

# GREEN BRIEFING

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**“Cost to Workers: ZERO. Benefit: LIFETIME”**

Courtesy: GMS

**Till Date**

**795**

Training Sessions

**12,332**

Workers Trained

**70**

Topics Covered



Ship recycling yards run on movement. Steel comes down, blocks are shifted, teams rotate, and a ship's condition changes as soon as cutting opens new spaces. In that environment, an emergency can start quietly and grow fast. A small flame can find paint residue. A worker can feel dizzy in a tight compartment and collapse before anyone notices. A lifting job can go wrong when footing turns slick after rain.

Emergency preparedness is the work that keeps those moments from turning into tragedies. It is planning, training, clear roles, equipment readiness, and drills that make people act in the same order every time, even when they are under pressure. Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO of the Sustainable Ship and Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP), tells yard leaders, "Emergency preparedness is the difference between a controlled incident and a cascading disaster," and he pushes the idea that prevention is the first plan, because yards cannot depend on good luck to carry the day.

Preparedness is not only for safety teams. It belongs to everyone because the first response usually comes from the people closest to the incident

## WHAT EMERGENCIES LOOK LIKE IN A SHIP RECYCLING YARD

The yard must be ready for events that are common, and for events that are rare but severe.

Typical emergencies include:

- Fire during cutting, heating, or grinding
- Flashback in gas cutting systems and hose fires
- Dangerous gas readings in ship spaces and loss of ventilation
- Confined space collapse and rescue complications
- Falls from height and suspended worker rescue needs
- Crushing injuries during lifting and shifting operations
- Electrical shock, burns, and cable faults in wet conditions
- Heat illness and dehydration, especially inside compartments
- Oil spills and chemical exposure, including eye and skin injuries
- Heavy rain, strong winds, rough tidal condition, and lightning affecting access and stability

Preparedness means the yard can respond without creating a second casualty and without blocking access for responders.

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# THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES DECIDE THE DAY

In most yard incidents, the early response window is short. A bleeding injury becomes fatal when control is delayed. Smoke spreads into a passageway and blocks escape. Confusion at the start leads to crowding, wasted movement, and panic.

SSORP trainers teach a simple order of actions that workers can remember:

1. Raise the alarm fast
2. Stop work in the affected zone
3. Move people to a designated safe zone and keep access routes clear
4. Start first aid or first response only within training limits
5. Call additional support early and guide them to the exact location

Workers respond well to this because it protects their friends and their own safety. Mohammad, a cutter helper in Gadani, explained the change after training:

**“Earlier, we hesitated to stop work. Now we stop first and report next. It prevents accidents.”**

That habit is one of the strongest controls a yard can build.



**“Stop-work is an emergency action. If smoke appears, gas readings change, ventilation fails, a worker collapses, or heavy rain and strong winds affect stability, work must stop and the area must be made safe before anything restarts”**



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# CLEAR ROLES REDUCE PANIC AND WASTED TIME

Response fails when everyone tries to be the rescuer. Preparedness improves when every worker knows who leads, who responds, and who supports.

A practical response structure includes:

- Incident lead with authority to stop work and control the scene
- Fire response team with trained hose operators and extinguisher support
- First aiders assigned by zone and shift
- Stretcher team and casualty transport support
- Confined space rescue support, with trained users and equipment ready
- Gate control to guide ambulances and external responders
- Traffic control to keep fire lanes and access routes open
- Communication lead to relay updates and confirm headcount

Mr. Amrish Pandey, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, often sees time lost before roles are clear. He tells supervisors, "The biggest time loss is not the fire itself. It is the first five minutes when people argue, search for keys, call the wrong number, or wait for someone else to decide. Clear roles remove that delay."

A yard owner in Alang, Mr. Gupta, described the difference once roles were assigned and practiced: "Before, everyone ran to the scene and shouted. After the training, we know who calls, who brings the extinguisher, who controls the crowd. We still move fast, but we move in order."

# ALARM AND COMMUNICATION THAT WORKS IN NOISE

Yards are loud. Cutting, hammering, lifting, and vehicles can drown out a weak alarm. Preparedness means layered communication and simple signals.

