INLAND SPILLS – THE HIDDEN MENACE

Oil spills in everyday life are all around us, whether a vehicle accident, an industrial spill or in someone’s backyard – what do we do about it?
EDITORIAL

From natural disasters at the beginning of the year, to industrial disaster in April, since then the world has been focussed on what may be the largest oil spill yet known. Not a tanker accident, but a mile below the surface of the sea, and in what is probably the worst place to have an oil spill. Not only is the shoreline complex, but it is the most sensitive media environment in the world, even the future of the US President may turn on an oil spill.

In stark contrast, the Inland Spill continues to occur, every day, across most nations, and which nation is not dependent on oil. The Inland Spill is usually modest, only occasionally becoming public if it causes a jam on the roads, or a polluter is taken to court, but the Inland Spill is more pervasive than Marine Spill. As we featured in Edition 3, the Marine Spill is under control, 2009 was the first year where no major (over 700 tons spilt) marine spill occurred for 30 years. Progress is being made, and because of political and public pressure, regulations, conventions and legislation have reduced Marine Spills.

The Inland Spill, in the United Kingdom, is not regulated like the Marine Spill. The principal is the Polluter must pay, but with Inland spills, it is not always an easy job to find the Polluter. There is no legislation for the Environment Agencies to use to set standards, as the MCA can with the IMO OPRC conventions, which are law.

For UKSpill, we have, with the support of Environment and Maritime Agencies, worked to ensure that at least the Oil Spill responders are Accredited to an accepted standard. The MCA requires all OPRC ports to use Accredited Responders, or be Accredited themselves.

This does not stop the Inland Spill occurring, campaigns such as Oil Care, a joint venture between the EA and Shell have worked to raise awareness, and the Agencies have countering oil pollution as a key priority.

This issue of SpillAlert is focussed on the Inland Spill, what it is, how it is dealt with and what are the key issues. In addition to our normal News we will also look at the Deepwater Horizon incident, but given the enormous media attention take a look at how the media is affecting the oil spill. A new feature for this issue is the Guest Editorial, the first is by John Holmes, former General Manager with Briggs Environmental, who is considering the role of the Responder and how it has changed and what the future holds.

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Oil and fuels are the second most frequent type of pollutant of inland waters in England and Wales that are reported to the Environment Agency.

Oil pollution incidents reported to us have halved compared to ten years ago, since the introduction of the Oil Storage Regulations in England. There are now around 3000 pollution incidents involving oil and fuels every year. Although some of these affect land, the vast majority affect the water environment. On average an oil spill costs a typical business up to £30,000 in fines, clean up charges and production losses.

This article describes the measures already in place to deal with oil pollution of all kinds, including mineral oils, fuel oils and vegetable oils, and identifies possible further actions.

Oil is a highly visible pollutant that affects the water environment in a number of ways. It can reduce levels of dissolved oxygen and affect water abstracted for our drinking water, making it unsuitable for use.

Mineral oil is a hazardous substance under the Groundwater Regulations and it’s illegal to release it into groundwater. It can be difficult to deal with groundwater contaminated with oil. The effects can be long term, and include polluted surface water and drinking water supplies.

Oil can harm wildlife. Wildfowl are particularly vulnerable, both through damage to the waterproofing of their plumage and through swallowing oil during when they preen. Mammals such as water voles may also be affected. Fish exposed to oil aren’t good to eat.

Oil is everywhere in society. It’s used in large quantities, requiring an extensive distribution and storage system. There is great potential for spills and other accidental releases. The principal causes of oil pollution are loss from storage facilities, spills during delivery or dispensing and deliberate, illegal, disposal of waste oil to drainage systems.

The Environment Agency’s role

The Environment Agency enforce the Environment Permitting Regulations 2010 in England and Wales to regulate discharges to the water environment, complex industrial processes and sites where waste is handled.

They have specific responsibility for the storage of agricultural fuel oils through the Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 2010 for England and for Wales (SSAFO). And for oil storage at industrial, commercial, institutional and large domestic premises under the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001, known as the OSR England.

We are responsible for enforcing the OSR England. Failure to comply is a criminal offence. You could be fined up to £5,000.

We’d prefer to work with people, providing advice and guidance, to help you comply voluntarily.
But we can serve a notice (Anti-pollution works regulations) to make you improve your oil storage standards. Failure to comply with a notice is a criminal offence and may result in prosecution.

From April 2010 we received the power to apply civil sanctions to certain regulations we enforce under the Environmental Civil Sanctions (England) Order 2010. This includes the OSR England for a breach of regulation 9(4) of the OSR England.

The OSR England require minimum standards for oil storage. If your oil storage is in or near a particularly environmentally sensitive area, for example a Site of Special Scientific Interest, we may ask you to provide greater protection measures.

We support the Oil Care Campaign, working in particular to understand the causes of oil pollution, to improve facilities for recycling waste oil and to improve delivery procedures. We also work with other environmental regulators to produce a wide range of pollution prevention guidance for industry and tank owners giving advice on the storage, handling and use of oil.

The majority of oil pollution incidents affect the water environment. Our role includes making sure the person responsible for the pollution is identified and pays for clean up and remediation. We work to identify the causes and where appropriate, evidence is collected and use our enforcement powers, including prosecution, if necessary.

We have a statutory responsibility to collect and give out information on the state of the environment. We also provide expert advice to government on environmental protection and carry out research on a wide range of environmental issues, including oil pollution. We comment on the environmental impacts of proposed developments where they have the potential to affect water quality, including those where oil will be stored and used.

**We’re working to reduce oil pollution incidents.**

Our work includes:

- Enforcing the OSR England - these set minimum standards for above ground oil storage facilities at industrial, commercial, institutional and domestic premises with large tanks.

