

IAATO Incident Report Form

In the case of a significant incident related to any of those listed below, it is critical that IAATO be informed as soon as possible, initially by phone and then by e-mail when more information is known. Contact:

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+1 401 608 2090

Why Does IAATO Need to Know?

Due to the nature of Antarctic tourism, IAATO is often the first point of contact for many governments, the National Antarctic Programs, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat, as well as the press.

While IAATO understands the sensitive nature and limitations of information that can be distributed before an operator's in-house investigation can be completed, *the reality is that news travels fast*, especially since pictures and videos can be transmitted almost instantly over the Internet. The sooner that IAATO receives relevant and accurate information that can be distributed to governments and the public, the more meaningful our mission to advocate safe and environmentally responsible travel to Antarctica.

What is an Incident?

Incidents may include but are not limited to any of the following:

1. Medevac involving several or many people,
2. Medical emergency involving serious injury or loss of life,
3. Vessel loss or incapacitation (e.g. grounding, sinking, collision, trapped in ice),
4. Aircraft loss or incapacitation (e.g. stranding, crash landing),
5. Any incident that involves the need to ask for assistance by another vessel, station or aircraft,
6. Logistical (e.g. passengers stranded ashore for an extended period of time),
7. Environmental: pollution (e.g. oil spill, accidental discharge, etc.),
8. Environmental: wildlife-related (e.g. harmful disturbance).

When an Incident Occurs, Please Send IAATO the Following Information:

1) BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Name of Member/Operator
- Name of Vessel or Aircraft
- Name of Captain
- Number of Passengers on board
- Number of Officers/Crew/Expedition Staff
- Is there a Doctor or Medical Professional aboard?
- Geographic location of the incident (nearest point of land or waterway; e.g. Bransfield Strait, etc.), including the nearest landing site or active station
- Location: latitude / longitude
- Date
- Time in UTC
- Weather & sea conditions at time of incident and for the duration in which passengers and crew were at risk

2) DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

- Cause, if known or obvious
- Were other vessels or aircraft in the area, and where they alerted to the incident?
- Was another vessel or aircraft called to assist?
- Was the nearest Antarctic Station contacted? If so which one?
- Did the rescue involve the use of lifeboats (open or partially enclosed?), life rafts, Zodiacs/small boats or any other emergency equipment? If so, please give a brief description, including duration used.
- Was there a threat to human life?
- Was a report sent in to the respective National Authority? If so, date, time and to whom?

3) MECHANICAL-RELATED INCIDENTS

a. Was this an oil spill?

- Is there an ongoing threat to the environment (e.g. if fuel was spilled, provide the type and estimated quantity)?
- What was the direction of the wind and ocean currents?
- How far away was the nearest significant wildlife colony?
- Any other relevant details (e.g. are there any known injuries or deaths to wildlife including species & number)?
- Was any other kind of wildlife spotted in the area (e.g. whales, seals, birds etc)?

b. Was this an equipment or mechanical-related failure that resulted in remedial action taken?

- What type of oil spill equipment, if any, was used to clean up the spill?
- Any other remedial action taken?

4) WILDLIFE INCIDENTS

- Any incident where an animal has been injured or killed as a result of human activities in Antarctica, whether or not by tourism operations. E.g. removing fishing nets from around seals' necks etc. (Note: it is against the law in many countries to euthanize injured animals in the Antarctic).
- Any incident where the animal interacts with tourists or tourism operations in a threatening manner e.g. where a leopard seal bites and punctures a zodiac or interacts with a kayak, or a diver.
- Be sure to include the species involved in the incident when completing a report.
- Please report any whale strikes using IAATO's Whale Collision Reporting Form.

5) OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- If there was a threat to human life involved, please send IAATO a copy of the crew and passenger manifest. This will not be distributed beyond the IAATO Secretariat, but will be used to compile a nationality list. **Please note this is very important in the eyes of governments who will call IAATO and ask if any particular citizens from their country were involved.**
- Please provide IAATO with the exact name, telephone number and email contact details for the Member/Operator's Crisis Management Team point and Public Relations Counsel.