

# Burial at Sea Reporting Tool: Fact Sheet

## Overview

EPA has issued a general permit under the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) to authorize the burial of non-cremated and cremated human remains at sea. The MPRSA general permit authorizes the transportation and burial at sea of non-cremated and cremated human remains in ocean waters under specified conditions. Placement of non-human remains (such as pet remains) is not allowed under the general permit. The MPRSA general permit is published in the federal regulations at 40 CFR 229.1. For additional information about the MPRSA general permit for burial at sea, including EPA contacts for inquiries about burial at sea, please refer to the EPA Burial at Sea Web page: <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/burial-sea>

The MPRSA general permit for burial at sea requires that EPA be notified of a burial at sea within 30 days following the event. All burials at sea conducted under the MPRSA general permit must be reported to the EPA Region from which the vessel carrying the remains departed.

To facilitate reporting of burials conducted under the MPRSA general permit and reduce paperwork burden, EPA developed the online Burial at Sea Reporting Tool. The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool may be accessed at <https://burialatsea.epa.gov/>

## What is the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool?

The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool enables individuals or companies that have conducted a burial at sea to enter information into a simple online form and report the burial directly to EPA. The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool provides two options for submitting a report: you may submit a report as a “guest” or you may create an account to submit reports. The guest option is anticipated to be most suitable for individuals reporting one burial at sea. Individuals and companies that provide burial-at-sea services, however, may prefer to create an account; this option reduces the burden of re-entering information on future reports and allows the account holder to view the report submission history. The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool also includes the option of using a spreadsheet to simplify the reporting of multiple burials at sea.

The Burial at Sea Reporting Tool should be used solely for reporting burials at sea of human remains authorized under the MPRSA general permit.

## What information will I need to report?

- Contact information (i.e., the name, address, phone number, and email address) for the director or individual responsible for the burial arrangements. This individual may be a funeral director, a relative of the deceased, or a person designated to report the burial at sea.
- Contact information for person responsible for the vessel used to conduct the burial at sea.
- Information about the burial arrangements, including the name of the deceased, burial date, and location of the burial. Coordinates for the burial location can be entered in in decimal degrees, if

known. Alternatively, coordinates for the burial location can be identified using the interactive map in the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool.

## How do I submit a report using the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool?

1. Go to <https://burialatsea.epa.gov/>
2. Log-in by:
  - a. creating a new account,
  - b. logging into an existing account, or
  - c. submitting the report as a guest.
3. Enter contact information for the director or individual responsible for burial arrangements. The MPRSA general permit for burial at sea does not require that the person responsible for the burial arrangements have any special credentials. This individual may be a funeral director, a relative of the deceased, or a person designated to report the burial at sea.
4. Enter contact information for the vessel point of contact.
5. Enter burial arrangement information in one of two ways:
  - a. If entering as a single-entry report:
    - i. Enter the name of deceased, date of burial, departure location, type of remains, distance from baseline, and coordinates of burial. Note: coordinates for the burial location can be entered in decimal degrees, if known. Alternatively, coordinates for the burial location can be identified using the interactive map in the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool.
  - b. If entering as a multiple-entry report:
    - i. Click on and review “Additional guidance for required fields”
    - ii. Download the spreadsheet
    - iii. Enter the required information into the columns and save the spreadsheet
    - iv. Browse for, and upload, the completed spreadsheet in the “Upload” box.
6. Submit the report. Once the report has been submitted, an email response will be sent confirming the submission. EPA will then review the report and the report will be either:
  - a. Accepted, and the user will receive an email response confirming the report status as accepted, or
  - b. Rescinded, and the user will receive an email stating that the report has been rescinded due to specific issues. If a report is rescinded, the user will be asked to correct specific error(s) and re-submit the report using the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool.

## Who should I contact for technical assistance using the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool?

Please contact the EPA Central Data Exchange (CDX) help desk at 888-890-1995 for technical assistance using the Burial at Sea Reporting Tool.