- Raising awareness of the Building Regulations controls - Part J of the building regulations requires new, higher risk oil storage installations to have a secondary containment system (a bund), to contain any spills from the tank. This includes tanks within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a borehole and within Zone 1 of a groundwater Source Protection Zone.

- Contributing to and raising awareness of the Statutory Code of Practice for underground tanks at petrol stations and other fuel dispensing facilities - this outlines operational and management good practices for all underground oil storage.

- Enforcing the SSAFO Regulations - these address agricultural fuel oil storage. All new tanks, substantially reconstructed or substantially enlarged facilities must have secondary containment.

- Writing good practice guidance - working in partnership with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Environment Agency we produce a series of Pollution Prevention guidance notes (PPGs) and other publications, many of which incorporate guidance on oil storage. These can be downloaded for free from our website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/ppg

- Working with industry and trade associations to
  - develop standards and guidance, there are a number of relevant industry standards that deal with the design, installation and maintenance of oil storage facilities.
These range from the Oil Firing Technical Association (OFTEC) standards for the manufacture and installation of heating oil tanks to Energy Institute guidance on petrol filling stations and oil terminals. We work closely with the oil industry through the Oil and Water Liaison Group, chaired and hosted by the Energy Institute.

- promote industry standards for pollution clean up. We’ve worked with the UKSpill Association to establish service benchmarks and raise industry standards so their members offer a world class standard of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration of Oil Spills.

- Making sure environmental permits for waste management and industrial installation sites we regulate include standards for oil storage.

- Working with companies to develop voluntary operating agreements and supply chain initiatives.

- Liaison with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for oil pollution incidents at sea. We have a joint regulatory role for spills of oil, but the lead is normally taken by them.

- Making sure environmental permits for discharges specify limits for operational oil emissions. Control measures such as oil separators or Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS), e.g. swales, constructed wetlands, detention ponds, may also be specified to control intermittent oil pollution of surface water runoff from sources such as roads, car parks and lorry parks.

- Responding to oil pollution incidents - normally the Environment Agency will make sure the people responsible for an incident clean it up, this can be very expensive. If no responsible party can be identified we may arrange for the oil to be cleaned up. In all cases, oil will be contained and removed using suction, skimming, sorption or polymerisation techniques. Using materials to emulsify or disperse oil on inland waters is an offence.

- Working with the oil industry to reduce oil pollution, through support for the Oil Care Campaign and in raising standards at all points in the distribution and use chain. Including working to get better and more facilities for recycling used oil.

- Promoting wider use of voluntary operating codes by the industry.

**Background**

- Over the last few years we have worked with others to reduce pollution by oil. In 2008, fuel and oil was responsible for 103 of the most serious water pollution incidents (category 1 and 2 incidents) reported to us. This is a significant decrease since the Oil Storage Regulations were introduced. But preliminary oil pollution incident figures for 2009 show the total number incidents in England and Wales increased. We need your help to make sure the downward trend from the previous eight years isn’t lost.

- There are more than eight oil pollution incidents every day in England and Wales.

- The Oil Care Campaign was established in response to the rapidly increasing number of oil pollution incidents in the early 1990s. This brought together regulators, industry, government and others in a concerted voluntary effort to tackle oil pollution.

- Recognising that this voluntary approach was not enough to bring down the number of oil pollution incidents, the Government introduced the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001. These set minimum standards for oil storage.

This article was produced from the Environment Agency website and reproduced with their approval - www.ukspill.org/eaposition
You can influence policy

The Consultation for PPG 22

The Environment Agency needs your help to cut pollution incident numbers – you can help to bring numbers down.

The number of oil pollution incidents reported to the Environment Agency in England and Wales increased in 2009. Preliminary data shows the eight year downwards trend in oil incident numbers has stopped. This is also reflected with an increase in the number of serious (category 1 and 2) incidents.

We need to make sure everyone’s good work to reduce the numbers isn’t lost.

We believe it’s the polluters’ responsibility to tell us about a spill, but you can help. When you attend a spill, recommend your client reports the spill to us. This means we can work together to mitigate the impacts of the spill and agree on the right level of clean up. And it may save the polluter from enforcement action if we were told about the spill from someone else.

You can also give your customers advice on how they can stop another incident from happening. Make sure they understand the legal requirements they must meet and good practice standards, be they for domestic, business or agricultural oil storage. And if the worst does happen what they can do to contain a spill.

Please advise your customers to get free copies of:

- Above ground oil storage: PPG 2;
- Get to know your oil tank;
- Pollution incident response planning: PPG 21;

Please advise your customers to get free copies of:

- Above ground oil storage: PPG 2;
- Get to know your oil tank;
- Pollution incident response planning: PPG 21;

to help them look after their oil safely and legally.

Download them from www.publications.environment-agency.gov.uk or call us on 08708 506 506.

Are there still problems with splitting tanks?

As part of our work to bring oil incident numbers down we’re looking at common causes. Our officers attending incidents are telling us there’s a problem with splitting, plastic, single skinned, domestic tanks. We’d like your help to identify if there’s a problem and where it’s coming from.

When you attend incidents where a tank has failed as well as keeping records to report to UK Spill please send us some basic information. We don’t need you to report the incident, unless you want to, but we’d like to know the:

- make;
- model;
- size;
- age;
- and where in the country they are – for example in the Midlands.

Dealing with spills guidance

Hopefully you’re already aware of our range of Pollution Prevention Guidance notes (PPGs). We’re working to make them as good as possible for our customers.

We’re updating the current document that covers spillages on highways. We’re planning to widen the scope of this PPG and update its title to ‘Incident response: dealing with spills’. We aim to make sure it gives our readers up to date information to help them reduce the environmental impact of a polluting spill.

