



Emergency Planning

Prepared to respond to a major accident situation

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Whilst the aim of safety management is to prevent accidents and incidents, there are a few occasions when the safeguards in place are overwhelmed by the scale or speed of development of a major accident.

An effective emergency plan is the last line of defence during a major accident.

The evidence from many sources is that most organisations without a well-structured emergency response plan may never recover from a major accident. Emergency response plans are now required by regulators in many cases.



SOLUTION

What is Emergency Planning?

Emergency planning is carried out by two bodies, the operating company whose site may suffer an incident, and the local or state authorities who may have to deal with offsite impacts and provision of emergency services. The on-site emergency plan typically establishes procedures for dealing with emergency situations involving loss of containment of hazardous material. The offsite emergency plan gives detail of personnel responsible for particular activities in support of emergency action.

The emergency plans should be simple and straightforward, to a defined layout to prevent confusion, and they need to be flexible and achieve necessary compliance with legislative requirements.

Effective emergency response plans are based on the identified risks, they are understood by all, and they are rehearsed and improved by feedback from drills.

What are the key benefits?

An emergency plan is required by most regulators, and has to be put in place by the operator prior to permission to start-up a unit.

A well thought out and tested emergency response plan means that you are fully prepared for the most serious hazard situations. While some disruption is inevitable, a tested plan means that the consequences can be minimized and you maximize the opportunity for rapid recovery.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS ?

■ Bureau Veritas has a very wide experience in emergency planning in the USA and South America, European Union, Australia and New Zealand, and the Middle East.

■ The company operates a Technical Centre operation to support its operations in 140 countries, so that emergency plan development can be carried out by people who understand the business climate, legislation, and culture of people in the countries concerned.

RELATED SERVICES

- Legislative awareness
- Emergency equipment survivability
- Emergency control facility audit
- Fire & toxic refuge design audit
- Fire & explosion consequence analysis
- Toxic release dispersion assessment
- Fire-fighting water systems audit (API, BS, etc.)
- Fire-fighting systems, basis of design
- Signs & Signals specification
- Emergency alarm audibility and differentiation



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OUR APPROACH

Bureau Veritas supports national and International guidelines in its delivery of emergency plan consultancy, and always gains the involvement of front-line operations personnel to ensure the usability of the plans.

Bureau Veritas also assists the testing of the plans in simulated "table top" emergency exercises. These exercises train site personnel in procedures, ensure good interfacing with external emergency services, and check the coverage and relevance of the plan itself.

Amongst a number of suitable starting points, Bureau Veritas often uses the framework of requirements issued by authorities such as FERC in the USA, and the UK HSE.



CASE STUDY

Bureau Veritas assisted with the development of an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) for an LNG terminal. The plan provides an effective emergency management structure and plan to respond in a timely manner to an emergency at or near the terminal.

The Plan was based on an incident command structure with an Incident Management Team identified and responsibilities assigned. A Unified Command structure was established in the event the emergency escalated further requiring the support of external resources. The Plan detailed the reporting procedures, alarm system, control centers, protective shelters, and evacuation assembly areas. The Plan also included a description of the terminal's Safety Instrumented System (SIS) which was designed to allow the safe, sequential emergency shutdown (ESD) and isolation of rotating equipment, fired equipment and the LNG storage facilities.

FAQ

What is meant by a "hierarchy of protection"?

The fundamental aim behind emergency management is to safeguard people from immediate and chronic effects to their lives. A secondary but essential aim is also to protect the environment. Whilst survival of the plant may be an important business priority, it comes lower in importance than the other two.

Emergency simulation exercises are stressful. Are there any downsides?

Yes. Emergency simulations can be highly stressful due the "information overload" which often occurs. Incident controllers need to be experienced, but above-all they need to be medically fit.

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