriate alert condition or status as may be necessary.

(10) Effective means of communications shall be well established during the actual conduct of operations

(11) Uniform during both alert conditions and actual conduct of operations shall be working blue or appropriate peculiar uniform as approved by the Uniform Board.

(12) In case of nationwide crisis situation, however, the Command shall prescribe the appropriate alert status/condition.

(13) CGFLT, MEPCOM, MSSC, CGWCEISS, and other support commands shall be proactive in providing necessary assistance to the operating units.

(14) CGAC shall closely monitor all preparations, movements, action taken, and the result/progress of operations of cognizant units relative to the implementation of the guidelines and procedures contained in this SOP and shall submit report to CPCG Attn: CGAC on the progress of unit preparations and/or conduct of actual operations.

V. **RESCISSION:**

All publications in conflict with this SOP are herereby rescinded.

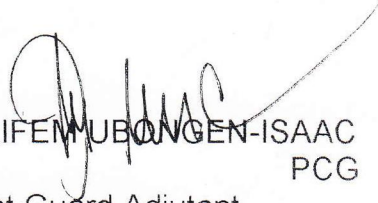
VI. **EFFECTIVITY:**

This SOP takes effect upon publication.

BY COMMAND OF ADMIRAL TAMAYO:

ENRICO EFREN A EVANGELISTA
CAPT PCG
Chief of Coast Guard Staff

OFFICIAL:


MARIFEM MUBONGEN-ISAAC
LT PCG
Coast Guard Adjutant