The PPG is out for public consultation on-line at www.ukspill.org/ppg22 It includes sections about:

- what to look for when you do a risk assessment;
- pollution incident response planning, prepare, plan and practice;
- the pollution control hierarchy;
- pollution control options and equipment;
- site specific pollution control options;
- spills on a highway;
- spill clean up, using UK Spill companies to help.

You can comment on the new PPG until 22 October.

Please send the information to Liz Hobday at liz.hobday@environment-agency.gov.uk

With the basic details we can assess if we need to approach tank manufacturers.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Pollution Prevention Guidelines Incident Response - dealing with spills: PPG22

These guidelines are produced by the Environment Agency for England and Wales, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, referred to here as ‘we’ or ‘us’.

Pollution Prevention Guidelines [PPGs] are based on relevant legislation and reflect current good practice. Following the guidelines will help you to manage your environmental responsibilities to prevent pollution and comply with the law.

If you cause pollution or allow it to occur, you may be committing a criminal offence. You can find our contact details at the end of these guidelines.
This document is produced in accordance with the Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation, reference 1.

1. Introduction
These guidelines will help you if you’re responsible for storing and transporting materials that could cause pollution if they are spilt. They will help you identify measures to prevent and mitigate pollution of the water environment. They are written for:

- site operators of industrial and commercial premises;
- vehicle operators;
- other organisations, authorities and individuals who store or handle polluting materials;
- spill clean up contractors;
- the Fire and Rescue Service;
- sewage treatment providers;
- other bodies who may be involved in spill response, for example Local Authorities and public health bodies.

They’re our good practice guidelines to help you deal with a spill of polluting materials to land, surface waters or ground water. Following them will help you prevent or reduce environmental damage and risk to public health. But if you do have a spill, on site or during material transit, you are responsible for its clean up and, if necessary, restoration of the environment.

The guidelines give information about:

- why spills must be contained quickly;
- the pollution control hierarchy;
- pollution control methods and equipment you could use to contain spills;
- site specific pollution control options;
- your site pollution Incident Response Plan;
- spills on a road or highway;
- clean up after you’ve contained a spill, including pollutant specific information.

The guidelines don’t cover how you can prevent damage from the effects of contaminated water caused by fire fighting. These are covered in other guidelines, references 2, 3 and 4.

The guidelines may be used to supplement guidance for sites controlled under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulation 2007 (reference 5) and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 (reference 6). Under these regulations you have a statutory obligation to have an Accident Prevention plan in place. Following these guidelines may be appropriate measures for your accident prevention plan.

If your site is covered by these regulations and you don’t follow these guidelines you should be able to justify the reason and show that the measures you’ve taken are equivalent or better.

Although, the guidelines don’t give advice on public health aspects of a spill incident, health and safety is an important consideration. You should assess the safety risks of each incident before you take any action to contain or control a spill.

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Taking a lead from PPG22

Creating a single set of guidelines that cover the wide range of potential scenarios resulting from spillages on the highway is far from straightforward. Reading PPG22, which is designed to put measures in place that prevent pollution of the water course, the overriding message which comes through is the importance of communication, writes Mike Chamley, Veolia Environmental Services’ Emergency Response Business Manager.

This was exemplified during a recent situation involving the Veolia Emergency Response team which from the outset looked a straightforward incident, but escalated very quickly. Without good lines of communication between Veolia (the recycling and waste contractor) the Highways contractor, the landowner and Environment Agency (EA), the likelihood of a worst-case scenario would have been much greater.

Summary of incident upon arrival

During the course of a routine highway inspection, the Highways contractor had found a quantity of oily waste that had been fly-tipped at the bottom of the embankment adjacent to a lay-by on the northbound carriageway of the A1 in the East Midlands.

Initially, some of the waste had been excavated by the Highways contractor and removed to an area at the top of the embankment where it had been covered with tarpaulin sheeting. At this point the contractor’s representative had been contacted and having inspected the incident determined that a more in depth environmental clean up was going to be needed requiring the involvement of both the EA and Veolia.

There then followed a more detailed inspection of the surrounding area and evidence was found of the waste having entered a water filled dyke that ran from the trunk road towards a village. The EA took samples of the waste for analysis and placed absorbent pads and booms into the water course in an attempt to prevent the spread of contamination. Analysis of sample showed that the waste contained 3 - pentadecyl phenol, which is corrosive in nature.

What happened next

Having discussed various options with the EA it was decided that the contaminated soil would have to be disposed of via high temperature incineration. To this end Veolia arranged for the waste to be transported off-site to its facility located nearby where sufficient room and experienced staff were available to carry out the drumming operation.

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www.veolia.co.uk
CL:AIRE is the UK’s respected independent body promoting sustainable remediation of contaminated land and groundwater.

Its environmental goal is to return these two precious resources to good health, ready for effective social and economic use. While the whole process of remediation is very complex, CL:AIRE’s goal is very simple: to make land and water fit for purpose.

“We are a catalyst for remediation, working with industry, academia and government”, says chief executive Jane Garrett. CL:AIRE appraises innovative technologies and provides research and training for the regeneration sector.

CL:AIRE was created with the backing of the UK government in 1999 as a not-for-profit company to encourage the demonstration and research of practical solutions for the remediation of contaminated land, and to provide a sustainable alternative to disposing of waste in landfill sites. In effect, this enables soil to be “recycled” for use on its original site, instead of having to be removed and deposited in landfill sites.

The organisation helps businesses by linking site owners with providers of remediation solutions. Working with landowners, consultants and remediation technology providers on specific contaminated sites, CL:AIRE’s independent panel of experts (its Technology & Research Group) delivers objective assessments on remediation processes applied to real sites. Results are then disseminated within the industry to share learning and best practice. This crucial knowledge transfer role ensures that remediation professionals and companies keep up to date with latest technologies and key findings.

