From assurance to inspection regulating offshore petroleum incident response

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Presentation overview

• Regulating petroleum incident response
• Oil spills: Perception and Reality
• Putting yourself in the frame
• How do responses fail
• The role of the regulator
• Putting it into practice
• Preventing a poor response
Regulating petroleum incident response

Before
Prevention Barriers

RISK

Incident

Consequence Mitigation Controls

After

(courtesy of ETQ Blog)
Oil spills: Perception and Reality

**The Guardian**
clumsy response to oil spill threatens to make a bad situation worse

**CBC News**
Oil spill responders overstating containment capability

**The Dallas Morning News**
2009 response plans vastly overstate spill preparedness

**The Globe and Mail**
Canada failing to learn from ‘world class’ oil-spill cleanups

**NOPSEMA**

British Columbia: Vancouver Oil Spill Response ‘Inadequate’

**Captain**

Bligh under fire over oil spill
“insert company logo here”
How do responses fail

Underestimate response magnitude
- Not treating control measures independently
- Underplaying consequences (hiding in probabilistics)

Allow preventable impacts to occur
- Not identifying and fixing barriers to timely response
- Not considering the effectiveness / limitations of control measures

Human factors
- Over-confidence / confirmation bias
- Over-reliance on scalability and ‘on the day planning’
The role of the regulator

Assess case for preparedness

Compliance

Regulatory oversight during response
Putting it into practice

- Offshore petroleum incident
- 36 NOPSEMA role-players
- Focus on government coordination, liaison and compliance
- Opportunity to identify gaps in preparedness
- Sharing experience and learnings
Preventing a poor response

• **Set aside probabilities**
  (what would you want to have in place and ready given it has happened)

• **Acknowledge worst case consequences**
  (plan for the worst, work hard to prevent)

• **Learn from others’ experiences**
  (hopefully you won’t have spills to learn from)

• **Don’t make it a paper exercise**
  (planning is as important as the plan)

• **Pursue opportunities to do more for less**
  (cost savings through common plan elements)
Thank you