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SUBJ/CONSOLIDATED ADVANCE CHANGE NOTICE OPNAVINST 3440.18 PROCEDURES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR SHIPBOARD NON-NUCLEAR CASUALTIES WHILE IN PORT AT A US NAVAL INSTALLATION OR U.S. SHIP REPAIR OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY//

REF/A/DOC/OPNAV/13NOV2018//  
REF/B/MSG/COMUSFLTFORCOM/192325ZDEC20//  
REF/C/MSG/COMUSFLTFORCOM/271841ZAPR22//  
REF/D/MSG/CNO WASHINGTON DC/282015ZAPR25//  
REF/E/MSG/COMUSFLTFORCOM/261120ZSEP23//  
REF/F/DOC/COMNAVSURFPAC/20OCT25//  
REF/G/DOC/OPNAV/12FEB2016//  
REF/H/DOC/OPNAV/14APR2022//  
REF/I/DOC/OPNAV/01AUG2014//  
REF/J/DOC/OPNAV/11JUL2025//  
REF/K/DOC/OPNAV/09NOV2022//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 3440.18, PROCEDURES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR SHIPBOARD NON-NUCLEAR CASUALTIES WHILE IN PORT AT A U.S. NAVAL INSTALLATION OR A U.S. SHIP REPAIR OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.

REF B IS COMUSFLTFORCOM MESSAGE DESIGNATION OF AREA COMMANDS FOR MAJOR SHIPBOARD NON-NUCLEAR CASUALTIES.

REF C IS JOINT COMUSFLTFORCOM, COMPACFLT AND COMUSNAVEUR/USNAF MESSAGE DESIGNATION OF TYCOMS AS DEPUTY PRIMARY COMMANDERS FOR MAJOR SHIPBOARD ALL HAZARD EVENTS.

REF D IS CNO WASHINGTON DC MESSAGE EXECUTION ORDER DIRECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL SURFACE GROUPS.

REF E IS COMUSFLTFORCOM MESSAGE DESIGNATION OF AREA COMMANDERS FOR MAJOR SHIPBOARD NON-NUCLEAR CASUALTIES.

REF F IS COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES REGARDING THE FIRE ONBOARD USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18) ON OR ABOUT 20 AUGUST 2025.

REF G IS OPNAVINST N3040.5E, PROCEDURES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR NUCLEAR REACTORS.

REF H IS OPNAVINST F3440.15F, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPON INCIDENT RESPONSE MANAGEMENT.

REF I IS OPNAVINST 3440.17A, NAVY INSTALLATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

REF J IS OPNAVINST 11320.23H CH-1, NAVY FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PROGRAM.

REF K IS OPNAVINST 5400.45A, STANDARD NAVY DISTRIBUTION LIST.//

POC/LYNCH, HANS/CIV/VCNO/LOC:WASHINGTON DC/TEL:703-571-1631/EMAIL:  
HANS.E.LYNCH.CIV(AT)US.NAVY.MIL//

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN simplifies the changes being incorporated into the newest revision to reference (a). OPNAVINST 3440.18A will consolidate

historic changes made between 2020 and 2025 to Fleet command and control of major casualties for non-nuclear vessels made by a series of Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) and joint Fleet messages, references (b) through (e).

## 2. Applicability of OPNAVINST 3440.18A

a. Only when a non-nuclear-powered U.S. Navy vessel experiences a major shipboard casualty when made fast to a pier or in a dry dock, at any port, and during any phase of the Optimized Fleet Response Plan (OFRP) cycle.

b. Aligning to the recommendations in reference (f) and the roles and responsibilities of Primary, Deputy Primary, and Area Commanders in references (b) through (e), OPNAVINST 3440.18A does NOT apply to:

- (1) U.S. Navy vessels at sea.
- (2) U.S. Navy vessels at anchor, regardless of distance from land.
- (3) Nuclear reactor and radiological accidents threatening the nuclear propulsion plant of U.S. nuclear-powered warships use procedures contained in reference (g).
- (4) Nuclear weapons accidents and incidents. Shipboard casualties that threaten nuclear weapons are addressed using the procedures contained in reference (h).
- (5) Protection of naval facilities and the base population from the effects of major shipboard non-nuclear casualties, use procedures contained in references (i) and (j).
- (6) United States naval vessels manned and operated by the Military Sealift Command or other commands, use procedures contained in reference (i).

3. Primary Commanders (PC) are Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT), Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (COMUSFLTFORCOM), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa (COMUSNAVEUR/USNAVAF), Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT), and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSOUTH).