“CL:AIRE is now forging links with other countries interested in UK remediation methods, like Taiwan”, says Jane Garrett, who believes that CL:AIRE is strategically placed to bring overseas clients and UK remediation companies together.

Industry best practice is a key focus and CL:AIRE is working to offer new nationally recognised qualifications for the contaminated land sector, to promote the highest standards among industry professionals.

CL:AIRE has a membership scheme for companies in regeneration and remediation offering research, news, exclusive discounts on CL:AIRE training programmes and conferences, business networking, and priority sponsorship options for branding presence at CL:AIRE events. “We encourage companies to join the membership scheme and be part of a strong, trusted and highly regarded industry body”, Jane Garrett states. “Our members ensure that CL:AIRE continues its vital role as a champion of sustainable remediation.”

To diversify its portfolio of services CL:AIRE is also building meaningful partnerships with organisations and businesses that want to pursue shared objectives in land, water and the environment. One important example of this is the recent framework for collaboration that is currently being discussed with UKSpill and likely to lead to a Memorandum of Understanding between CL:AIRE and the UKSpill Association.

www.claire.co.uk
In the News

UK: STOPPING A PROBLEM FROM BECOMING A CRISIS

The Cleansing Service Group, a UKSpill member, is among the UK waste industry’s fastest growing companies. It operates from 19 sites stretching from Cornwall to Kent and up to Manchester where it runs one of the country’s most advanced hazardous waste treatment plants. CSG has over 370 employees and its customers include many blue-chip industrial and commercial customers as well as Government departments’ local authorities and utility companies.

The Hampshire-based Group’s specialist Emergency Response Spills Division was formed some 12 years ago during which time it has dealt with hundreds of spill incidents. In theory, most of them should not have happened in the first place and many were minor and quickly cleaned up. But others could potentially have been catastrophic and have led to major environmental incidents which threatened both eco-systems and human health. A quarter of the incidents dealt with involved oil – the commonest pollutant in the UK.

But all the spills had one thing in common – they needed urgent action if a problem wasn’t to become a crisis and so CSG’s Emergency Response Spills Division is manned 24 hours, 365 days a year and has at its disposal an impressive range of methods, technologies, project management and hands-on skills to deal with oil and chemical spills, post spill remediation, land remediation as well as disaster management and recovery from fire, flood, and road traffic accidents.

Typical incident
A nearby river was threatened with pollution when a 5,000 litre kerosene heating oil tank was accidentally damaged at a food manufacturing factory on an industrial park. The oil ran off concrete hardstanding into nearby stormwater drainage channels which fed into a ditch and would, eventually, have poured into a river well-stocked with fish.

CSG’s emergency response team was called in to begin the process of containing the spill with floating absorbent booms and cushions, while vacuum tankers were deployed to remove the already polluted water from the ditch.

Around 25,000 gallons of oily water, together with contaminated vegetation and loose silt, were taken away for treatment in six tanker loads before soil samples were removed for analysis and an Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out. The ditch, and its surrounding vegetation, had been so heavily polluted that it was all dug out.
and the spoil taken to a waste handling site. Further tests were carried out on the spill site to prove that the area was now entirely clear of contaminants. CSG’s swift response, and the deployment of a range of specialist facilities, prevented a major river pollution and the environmental damage that would have resulted.

**Recycling**
As much as possible of the liquid and solid contaminants removed from spill incidents is recycled or reused. Oily water is taken by tanker to one of CSG’s licensed waste management centres where the solids are extracted and the oil processed into a low grade fuel. The cleaned water can be discharged to a sewer. There are various options for the remediation of contaminated soil which can involve chemical or biological treatment on or off site. Landfill is the last resort. CSG’s spills division manager Hugh Neatherway said: “Our aim is not just to provide an efficient and effective spills service but also to ensure that every incident is handled in a way that minimises environmental impact – both on and away from the site.”

**UK: End for Abzorboil**
UKSpill was sorry to hear that Abzorboil Limited went into administration on 19th July 2010. The owners, Ralph and Ann Walker, had battled bravely to continue the business after Ralph’s tragic accident last year but sadly it was not to be. The goodwill and assets of the business have been acquired by Adler and Allan Limited who also re-employed three of the staff and retained the depot at Doncaster. Henry Simpson, Commercial Director, said “the acquisition will fit neatly into our existing spill response infrastructure and will particularly strengthen our presence in the Midlands.”

**International: Better Late... Greenpeace raises awareness of oil spills?**
Environmental group Greenpeace has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the problem of oil spills. On August 12th, the green organisation announced that it was sending two ships to oil sites. It said that its mission is to “confront the kind of reckless oil exploration that keeps wrecking our environment”. The mission Esperanza will encourage organisations to conduct further environmental analysis into the use of fuels and it is intended to encourage “affordable, efficient and renewable energy technologies that are available today”. Greenpeace said that supporters will be allowed to board the ships to join the campaign.

It is likely the group launched the initiative in response to the disaster of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20th.

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Spill response ceases and land remediation takes over may be a subject on which many contractors will disagree, but one key turning point in dealing with any spill incident would seem to be when the spill is contained and under control. Spill responders will deal with present and immediate risks to human health, controlled waters and other receptors such as building structures and the remediation contractor will be required to address the longer term risks to these receptors posed by residual contamination that has entered soils, waters or structures.

Remediation contractors should be able to demonstrate knowledge and application of a wide range of remediation techniques owing to the requirement, when addressing inland spills, to treat all types of soils.

Every company who has joined UKSpill will have completed Module 1: ‘Standards Compliance’, which requires demonstration of a spill response capacity and capability to deal with basic product containment and recovery.

