

Emergency Planning – Basics



Offshore Oil Platforms

Basic objectives of Emergency Plan:

1. Muster and headcount to identify any missing persons.
2. Recovery and treatment of injured personnel.
3. Evacuation of non-essential platform staff.
4. Termination or mitigation of the incident.
5. Monitoring for oil releases.
6. Coordinate oil clean-up operations.
7. Advice to regional authorities (police, fire, health authorities, coastguard, etc).
8. Receipt of casualties.
9. Communications to the media.
10. Ensuring appropriate isolations to pipeline network.

There are three means of personnel evacuation:

1. If possible, and if time permits, the preferred evacuation method is by helicopter.
2. Lifeboats (TEMPSCs) are used if helicopters cannot be made available, either due to urgency or adverse weather.
3. Direct escape to sea, e.g. using rope ladders or jumping. (*This is a last resort. Piper Alpha survivors escaped this way.*)

There should be at least two possible escape routes to the muster stations from any point on the platform.

There should be sufficient immersion suits and smoke hoods or BA sets at muster stations.

There should be regular emergency drills to test all aspects of the Emergency Plan.

All personnel should receive basic emergency training which should include time in a TEMPSC lifeboat.

Nuclear Power Stations or Chemical Plants

Basic objectives of Emergency Plan:

1. Muster and headcount to identify any missing persons.
2. Recovery and treatment of injured personnel.
3. Evacuation of non-essential station staff.
4. Termination or mitigation of the incident.
5. Surveys of surrounding area to establish extent of contamination.
6. Minimise radiation exposure or toxin uptake to the general public by (where appropriate):
 1. Evacuation within a defined emergency planning zone.
 2. Issuing potassium iodate tablets (for iodine-131 release)
 3. Other prophylactic medication as may be appropriate
7. Advice to regional authorities (police, fire, health authorities, etc).
8. Receipt of casualties (who may be contaminated).
9. Communications to the media.

Gas masks or BA sets should be available to site personnel as required to permit ordered evacuation.

There should be regular realistic exercises, which include regional authorities, to ensure staff are familiar with the arrangements.

There will be a well-equipped off-site emergency centre to deal with non-plant related aspects.