MANAGING MARINE EMERGENCIES



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Introduction

A marine emergency rarely announces itself. A fire in a machinery space, a collision at a berth, a person overboard, or a spill from a bunkering operation all begin the same way: with a crew that has seconds to decide and no chance to plan. The outcome depends on what was prepared before, not on improvisation at the moment. This Managing Marine Emergencies Training Course gives ship officers, port marine staff, and emergency responders a complete working method for that preparation. Participants learn emergency organisation, onboard and shore response, search and rescue coordination, pollution response, and the drills and reporting that follow.

Managing Marine Emergencies Course Objectives

- Apply SOLAS emergency preparedness requirements to vessel and port operations.
- Establish onboard emergency organisation and command structure.
- Manage fire, flooding, and abandon-ship responses under pressure.
- Apply collision, grounding, and structural damage response procedures.
- Coordinate search and rescue with shore authorities and on-scene command.
- Manage marine pollution response for oil and chemical spills.
- Apply the International Safety Management Code to emergency planning.
- Conduct effective drills, exercises, and debriefs.
- Apply incident investigation, reporting, and notification requirements.
- Measure emergency readiness through drill performance and findings.

Course Methodology

- Facilitated sessions built on real incident reports, drill records, and response plans.
- Case workshops on fire, collision, grounding, and pollution incidents.
- Emergency scenario exercises with role allocation and command practice.

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- Drill design, evaluation, and debriefing practice sessions.
- Group exercise on an emergency response plan and readiness improvement plan.

Who Should Take This Course

- Ship masters, officers, and chief engineers.
- Port marine operations and harbour staff.
- Search and rescue and coastal patrol personnel.
- Marine pollution and environmental response staff.
- Terminal, jetty, and bunkering operations supervisors.
- HSE, security, and emergency planning officers.

Managing Marine Emergencies Course Outlines

Day 1: Emergency Preparedness Framework

- SOLAS emergency preparedness and muster requirements.
- International Safety Management Code and emergency procedures.
- Emergency organisation, chain of command, and responsibilities.
- Muster lists, emergency stations, and alarm signals.
- Emergency equipment inventories and inspection routines.
- Training and competency requirements for emergency roles.
- Coordination between vessel, port, and shore responders.

Day 2: Fire, Flooding, and Structural Emergencies

- Fire classes and fixed firefighting systems.
- Machinery space and accommodation fire response.

- Smoke movement, ventilation control, and boundary cooling.
- Flooding detection, damage control, and stability awareness.
- Collision response, damage assessment, and reporting.
- Grounding response and pollution risk control.
- Abandon-ship decision, survival craft, and rescue boat use.

Day 3: Search, Rescue, and Medical Emergencies

- Search and rescue coordination with shore authorities.
- Search patterns, drift, and on-scene weather assessment.
- Man overboard response and recovery procedure.
- Rescue of persons from water and from vessels.
- Medical emergency response and medical evacuation.
- Communication protocols, distress alerts, and reporting.
- Coordination with helicopters, tugs, and assistance craft.

Day 4: Marine Pollution Response

- Oil and chemical spill behaviour on water.
- Response options: containment, recovery, and dispersant use.
- Booms, skimmers, and storage equipment deployment.
- Shoreline protection and priority site assessment.
- Waste collection, handling, and disposal rules.
- Notification, reporting, and regulatory obligations.
- Exercises with port and civil defence authorities.

Day 5: Drills, Investigation, and Readiness

- Drill design, objectives, and performance criteria.
- Running a drill as an assessor without disrupting operations.
- Debriefing techniques and lessons capture.
- Incident investigation methods and evidence preservation.
- Root cause analysis for emergency response failure.
- Readiness KPIs: drill performance, response time, and equipment state.
- Building an emergency readiness improvement roadmap.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Managing Marine Emergencies Training Course, participants will have acquired a thorough working knowledge of SOLAS emergency preparedness, onboard emergency organisation and command, fire, flooding and structural emergency response, search and rescue coordination, marine pollution response, and the drill, investigation and readiness routines that keep preparation current. They will leave able to command a response with a clear structure, coordinate with shore authorities, and evidence readiness through drill performance. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with marine and port emergency practitioners working in live operations.

FAQs for the Managing Marine Emergencies course

Q1 What is the "Managing Marine Emergencies" course about?

It is a five-day programme on preparing for and commanding responses to incidents at sea and in port. It covers SOLAS emergency preparedness, onboard emergency organisation, fire, flooding and structural emergencies, search and rescue coordination, marine pollution response, and drills and investigation.

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Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Managing Marine Emergencies" course?

Participants respond to incidents with a defined command structure instead of improvised effort, coordinate faster with shore authorities, and contain pollution before it reaches the shoreline. They also gain drill and investigation routines that expose readiness gaps before a real incident does.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Managing Marine Emergencies" course?

You will gain marine emergency preparedness and onboard emergency organisation, fire, flooding, and structural emergency response management, search and rescue coordination and pollution response management, and drill design, incident investigation, and readiness measurement.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Managing Marine Emergencies" course?

The course works with SOLAS emergency preparedness and muster requirements, the International Safety Management Code and its emergency procedures, emergency organisation and chain of command, muster lists and alarm signals, emergency equipment inspection routines, fire classes and fixed firefighting systems, smoke movement and ventilation control, boundary cooling, flooding detection and damage control, stability awareness, collision and grounding response procedures, abandon-ship decision making and survival craft use, search patterns and drift assessment, man overboard response and recovery, medical evacuation procedures, distress alerts and communication protocols, oil and chemical spill behaviour, boom, skimmer and storage equipment deployment, shoreline protection and priority site assessment, waste collection and disposal rules, notification and regulatory reporting obligations, drill design with objectives and performance criteria, debriefing and lessons capture, incident investigation methods and evidence preservation, root cause analysis, and readiness KPIs covering drill performance, response time and equipment state.

Q5 How is the "Managing Marine Emergencies" course applied in real-world practice?

Teams apply it when running a fire drill in a machinery space, responding to a man overboard at a berth, coordinating a search with a coastguard authority, deploying booms after a bunkering spill, investigating a delayed muster, and reporting drill performance and readiness at a safety review.