This level of accreditation also requires that the contractor must be capable of effectively dealing with oil spillages which have been contained and small spillages to minor watercourses that require simple recovery, removal and disposal.

After achieving this level of accreditation, members may then select further modules and must demonstrate competence and capability in these areas to achieve their accreditation. The majority of the remaining modules currently available for attainment relate to spill response, containment and disaster management.

There is, however, one module of accreditation which does not in itself require a response capability, and that is ‘Land Remediation’. The point at which
waters and structures. There is no one remedial technology that fits all situations and it is often the case that combinations of technologies offer the most cost effective and practical solutions. It is quite likely that whilst remediation works are undertaken to treat soils and/or groundwater there may be a requirement to maintain spill mitigation measures. For example for an inland spill beneath a faulty oil storage tank, where oil that has subsequently entered the ground and then impacted a watercourse, once the immediate risks have been addressed (e.g. free product ceased from entering the watercourse), remediation of soils and groundwater will be required and during those works, spill response measures such as weirs and absorbents are likely to be required to be maintained.

When dealing with inland spill incidents, both spill responder and remediation contractor are likely to have to engage with the regulators including the Environment Agencies and Local Authorities.

The regulators are likely to have their own opinion with respect to when the spill response is complete and the land remediation is subsequently required but they may not be fully aware of the capabilities of specific contractors. However, it is hoped that UKSpill and the associated accreditations offered through the organisation enables the regulators to gain an informed opinion of their capabilities.

In summary, when dealing with any inland spill incident, there is nearly always an element of both response and remediation that is required for the reason that both short and long term risks need to be addressed. As a result, many companies that have joined UKSpill may currently attempt both response and remediation works and it is hoped that the proposed improvements to the competence assessment and accreditation process will enable UKSpill to ensure that its members truly can offer the services that they try to provide and also enable the regulators to be fully aware of the capabilities of every member of the organisation.

RAW believe that there is a need to ensure that sufficient technical standards are being attained and demonstrated by members of the organisation.

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Inlandspill Seminar at The Emergency Services Show 2010

Ensuring a joint approach to spills - UKSPILL is holding its Inlandspill seminar at the Emergency Services Show 2010 on Thursday 25th November 2010

As the US copes with one of the most prolific oil spill disasters seen, there is no doubt that when spills occur a strategic and joint approach is required. However, it is also essential that when an incident occurs, all involved parties work together to ensure an effective response. This collaboration includes everyone from the emergency services, who may be first at the scene, especially in an inland situation, through to the associated agencies and the voluntary organisations who will be on hand to help with the clear up process.

The Emergency Services Show 2010 is a unique annual event promoting multi agency collaboration by bringing together everyone in the UK involved in emergency situations. Relevant for anyone involved in emergency planning, response or recovery, it will take place on Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th November at Stoneleigh Park, Coventry.

The exhibition will be of interest to accredited spill contractors providing access to the latest technology, ideas and initiatives focused on protecting the environment and improving public safety including personal protective equipment, clothing, communications, hazmat equipment, vehicles and vehicle equipment. Likewise, as a showcase for equipment, the exhibition provides a great opportunity for suppliers of equipment to demonstrate products to the emergency services and the associated agencies visiting. The show will be especially relevant in light of the current uncertain economic climate, giving opportunities to discuss and help with framework agreements, income generation, outsourcing and equipment requirements.

Hall 1 includes the growing Blue Light Zone - which brings police, fire and rescue and ambulance services from around the UK together to showcase the ‘Best of British’ and share initiatives and examples of best practice and the popular Emergency Response Zone - which is made up of other category 1 and 2 responders, professional, government and voluntary organisations, offering perfect networking opportunities.

A two day supporting conference will provide ESS delegates with the opportunity to join like minded professionals to discuss the latest news, developments and strategic advances as well as hearing about lessons learnt and new initiatives from a range of high profile speakers including the Environment Agency.

David Brown, Event Director, Emergency Services (MMC) Ltd, comments: “The Emergency Services Show offers the unique opportunity to meet with specialist suppliers to facilitate mutually beneficial buying arrangements and discuss new important innovations and products. In these uncertain times it is more important than ever for all emergency responders and associated agencies to talk together to enable them to share resources and make the most of their budgets.”

To register for The Emergency Services Show 2010 or to learn more visit www.ess.co.uk

To book a place at the InlandSpill Midland seminar, contact www.ukspill.org
In the News

Deepwater Horizon
a very public media spill

The first question I had to ask was not whether to include an article on this momentous spill, but whether there was any point in an article on what is the most significant oil spill in years, when the media coverage of every aspect has been extraordinary. The media exposure and consequences of the spill have been so widespread that most people will have seen the spill. So why add to what you have already seen, especially as an expert and interested readership.

It is the transparency, and especially proximity to downtown/smalltown USA that makes the difference between this spill and say the Montara spill in the Timor Sea last year.

It is the politics of this spill that is likely to make the most long lasting impact on dealing with future spills, both at sea and onshore. This article will explore this issue, rather than the technicalities. For those who want technical reviews, and pictures, go to www.restorethegulf.gov or for the BP view www.ukspill.org/bpview or even Facebook, which is a measure of the impact, and illustrates why this spill has changed the basis on which the world regards an oil spill. Social networking is pervasive and not just in the developed world, and similar phenomena will occur in the rapidly growing nations where the spill risk is inevitably higher.

