

Emergency Response Case Studies: Prevention, Preparation, Response and Restoration in Action

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Abstract

Exploration, development and operation of Oil & Gas facilities and the protection of the environment are not mutually exclusive. Proactively seeking solutions that prevent releases from occurring and reducing potential impacts, should an incident occur, need to be part of a company's successful operating plan.

In order to protect human health and the environment and to operate within its social license, companies must set goals and develop tools to respond to releases in a timely and efficient manner with this outcome in mind. Such a strategy not only protects the environment, but can preserve shareholder value and corporate reputation. This can be achieved by using tools and strategies, delivered in a coordinated fashion such as using the Incident Command System as part of an integrated program to Prevent, Prepare, Respond and Restore when emergencies occur.

Prevention: *Emergency Response prevention includes upfront identification and quantification of high risk elements, risk reduction strategies with implementation of comprehensive emergency response capabilities.*

Preparation: *Emergency Response preparation is an on-going program and commitment to be ready for emergencies. This includes developing tools and procedures, as well as training and exercising with the tools and procedures for events.*

Response: *Response begins with the emergency, incident notification, and immediate mobilization of key personnel and resources to the emergency location.*

Restoration: *Restoration, rehabilitation and reclamation can include undertaking a Net Environmental Benefit Analysis to determine the approach for restoring the impacted areas, as well as the potential effects the restoration activities themselves may have on the environment.*

By reviewing key approaches to Prevention, Preparation, Response and Restoration through case studies at Oil and Gas facilities, we will show how a well-coordinated emergency response program can be most effective. Further, we can provide examples of integrated upfront risk reduction strategies used in the industry along with reviewing what spill response capabilities look like up close when put into action. Executing integrated strategies such as these will result in reduced liability and increased company shareholder value.

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