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Practical controls include:

- Audible alarms that carry across berths and work fronts
- Visual alarms in high-noise areas
- Radio channels for supervisors and response leaders
- Emergency numbers posted at gates, medical points, and key berths in local languages
- Standard hand signals for stop-work and evacuation

Mr. Rahul Singh, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, keeps the message grounded:

**“We tell workers that the ship changes every day. Your escape route can change. Your hazard can change. If you do not check, you are guessing. Emergency response begins with not guessing.”**

A yard supervisor in Bangladesh, Nazrul Islam, described a practical fix: “We tested the alarm in the far corner and it was weak. We added a second point and a flashing light. Now workers stop and move immediately.”

## MUSTER POINTS AND HEADCOUNT ARE RESCUE TOOLS

A muster point is not a formality. It prevents missing-person confusion and keeps workers away from hazards, smoke, and moving equipment.

Good muster control includes:

- Muster points marked clearly and kept clear of scrap and parked vehicles
- Evacuation routes checked daily for blockage
- Headcount lists that include contractors and visitors
- One person responsible for headcount reporting to the incident lead
- A controlled plan for missing persons that avoids unplanned rescues

Hasan Ali, a worker in Chattogram, Bangladesh, explained why this matters: “When the alarm sounds, your heart goes fast. If you do not know where to go, you follow the crowd. Training gave us one place to go, so nobody is lost.”

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**If a person is unaccounted for, do not allow a crowd to rush back into the ship. A trained leader must control the search, confirm hazards, and coordinate the response team.**



## **FIRE RESPONSE: SPEED ONLY HELPS WHEN IT IS CONTROLLED**

Fire remains one of the most common and most dangerous yard emergencies. Fires start in predictable ways, often during hot work or when residues and combustibles have not been cleared

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Mr. Zamil Uddin, SSORP Coordinator in Bangladesh, warns yards plainly: “Most fires we investigate start with hot work done without proper cleaning or testing. People think the job is routine, then one spark finds the wrong place

Preparedness for fire is built on three layers.

#### Prevention before ignition

- Work area checks before cutting begins
- Removal of combustibles where possible
- Safe hose routing and cylinder control
- Fire watcher assigned and trained
- Correct extinguisher placed within reach

#### First response without new casualties

- Raise the alarm first
- Use an extinguisher only if the fire is small and escape is clear
- Shut off gas supply if safe
- Keep untrained workers out of smoke and enclosed areas
- Control crowding so responders can work

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## Escalation control

- Isolate the zone and stop nearby operations that add risk
- Protect nearby gas cylinders and stored materials
- Keep access routes open for hose lines and external support
- Maintain communication so teams do not work against each other

Muhammad Usman, Coordinator in Pakistan, connects fire readiness to daily discipline :

**“You cannot build fire response on the day of the fire. The hose must work today. The hydrant must be reachable today. The fire watch must know their job today.”**

A crane operator in Bangladesh, Imran Chowdhury, tied control to safer response: “When the alarm goes, we stop lifting. If we keep moving loads, the responders cannot work safely.”



If a cylinder is exposed to heat, clear the area and alert the response leader. Untrained workers must not attempt to move a heated cylinder.



## MEDICAL RESPONSE: FIRST AID THAT WORKS UNDER PRESSURE

Many yard injuries are survivable when the first response is fast and organised. Medical readiness is not a clinic signboard. It is trained people, accessible supplies, and a clear route for ambulance movement.

Preparedness measures include:

- Do not move an injured person unless there is immediate danger or evacuation is necessary for safety reasons.

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- First aiders assigned by berth and shift
- First aid kits placed where work happens, not only in an office
- Stretchers accessible and ready, not locked away
- Clear ambulance access, with gates prepared to guide vehicles quickly
- A simple reporting method for the incident lead and external responders

Suresh Parmar, a supervisor in Alang, described the difference after training:

**“Earlier, we took the injured man by hand and lost time. Now we bring the stretcher, control bleeding, and clear the route. There is less panic.”**

A yard owner in Pakistan, Mr. Rehman, shared a similar change:

**“We used to call the hospital late because we wanted to handle it ourselves. Training pushed us to call early.”**

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# HEAT ILLNESS AND DEHYDRATION ARE PREDICTABLE EMERGENCIES

Heat stress is common in yards, especially inside steel compartments where air is still and temperatures rise quickly. Workers often ignore symptoms to avoid losing wages or being seen as weak. Preparedness means supervisors treat early symptoms seriously.