SO WHAT DOES THIS SPILL MEAN FOR THE FUTURE

- Oil spills exposed to media can influence everyone
- The media can manipulate the spill outcome through pressure on politics
- Technical solutions can be overwhelmed by political expediency
- The internet empowers minorities to change politics
- The political pressure for instant solutions is contradicted by environmental concerns
- The growth in oil demand from new markets will continue to put pressure on higher risk exploration, production and consequent spill risk

GIVEN A SHIFT IN THE SPILL ENVIRONMENT – WHAT NEXT

- Oil producers like tanker owners will be under pressure to adopt higher standards, we may see MARPOL/OPRC for drilling and distribution
- The shift to sovereign oil producers will create more political problems in coordinating safety policy via oil power politics
- The example from MARPOL will mean increased “insurance” for spills through active management of equipment and expertise, more international groups will emerge
- Public pressure for environmental integrity will politicise influence on producers and policy makers. The internet will lead to new lobbies, neither democratic or necessarily representative
- The spill industry will develop new solutions on the side of the good as opposed to the evil of the errant producers
- Whilst the USA is a major consumer, longer term the risk is with the developing nations where the regulation may be less developed
- Spill risk will not go away in a world which consumes over 11 million tons of oil every day. Accidents will continue. The challenge is to manage the spill risk that exploration technology

CONCLUSIONS

- Perhaps, and whilst another committee is always one too many, the world needs a global forum combining producers, distributors and consumers to set some common standards
- Perhaps the public need to become more aware of the cost of oil in society, and accept that accidents are inevitable, but there is a responsibility by all
- Perhaps oil producers/distributors should acknowledge the accident “fact” and should be more pro active and cooperate with the spill industry.
In the News

**REVIEW UNDERWAY- UKSPILL JOINS OSPRAG**

UK Oil Spill Response Group (OSPRAG)

Oil & Gas Oil & Gas UK, the UK trade body for the UK oil industry has taken a lead following the Deepwater Horizon incident with the formation of the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG), in conjunction with the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC). This group began in May and is moving swiftly apace. UKSpill has been invited to join, and chairman Glyn Humphries of Briggs Environmental will represent UKSpill.

A recent press release from OSPRAG noted that “The regulatory and operational environment in the UK is very different in many important respects from the Gulf of Mexico. However, our industry is not complacent and OSPRAG, which comprises a joint effort involving not only the operators and drilling contractors but also the relevant regulators and trade unions, is working purposefully to re-assess the industry’s common capabilities, including for capping and containing oil spills. “The UK industry already has a mutual agreement in place to respond to oil spills through Oil Spill Response (OSR) which provides for surveillance aircraft, aerial dispersant application and large stocks of containment equipment. However, OSPRAG is now looking to see whether, and the extent to which, that existing capability may need to be augmented. Indeed, a contract for engineering design work will be awarded on 1 August and it is expected that engineering of new solutions will be underway this year.

**BIG OIL INVESTS A BILLION IN DEEPWATER SPILL PROTECTION**

Oil Firms Plan Rapid-Response Force

Four of the world’s largest oil companies are creating a strike force to stanch oil spills in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico in a billion-dollar bid to regain the confidence of the White House after BP PLC’s disaster.

Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., Royal Dutch Shell PLC and ConocoPhillips said Wednesday that they are forming a joint venture to design, build and operate a rapid-response system to capture and contain up to 100,000 barrels of oil a day flowing 10,000 feet below the surface of the sea.

BP’s Deepwater Horizon well had been leaking up to 60,000 barrels per day 5,000 feet below the surface.

The new system, consisting of several oil-collection ships and an array of subsurface containment equipment, resembles the one developed by BP during three months of trial and error after its leased rig exploded April 20, unleashing the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

But BP, along with other companies operating in the Gulf, may be able to use the strike force.

The companies will evenly split an initial investment of $1 billion in the nonprofit venture, which they are calling the Marine Well Containment Co. But the tab to build the system and have crews on alert for years could run in the billions of dollars.

The containment system will be designed to deal with well blowouts and is expected to be ready within 18 months, Exxon said.

The response team should be able to start mobilizing within 24 hours of an oil spill, and be fully in place within weeks, said Sara Ortwein, vice president of engineering for Exxon Mobil Development Co.

The oil companies hope the plan will help deflect the intense official and public criticism of the oil industry. Despite major technological breakthroughs that led to the exploitation of oil and gas trapped far below sea level, the industry was caught without an effective response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

“We’re going to build this and my view is, we’re never going to use it,” Mr. Tillerson said. But “it’s fair for the American people and it’s fair for the regulator to expect us to have some mechanical capability to deal with an event in the future that is more readily available for deployment.”

**GROWTH RISK IN CHINA**

China’s Environment Accidents Double as Growth Takes Toll

By Bloomberg News - Jul 28, 2010 6:11 AM GMT  Wed Jul 28 05:11:00 UTC 2010

Workers scoop up spilled crude oil at the Nantuo Fishing Harbor in Dalian, Liaoning province. Photographer: Liu Debin/Color China/AP.

China, the world’s largest polluter, said the number of environmental accidents rose 98 percent in the first six months of the year, as demand for energy and minerals lead to poisoned rivers and oil spills.

“Fast economic development is leading to increasing conflicts with the capacity of the environment to absorb” demands, the environmental protection ministry said in a faxed statement in response to Bloomberg questions. There were about 102 accidents in the first half, compared with 171 for the whole of last year, according to figures derived from the ministry’s data.

“The oil spill at Dalian, 10 times the amount in the last incident in Shaanxi province in December, was the biggest in Chinese waters” according to Greenpeace.

**Small Penalties**

PetroChina, the nation’s largest oil producer, was fined 1 million yuan, out of a net income of 133 billion yuan in 2005, for the accident that affected the drinking water of three million people. That contrasts with the $20 billion that President Barack Obama has demanded from BP Plc for the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

**MEDIA RESPONSE TO OIL SPILL - X PRIZE FOR OIL SPILL SOLUTIONS**

The foundation wants to replace “clumsy” clean-up techniques that have been used in the Gulf of Mexico.

The X Prize foundation, best known for launching the private spaceflight industry, has launched a $1.4 million oil clean-up challenge.

