

Disaster Response – Has Anything Really Changed

Jim Remington
Program Analyst

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Education and Training Program

Presenters:

- David Coffey, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- Mark Catlin, SEIU Education and Support Fund

On April 20, 2010, at about 10 p.m., the Deepwater Horizon, owned by Transocean Ltd., was under contract with BP to drill an exploratory well. Only two days away from temporarily capping the oil well it had drilled and handing off the pumping of the oil to a production platform or pipeline. But during this disconnection process the rig suffered a blowout and an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. There were 126 people on board at the time. Fifteen of those were injured and eleven died, caught fire and sank to the bottom on April 22nd. On April 24th, underwater cameras discover oil leaking on the sea bottom. On May 1st the light sheen from the oil spill makes landfall on some parts of the Louisiana. NIEHS WETP along with OSHA and NIOSH deployed to Robert, LA (Unified Area Command).

NIEHS WETP Responds

- On May 2nd the WETP joined up with OSHA, and NIOSH to provide assistance and support to the Unified Area Command.



BP and Training

- April 29th BP contracted with Texas Engineering Extension Service to create curriculum and provide training.
- May 1st BP contracts with Petroleum Education Council (PEC/Premier) to manage training to include acquiring instructors, scheduling training, registration management and badge creation.
- May 3rd BP became aware of NIEHS. Had they known we existed they would have included us into the planning and utilized us.....
- Thus becomes our role as a sub to the contractor....

Unified Command Task Order

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES
WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM

STATEMENT OF WORK TO UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMANDER
OIL SPILL RESPONDER SAFETY AND HEALTH TRAINING TO MISSISSIPPI CANYON 252
(MC 252)

ORGANIZATION:

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 79 Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Point of Contact: Joseph T. Hughes, Jr., Chief WETB, jhughes3@niehs.nih.gov, cell: 919-9495814

AUTHORITY:

NIEHS oil spill response training is authorized under section 328(g) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Title 42 U.S.C. section 9606g). NIEHS statutory response activities are referenced in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and implemented under mission assignments from the US Coast Guard and the US EPA. NIEHS authority under the NCP is referenced in Section § 308.175 and includes "involvement in hazardous materials accident prevention in a non-regulatory nature which is focused on two primary areas for preventing community and worker exposure to hazardous materials releases: Worker safety training and basic research activities." In this particular instance, BP is managing the processes for worker and public safety training. NIEHS deployed training personnel will function under the direction of the BP MC252 Training Lead, reporting through the Unified Command safety officer.

SCOPE:

NIEHS will provide support to BP and the Unified Command to support the training program for response workers participating in Gulf oil spill response clean-up efforts (MC252). This support is endorsed by BP at the level defined in this proposal with the expectation that NIEHS would be compensated post response based on actual receipts and per instructions in the Federal Agency Pollution Removal Funding Authorization document tied to this proposal.

The primary objectives are to:

- 1) Assist with the development of health and safety related course materials, training matrix, and task level training requirements and PPE Assessment.

Tasks

- 1) Assist with the development of health and safety related course materials, training matrix, and task level training requirements and PPE Assessment.
- 2) Provide quality assurance course material and delivery of training in collaboration with BP's prime contractors, Petroleum Education Council (PEC) Premier and Texas Engineering and Extension Service (TEEX);
- 3) Provide qualified. local trainers to the training program managed by PEC/Premier to expand and augment training resources in the impacted areas to ensure the efficient and timely promulgation of health and safety training:
- 4) Assist with the distribution of relevant safety training materials through its web site and training distribution network within the impacted area.

Trainers and Assessors Deploy

- Input into training materials, JHA's, training matrix
- Trainers brought in to be “certified” as BP Module instructors
- Integrating into training schedule
- Assessment of classes

Trainer Certification Process

- Resume – Reviewed by TEEEX for experience with Health and Safety, Oil & Gas, Disaster Response, or Maritime.
- Attend a Train the Instructor class (4-8 hours)
- Perform a topic as instructor
- Take written test

BP Training Modules

- Module 1: 30-45 minutes general Health Safety Education (volunteers)
- Module 2: 30-45 minutes general HSE (contractors)
- Module 3 On-Shore: 4 hours (all beach cleanup workers)
- Module 3 Computer Based Training (Wildlife workers)
- Module 3 Marine: 4 hours (VOO)
- Module 4: 4 hours (VOO)

WETP Issues

- Qualifying “certified” instructors
- Funding for grantee participation
- Integration into current contractor training flow
- Reporting to PEC/BP
- Curriculum development was done between OSHA , TEEEX, and BP
- Curriculum was the minimum to satisfy OSHA so that it could be labeled “OSHA Certified”.
- No props, no hands on activity such as donning and doffing.
- Initial classes were large
- Use of translators versus native speaking health and safety trainers

Recommendation

- OSHA remain in the oversight role, not curricula development unless they utilize OSHA's DTE
- NIEHS act as federal training oversight along side the federal safety lead
- NIEHS trainers grandfathered as "certified" when providing "awareness" level training. Higher level of instructor training appropriate for training course provided (e.g. 40 hour HAZWOPER instructor)
- Training provided should strive to meet as many Minimum Criteria requirements possible keeping in mind the level of training and environment.
- Funding for NCP or NRF participation be established prior to or immediately upon involvement.
- Grantees recommend instructors who can clear their schedule for 1-2 weeks and can commit to rotating back.
- Instructors need to be self starters, flexible, able to operate in austere conditions.....and personable.