4. Per references (c) and (e), Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic (COMNAVSURFLANT) and Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC) are designated as Deputy Primary Commanders (DPC) for all major non-nuclear hazard events, such as fire and flooding.

### a. DPC Key Responsibilities

- (1) The lead support organization to the incident commander (IC) for non-nuclear vessels in port and shipyards both within the United States and overseas. DPCs directly coordinate with other naval organizations such as Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command and Commander, Naval Installations Command in the management of external public affairs communications.
- (2) Report incidents to the applicable PC and provide oversight of the overall response effort and actions of the Area Commander (AC) on behalf of the PC.
- (3) Ensure all subordinate commands have robust emergency response plans, personnel are properly trained, and necessary equipment is available.
- (4) Conduct and support periodic major casualty drills and exercises to test and validate emergency response capabilities, identify weaknesses, and implement corrective actions.

5. Commander, Naval Surface Groups (COMNAVSURFGRU) are established per references (d) and (e).

a. Primarily established to support force generation for applicable operational commanders through Type Commander (TYCOM)-level oversight of

assigned units' training, maintenance, materiel, personnel readiness, and OFRP management of units' maintenance and basic phases.

b. Designated as AC for their local Areas of Responsibility (AOR) and assume the duties of AC for non-nuclear surface vessels for the respective DPC and PC.

(1) AC Planning Responsibilities

(a) The AC is the DPC (COMNAVSURFLANT or COMNAVSURFPAC) representative aligned to specific AOR for coordinating support for non-nuclear ships major casualties and ensuring supporting commanders are providing services to include public affairs, civil authority liaison, logistics, engineering, environmental, safety, and health services.

(b) Verify supporting commands periodically interface with the civil authorities responsible for protecting the health and safety of the public in proximity to the naval installation, ship repair, or construction activity. Adhere to all security requirements, interface with civil authorities should include periodic briefings, drill observation, ship tours, and drill participation.

(c) Verify supporting commands maintain and periodically exercise emergency response plans to support custodial commands. These plans must contain procedures for notification, coordination, and communication, and must be consistent with the message and the procedures of the applicable PC. Emergency response plans must specify procedures for notification of installation and municipal fire departments in the event of an incident.

(d) Ensure ships are trained and equipped to respond to a major shipboard non-nuclear casualty onboard non-nuclear powered ships and have appropriate agreements in place with the area command to obtain additional support, when needed.

(e) Provide oversight and periodically evaluate the planning program of ships and supporting commands to validate the effectiveness of plans, training, and exercises, and report all discrepancies to the DPC.

(2) AC Emergency Response Responsibilities

(a) ACs exercise authorities and responsibilities for controlling, directing, and coordinating all naval activity responses to a major shipboard non-nuclear casualty in their local AOR in support of the affected ship.

(b) ACs must ensure that the emergency response plans for a major fire are effective, supporting personnel are proficient, and equipment and facilities are available and in the fire response plan.

(c) Initiate all applicable actions prescribed in the commands' emergency response plan, direct affected subordinate commands to initiate all applicable actions, and notify all involved organizations to respond per reference (c).

(d) Report to the regional operations center (ROC) or installation emergency operations center (EOC) to oversee and, if needed, direct response actions of all supporting commanders, which include the local installation, region, and Forward Deployed or Regional Maintenance Center Commanders.

(e) Provide situational updates to the DPC. These updates should include requests for additional resources needed to combat the casualty.

(f) Request and coordinate assistance from other naval commands, as appropriate, in cases when the scope of the offsite response actions exceeds or is anticipated to exceed the resources of the AC. Coordinate with the appropriate Regional Commander for support to include local civil authorities.

6. Incident Command. The vessel Commanding Officer (CO) is the IC who is experiencing the major shipboard casualty and will lead the response. All other commands and response elements are supporting the IC through the AC.

a. The senior fire officer on scene and the emergency response team representative will be collocated with, provide support to, and advise the IC at the incident command post.

b. All local commands, including operational forces in the vicinity of major casualties onboard a non-nuclear ship are designated supporting commanders.

7. Coordination for the revised OPNAVINST 3440.18 is expected to be complete by quarter 4, fiscal year 2026.

8. For additional questions contact the Office of Warfighting advantage at ENFORCEMENT\_OWA(at)US.NAVY.MIL.

9. Released by RDML Timothy A. Brown, SC, Acting DCNO N4.//

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