The foundation, which states that its core aim is “to bring about radical breakthroughs for the benefit of humanity” announced its latest prize at a press conference in Washington DC.

This is its sixth “major incentive competition”.

Research teams can register for the competition until April 2011. http://iprizecleanoceans.org/Page/Home
Oil spill issues from offshore drilling: lessons for the UK

A one day seminar on 5 October 2010, at Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, hosted by the Scottish Government and organised jointly by the UKSpill Association & The Emergency Planning Society, with support from The Scottish Coastal Forum.

The Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico has raised issues about the spill risk from offshore fields. This seminar will explore whether the UK faces similar risks, if we are prepared for them, what lessons we can learn and will consider the impact that a similar incident within the UKCS may have on UK coastal areas.

Key note Speaker: Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment for the Scottish Government.

The Seminar will review the Deepwater Horizon Spill, the realities of spill response and containment in a deepwater blowout, the implications of wider use of Dispersants in an Offshore Oil Spill, and the UK spill industry will consider future technical developments. Presentations will be made by representatives from the offshore oil, and the oil spill industries, as well as UK government agencies.

Price per person

£95
Including lunch

To book your place contact info@ukspill.org

Further programme information can be found on www.ukspill.org
### Programme

**Tuesday 5th October 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0830-0900 hrs</td>
<td>Registration and Coffee: Location, Conference Room 1, Scottish Government Offices, Victoria Quay, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900 hrs</td>
<td>Opening by UKSpill Director and seminar Chairman Roger Mabbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>0910-1100 hrs</td>
<td>Review of the Deepwater Horizon spill</td>
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<tr>
<td>0910 hrs</td>
<td>A perspective by BP on the environmental risk of offshore drilling operations Tim Smith, Director of Communications, BP Oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>0930 hrs</td>
<td>Deepwater Horizon, Montara and similar incidents: likely outcomes on risk and response Rob Cox, Technical Director, International Petroleum Industry Environmental &amp; Conservation Association (IPIECA) on behalf of the Oil &amp; Gas Producers Association (OGP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1000 hrs</td>
<td>A spill response industry overview from day 1: the use of dispersants on sea and subsea David Salt, Operations Director, Oil Spill Response Limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>1020 hrs</td>
<td>Spill response and containment at sea, in situ burning, skimming operations Bill Boyle, Briggs Marine Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1040 hrs</td>
<td>Shoreline response, booms, berms and clean up operations Lucy Heathcote, Oil Spill Response Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>1100 hrs</td>
<td>The view from the Scottish Government, keynote speech by Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs &amp; the Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1115 hrs</td>
<td>Break for tea &amp; coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1130-1245 hrs</td>
<td>The reality of spill response and containment in a deepwater blowout, actions taken; the view of UK Government agencies and industry Oil &amp; Gas UK, with support from the UK Department of Energy &amp; Climate Change (DECC) has set up the Oil Spill Response Advisory Group (OSPRAG) in response to the implications for the UK Continental Shelf from the Gulf of Mexico incident. Speakers from Oil &amp; Gas UK and the UK Maritime &amp; Coastguard Agency briefly on their role in OSPRAG.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1135 hrs</td>
<td>The role of Oil &amp; Gas UK in OSPRAG and the relationship with DECC Mick Borwell, Oil &amp; Gas UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>1200 hrs</td>
<td>The National Contingency Plan for Marine Protection Graeme Proctor, MCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1225 hrs</td>
<td>Questions from the floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1245 hrs</td>
<td>Buffet lunch in foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1330-1500 hrs</td>
<td>The implications of wider use of dispersants in an offshore oil spill Seminar Chairman introduces speakers from Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Marine Management Organisation, and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency to consider developments in technology and management practices to improve spill response, containment and clean up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1340 hrs</td>
<td>The view of Marine Scotland DEREK MOORE, MARINE SCOTLAND SCIENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400 hrs</td>
<td>The view of Scottish Natural Heritage John Baxter</td>
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<tr>
<td>1420 hrs</td>
<td>The role of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Nick Greenwood, Marine Management Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1440 hrs</td>
<td>The view from the shore: The Scottish Environment Agency (SEPA) on the risk to the shoreline and the responsibilities of the Civil Contingencies Act Gary Walker, SEPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 hrs</td>
<td>Break for tea &amp; coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1530 hrs</td>
<td>UKSPILL: the spill industry on future developments In dealing with the consequences of the Deepwater Horizon spill, questions have been asked about developments in technologies and management of oil spills. The spill industry offers its views on containment and control, new techniques and new technologies. • Spill Responder services Glyn Humphries, Chairman, UK Spill Association &amp; Director of Briggs Environmental Services • Manufacturing future booms and skimmers Mike Dory, Vikoma International • Spill tracking and surveillance Matthew Rymell of BMT Argoss</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600 hrs</td>
<td>Chairman’s summary and Question &amp; Answer session</td>
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<tr>
<td>1615 hrs</td>
<td>Seminar ends</td>
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**EVENT INFORMATION:**

Limited visitor parking is available at Victoria Quay. In the event that this is full, alternative free parking is available at the nearby Ocean Terminal multi-storey facility.

The Conference facility is limited to 100, bookings will be confirmed on a first come first served basis.

**UKSPILL CONTACT**

Roger Mabbott  +44(0)7793 649643  info@ukspill.org
Over the next 2 decades the company continued offering its general marine services, including the provision of Oil Spill Response. A fundamental year in the history of the company was 1979, when the company ceased to be a family run entity, when it was purchased by the Milford Haven Port Authority, albeit retaining its status as a separate company. Little changed in the day to day activities of the company until 1992, when the company was awarded the UK Government Marine Pollution Control Unit’s Salvage and Offshore Pollution Response Contract to store, maintain and deploy equipment. The company built its dedicated response facility in Milford Haven to service the contract.

