2016 Saxon Harbor Response
An MSU’s Perspective

CDR Erin Williams, Commanding Officer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector Commander Authorities</th>
<th>Fire Chief</th>
<th>Police Chief</th>
<th>Building Inspector</th>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Emergency Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marine Safety Unit Duluth*</td>
<td>FOSC</td>
<td>FMSC</td>
<td>OCMI</td>
<td>COTP</td>
<td>SMC</td>
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<td>Federal On Scene Coordinator</td>
<td>Federal Maritime Security Coordinator</td>
<td>Officer In Charge Marine Inspection</td>
<td>Captain of the Port</td>
<td>Search &amp; Rescue Mission Coordinator</td>
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Source: Ogle (2013)
MSU’s Swim Lane

- Pollution
- Facility or vessel security breaches
- Loss of life or injury beyond first aid on vessel or facility
- Damage or equipment failure to vessels – commercial or carrying passengers for hire
- Contingency Planning & Response (aka, organizing chaos)
Saxon Harbor: Pre Storm

- Oronto Creek
- Restaurant & Bar
- Bridge
- Rip-Rap & Sandy Beach
- Private Residence
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11 July</td>
<td>- 7-10 inches of rain causes flash flood of Oronto Creek</td>
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<td>- Iron County dispatch receive numerous calls</td>
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<td>- STA Bayfield u/w conducting SAR</td>
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<td>Tuesday 12 July</td>
<td>- 1500, MSU Duluth notified of situation</td>
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<td>Wednesday 13 July</td>
<td>- MSU Duluth on-scene after 8-hour detour</td>
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<td>- MSU digs out new Incident Command Post on scene</td>
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<td>Thursday 14 July</td>
<td>- MSU and Iron County Emergency Manager assess situation</td>
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<td>- Found 13 beached vessels &amp; 5 potentially sunken vessels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 15 July</td>
<td>- Contractor started work 4 hours early</td>
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<td>- 1300, Operational Period began</td>
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<td>Saturday &amp; beyond 16 July</td>
<td>- Removed remaining known vessels</td>
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Initial Assessment: What We Knew

- STA Bayfield was on-scene for SAR
- High Community sensitivity & interest
- High media interest
- No power, water, phones, toilets, or food
- Initially reported 90 boats in marine = approx 23,000 gallons potential release
- Reality: 40 vessels & 2 vehicles unaccounted for
- Chaotic response organization... safety concerns, no leadership
MSU’s Priorities

Textbook
• Establish Unified Command
• Assess the situation
• Assess site safety

Reality
• No Unified Command
• No organization
• No cell service; only phone at bar
• Hotel 45 minutes away
• Food 1 hour away
• ICP was empty & far from scene w/no means of comms on scene
• Boat owners wandering in dangerous areas of response area
• Many locals were under the influence
First 24-hours

• ID stakeholders & establish ICP on scene
• Open the OSLTF & CERCLA
• Develop Incident Action Plan, Site Safety, Pollution Mitigation Plans
  – Get a handle of site safety (hired EMS)
  – Get control of spectators (hired police)
  – Hire contractor for pollution mitigation
  – Focus on marina & remove lower risk vessels
  – Establish ICP on scene
  – Establish comms – internal and external
  – Develop media plan
The Incident Command Post
Key Stakeholders:
- CG
- WI DNR
- WI EOC
- Iron County Emerg Manager
- Iron County Forestry Dept
- Saxon Marina Boating Club
- Boat owners

- Est. @ marina pavilion
- Check-In @ pavilion
- Review & sign site-safety plan
- Comms:
  - 01 Landline
  - SAT phone (disabled @ moment)
  - Wifi (UP AND RUNNING YAY!)
  - Radios
Saxon Harbor Flood Response

Restaurant & Bar

Only access road
What are the benefits of a UC?

- WI DNR used side-scan sonar to locate objects in water.
- Allowed UC to prioritize removal of pollution threats (beached vsls & #4)
What are the benefits of a UC?

- Army Corps of Engineers sounded the channel into the harbor
- Facilitated safe transit of recovered vessels to staging area
Unified Command Objectives for 1st Operational Period (Friday at 1300)

1. Implement Site Safety Plan
2. Locate unaccounted for vessels & vehicles
3. Commence pollution mitigation (i.e., remove vessels in priority order) starting w/IRISH SEA
4. Maintain positive relationships w/government agencies & stakeholders
But... Friday morning

Right idea, but executed 3 hours early w/out oversight
Pollution Mitigation Stats

- Irish Sea
- Ty-Breaker
- Lady Ice Blue
- 31’ Chris Craft
- AJ Retired
- Talisman
- Wild Rose
- Bear Necessities ➔ 1316 gallons
  ➔ Several other vessels removed from harbor
Lessons Learned & Observations

• Good coordination between Local/State/Federal reps (WI DNR, ACoE, etc.)
• Limited pollution response contractors w/crane capabilities on Lake Superior
• Gap in notification between Sector and MSU
• Including local boat owner’s rep key to success
• Need to improve comms w/Tribal reps
• Place CG rep on barge (1 mishap w/diver, needed to clarify FOSC expectations)
• No rush unless you see active pollution (T&T)
Questions?