

Online Training Course on an Introduction to Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques (SCAT) for Coastal Oil Spills

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COURSE WEBSITE.

<https://introscatcourse.voomly.com>

I have developed a low-cost online course on an introduction to *Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques* (SCAT) for coastal oil spills. Over many years of SCAT training, I realized that the subject was too complex for students to absorb all of SCAT's concepts, mission, and benefits, then wade through intermediate and advanced materials about shoreline descriptions, measurements, and treatments of oiled shores. Of the hundreds I have trained, just a handful have stayed on top of the subject. To be a full-time SCAT practitioner is a career, not a side task.

The best return for effort is to focus on those that may be engaged in SCAT to represent their agency, company, or a First Nation (indigenous) while working alongside the career, professional SCAT personnel. The course objective is to establish a strong foundation on SCAT's definition, mission, principles, benefits, and other introductory elements. The student can then decide if to take intermediate or advanced training but is now prepared to engage in the SCAT decision-making processes – which are dynamic and complex.

My introductory course addressed both social and technical aspects of SCAT delivery. SCAT fosters competency, trust, confidence, transparency, and fairness. Content applies to temperate, cold and tropical waters and inland freshwater environments. It is designed to build local to national SCAT capacity. I keep abreast of SCAT's continued evolution. As such, the course is to international standards and up-to-date practices.

The course is provided on a purpose-designed website for training that includes: videos, graphics, narrations and transcripts. There are eight modules – see below. Youtube links are provided for an overview of each module. As well complete modules are provided for content review at: <https://tinyurl.com/2hs9xxdj> to help decide on a purchase. Check out my “landing -page” on *Introduction to Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Techniques* at: <https://introscatcourse.voomly.com>

SCAT COURSE OVERVIEW

Module 1 – Introduction <https://youtu.be/8U4ePzSYLWg>

The module provides the course objectives, intended audience, and outline.

Module 2 – Mission (20 minutes) https://youtu.be/A-fC6cx_9xA

This module establishes the foundation of SCAT by explaining its: mission, definition, principles,

benefits and deliverables. It also sets the context for SCAT applications such as:

- Local to national response capacity building under a tiered approach
- Getting a head of operations
- Dynamics of establishing a primary and representative SCAT field team
- History and evolution.

Module 3 – Process (40 minutes) <https://youtu.be/CQtPG2BZDqY>

This module examines the phases of an oil spill and where and how the SCAT process fits. This includes the initiation of SCAT for an initial response using local resources - then later – when an incident management team is established. The role of the Environmental Unit in SCAT delivery and management is discussed, along with key SCAT positions and tasks. The module explores why, where and how to prepare ahead by undertaking a pre-SCAT field program before an oil spill.

Module 4 - Net Environmental Benefit (40 minutes) <https://youtu.be/F1Ei6PJlyhU>

This module explains that SCAT is about “scaling” and “integrating” as a multi-disciplinary science supported by local knowledge and experience. Explored are the core interests of engaged government agencies, a coastal community and the responsible party that makes SCAT a dynamic social process.

The module explores trade-offs by explaining the concepts of net environmental benefit analysis and reasonable cost and their inter-relationship. Covered is the importance and application of natural recovery (also referred to as “attenuation) as the benchmark in SCAT decisions.

Module 5 – SCAT Process within Incident Management (20 minutes) <https://youtu.be/T4jQ8CLmvCQ>

This module examines the SCAT process within the Incident Command System, particularly the Environmental Unit. Topics covered include:

- Working under the operational period’s meetings and deliverables
- Understanding the nature and importance of operational divisions and their supervisors
- Working according to the command’s objectives and in between strategies and tactics

Module 6 - Working Relationship with Operations (10 minutes) https://youtu.be/G_1bXDA5mCM

This module explores the relationship between SCAT and shore-based operation, such as perspective and communication style differences between a SCAT’s “technical specialist” and an operation’s division supervisor. It acknowledges that people of a coastal community at the receiving end of an oil spill have different perspectives on its consequences.

Module 7 – Time-dependent Tasks and Job Descriptions (30 minutes) <https://youtu.be/099aBppVyHg>

This module has two parts. First, it addresses time-dependent actions that need reinforcement, such as:

- Undertaking oil trajectory analysis and aerial observations
- Preparing the initial SCAT plan
- Responding to transitional oil before stranding on shore

The second part pertains to SCAT-specific positions such as coordinator, team lead, and data manager and their core tasks and skills. The module further differentiates those that are a primary SCAT -doing most of the technical work - the heavy lifting - from those that are representatives in SCAT - the oversight.

Module 8 - Case Studies (40 minutes) <https://youtu.be/Ft3z2Doojx0>

This module wraps up the course by examining a few case studies of oiled shores where SCAT was applied to reinforce many of the SCAT aspects examined. For comparison purposes, three case studies range from a catastrophic, heavy oil spill offshore to a marine diesel spill in protected coastal waters.