Key actions:

- Water access near work fronts
- Planned rest breaks during peak heat
- Shade and rest points near work areas
- Buddy checks for workers inside enclosed areas
- Early referral to first aid when workers feel unwell

Zamil Uddin puts it simply:

**“In hot months, heat illness is predictable. If you wait until someone collapses, you waited too long. Water, rest breaks, shade, and supervisor checks are controls.”**

Rahim Uddin, a worker in Bangladesh, described a change that saved time and pain:

**“Before, we joked about dizziness. Now the supervisor asks, and we can stop for water without fear.”**

# CONFINED SPACE EMERGENCIES: RESCUE WITHOUT SACRIFICE

Confined spaces on ships include tanks, void spaces, double bottoms, and enclosed rooms with limited entry and exit. Oxygen deficiency and toxic gases can incapacitate a worker quickly. Many deaths occur when a second person enters to rescue without protection.

Dr. Anand does not soften this message:

**“A dead rescuer helps no one. Confined space response must be planned. If a worker collapses, your first move is to raise alarm and start rescue from outside the space.”**



Preparedness for confined spaces should include:

- Gas testing and ongoing monitoring where required
- Ventilation plans, with clear actions if ventilation fails
- Standby attendant at the entry point, watching the entrant and the space
- Rescue equipment positioned close to the entry
- Respiratory protection readiness for trained users, including SCBA for standby
- A rescue plan that starts from outside the space and controls access

Amjad Hossain, a worker in Chattogram, described a daily habit that supports emergency prevention: **“We used to think one gas reading was enough. Now we keep monitoring because conditions can change quickly.”**

Shahid Khan, a worker near Karachi, explained what drills revealed:

**“After practicing a rescue drill, we realised the importance of having the attendant ready. It can save lives.”**

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If a worker is down in a confined space, do not enter without training, gas testing, and rescue equipment. Start ventilation if it can be done from outside. Call the rescue team. Keep the entry clear.



## FALLS AND SUSPENDED WORKER RESCUE

Fall prevention is the first line of defence. Still, preparedness must cover rescue of a worker left hanging in a harness. Suspension trauma can develop, and a rescue that depends on one ladder and good intentions often fails.

Preparedness measures include:

- Rescue equipment positioned near height work
- Trained rescuers assigned and practiced in lowering and retrieval
- Clear method to secure the area below to prevent secondary injuries
- Communication between the person at height and the ground team
- Post-rescue medical assessment

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Imran Baloch, a supervisor in Gadani, described why practice matters:

**“We practiced lowering with a dummy. When a real slip happened, the team did not argue. They followed the same steps.”**

Amrish Pandey ties this back to planning: **“Rescue must be part of the job plan, not an afterthought. If a worker is hanging, you do not want ten people looking for equipment.”**

## **CHEMICAL EXPOSURE AND SPILLS: PROTECT THE RESPONDER FIRST**

Yards can encounter oils, sludge, solvents, paints, and residues that produce harmful vapours. A common mistake is rushing to clean without understanding the material.

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Preparedness actions include:

- Recognise signs of exposure, such as sudden coughing, eye irritation, and dizziness
- Stop work and move people upwind
- Do not touch unknown residues without gloves and assessment
- Isolate drains if a spill could spread
- Use spill kits and absorbents designed for the material
- Report and correct the cause

Rahul Singh describes how trainers slow people down in the right moment:

**“People want to clean fast to restart work. We teach them to pause and ask two questions. What is it, and what will it do to me if I breathe it or touch it.”**

Rakesh Yadav, a worker in Alang, shared a practical example:

**“We had a spill near the walkway. Earlier, someone would wipe it with cloth. Now we use absorbent pads and keep others away until it is cleared.”**

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A short debrief after each drill should capture:

- What slowed the response
- Which equipment failed or was missing
- Which instructions were unclear
- What must be fixed before the next drill

Amrish Pandey describes the point of honest debriefs:

**“If you pretend the drill was perfect, the next real emergency will punish that pride. Fix what the drill exposes.”**

Suresh Solanki, a worker in Alang, described the result of repetition:

**“Before training, if someone fell, people shouted and ran. Now we know who calls, who brings the stretcher, who clears the path.”**

## EQUIPMENT READINESS IS DAILY WORK

Emergency equipment fails quietly. Preparedness means inspection is part of routine work.