The Sea Empress Incident of 1996 was the largest response undertaken in support of the contract, with the company involved in Salvage Activities, Logistical Support, Offshore Response, and to provide the post incident Decontamination Facility. The year also saw the company become one of the first responders accredited to Response Level 3.

The move into the new Millennium was a major turning point in the company’s history. Faced with a changing market, the management and board of the company was faced with the choice of diversifying both the services it offered and also the locations from where it offered these, or risk falling into the annals of UK Oil Spill Response History. In 2001, the company opened facilities in Stansted, specialising in Inland Spills and Rail Infrastructure Services and also in Chesterfield, specialising in Industrial Services and Tank Cleaning. Following this, the expansion continued; in 2006 the company purchased the assets and contracts of Ceto Environmental, enhancing its marine and industrial services capability and adding facilities in Falmouth and Huddersfield.

In 2006, the parent company, the Milford Haven Port Authority, undertook a review as to its ability to continue operating DV Howells Ltd and decided to relinquish its ownership when the right buyer came along. Braemar Shipping Services PLC acquired the company in 2006, becoming the Environmental Division of the Group. The capability of the company was quickly enhanced when Hi-Bar Limited was also acquired and merged into DV Howells Ltd, providing International Response, Training and Crisis Management Services. In 2008, the company rebranded as Braemar Howells Limited and now operates 10 response bases in the UK, offering Oil and Chemical Spill Response, both marine and inland, Industrial and Marine Services and also Crisis Management, Training and Consultancy Services. The company also operates response bases in Angola and Nigeria.

www.braemarhowells.com
info@braemarhowells.com
GUEST EDITORIAL:
Call Them and They Will Come... Maybe.

For many years the UK has been viewed as a centre of excellence for Oil Spill Response, from equipment design and manufacture through to worldwide response. The North Sea, some of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, our coastline and a number of significant disasters gave birth to this capability, but where is it today?

Legislation was satisfied at the outset, with bespoke risk assessed packages, but due to commercial constraints and possibly complacency, these have been replaced by one size fits all box tickers. Where once stood a fully maintained package of equipment and on-site dedicated personnel, who trained and exercised on location regularly, these sites are now serviced by remote equipment over a hundred miles away with personnel who have probably never seen an oil spill.

How long since our equipment was truly used in anger? What is our true capability today?

In the case of Government funded stockpiles, this capability is almost certainly there, but I am sure the exposure lies elsewhere. For many years, the stakeholders, requiring pollution prevention services have worked on a “call them and they will come” philosophy. At the time, this was the case, but without funding and in an increasingly competitive arena, how many independent contractors have let their capability wane, or deployed it overseas. It’s not all about the equipment, the expertise is leaving the industry, fifteen years later, are Sea Empress stalwarts still in a position to swing from the rigging, 24hrs a day for weeks? Have we replaced this capability with enthusiastic and class room trained graduates?

What happens if an organisation, which opted for the cheapest possible route to legislative compliance, has a major incident? I’m sure they keep the numbers of a few of the larger oil spill brands stapled to the back of their contingency plans. But as time has passed, would they help, or could they?

Obviously, Deep Water Horizon has bought home the potentially disastrous commercial impact of an oil spill. Would shareholders really appreciate management having spent a few hundred pounds trying to offset the risk of billions?

I’m sure these recent events will bring on a few hastily started engines and some extra oil services, but we really need to look again as an industry into how our capability is funded. Is it time to resurrect the retainer in its former glory, for Government funding to be available to assist in maintaining our cross industry capability?

Many years of undercutting, creative writing and price wars have taken their toll commercially, and in turn limiting resources. Should we look at the UKSpill offering? Possibly a two scale (Tier, level and Gold etc remain so heavily used in the industry we shall opt for A and B). B being legislation compliant and A being bespoke. At least this may be one way to allow the stakeholder to understand what they are funding and the exposure they are creating and to request pricing accordingly.

Until a unified desire to provide a world beating capability is realised, it will be impossible to provide.

John Holmes

Stop Press

INTERSPILL 2012 IN LONDON – updates

Interspill will be held in conjunction with Oceanology 2012, on March 12-15 2012, and Oceanology owners, Reed Exhibitions will be contracted to manage the event on behalf of Interspill Ltd.

Details at www.interspill.org

INDUSTRY EVENTS: PREVIEWS

UK: UKSPILL AND EMERGENCY PLANNING SOCIETY
5 OCTOBER 2010, SCOTTISH GOVT OFFICES, EDINBURGH UK

This event has emerged from cooperation between UKSpill and the EPS Oil Pollution group recognising the concern may have over the implications of the spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Keynote speaker will be the cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead of the Scottish government, other speakers from MCA, IPIECA and BP, together with the leading manufacturers and Responders will give their assessment. Details at www.ukspill.org

UK: INLANDSPILL SEMINAR AT ESS
25 NOVEMBER 2010, EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW, COVENTRY

This event is part of a series of roadshows to brief on the updated Accreditation Scheme and also the continuing review of EDR issues, and the PPG consultation. www.ukspill.org

USA: IOSC, INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE
23-25 MAY 2011, OREGON CONVENTION CENTRE, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

The 21st Triennial International Oil Spill Conference on will be held May 23-26, 2011 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, USA. Over 2,000 people from 50 countries are expected to attend the technical sessions and view more than 250 exhibits. The IOSC is a proven venue contributing to the critical concept of industry and government entities working together within the oil spill response community, the broader field of incident management, and society as a whole. It provides a forum for professionals from the international community, the private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to highlight and discuss innovations and best practices across the spectrum of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration. Details at www.iosc.org