Simple readiness checks:

- Extinguishers checked for pressure, pin, and access
- Hoses checked for leaks, couplings, and reach
- Hydrants checked for accessibility
- Radios checked for battery and channel clarity
- First aid kits checked for stock weekly
- Stretchers checked for straps and wheels
- Rescue equipment checked before high-risk jobs

Zamil Uddin links equipment readiness to worker trust:

**“When workers see broken equipment, they stop trusting the system. When they see checks and replacements, they start believing that safety is real.”**

# SEVERE WEATHER AND MONSOON CONDITIONS

Rain and wind change stability, footing, access routes, and electrical risk. During monsoon conditions, the yard must be ready to stop work and withdraw from unstable areas.

Preparedness includes:

- Monitoring weather alerts and having clear stop-work triggers
- Keeping cables and connections away from standing water
- Reviewing ship access routes that become slippery
- Securing loose materials that can move in strong wind
- Confirming muster points remain usable in heavy rain

Farid Ahmed, a supervisor in Bangladesh, described a lesson learned:

**“We lost time because people were unsure if we should stop. Now we have a clear trigger.”**

Muhammad Usman adds a leadership point that affects every emergency:

**“If leaders push work during bad conditions, workers follow and get hurt. If leaders stop early and explain why, the yard learns the right habit.”**

## DRILLS TURN PROCEDURES INTO REFLEX

Plans fail when they are not practiced. Drills expose weak alarms, blocked routes, missing equipment, and unclear leadership. They also teach calm.

Drills should cover:

- Fire near a cutting zone
- Evacuation with headcount and gate control
- Confined space collapse with outside rescue actions
- Medical emergency with stretcher movement and ambulance guidance
- Severe weather stoppage and safe withdrawal from unstable access routes



Emergency access routes must stay open. Do not store plates, scrap, cylinders, or vehicles on fire lanes and ambulance paths. Markings only work when leaders enforce them.



## PRACTICAL ACTIONS YARDS CAN TAKE THIS MONTH

- Confirm the incident lead for each shift and make it known
- Mark muster points clearly and keep them clear
- Test alarm audibility across work fronts and add visual signals where needed
- Check extinguisher access and relocate units closer to hot work zones

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- Assign and train fire watchers and keep their role single-purpose during hot work
- Place stretchers near high-risk zones and check condition
- Confirm confined space standby readiness, including trained users and equipment
- Run one drill and close improvement actions before the next drill

Actions for supervisors and mukadams:

- Confirm emergency preparation before work begins, including access and escape routes
- Maintain communication throughout the job
- Stop work immediately when conditions change
- Control vehicle and crane movements during alarms so emergency routes stay open
- Ensure new workers know the alarm signal and muster point on day one

Actions for workers:

- Know the nearest exit route and muster point before starting work
- Report missing or damaged emergency equipment
- Do not enter confined spaces to rescue without training and proper equipment
- Keep hoses, plates, and tools out of escape routes
- Wear task-appropriate PPE, especially during hot work and in enclosed areas

Rahul Singh summarises the target in plain words:

**“We want the yard to respond the same way every time. Not based on who is present. Not based on luck. Same alarm, same movement, same headcount, same control.”**

Emergency preparedness is not about limits

rescues. It is about control: clear roles, ready equipment, open routes, practiced drills, and the discipline to stop early when conditions change. Dr. Anand frames the purpose as a yard standard, not a slogan: “Emergency preparedness is the difference between a controlled incident and a cascading disaster.”



**“Emergencies don’t forgive confusion. Preparation and practice turn panic into control.”**



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## Round-up of monthly training activities - Emergency Preparedness and Response

Country	Training No.	Yard	Course Date	No. of Trainees
 <b>Bangladesh</b>	782	SH Enterprise	07.12.2025	8
	783	Chittagong Ship Breaking & Recycling Industries	08.12.2025	20
	784	Z. H. Steel Ltd.	11.12.2025	9
	785	Rising Steel.	15.12.2025	25
	786	Mother Steel Ltd.	18.12.2025	20
 <b>India</b>	787	Shree Ram Vessel Scrap Pvt. Ltd	18-12-2025	24
	788	J.K. Industries	18-12-2025	27
	789	R K Industries Unit II LLP	20-12-2025	16
	790	Khushboo India Pvt. Ltd.	20-12-2025	20
	791	Green Tara Recycler LLP	22-12-2025	18
	792	Leela Responsible Recycling LLP	22-12-2025	38
 <b>Pakistan</b>	793	Jamaluddin & Co	24/12/2025	30
	794	Prime Ship Breakers	24/12/2025	14
	795	S.A Traders	24/12/2025	12

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