

# Abstract

## SPECIAL EVENT:

Seminar on Recent Developments and Trends in Oil Spill Preparedness, Response and Compensation

## Best Practices in Oil Spill Contingency Planning



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Recent oil spill incidents, particularly the Macondo Gulf of Mexico disaster, have had profound and transformative effects on the oil and gas industry. These have resulted in increased awareness regarding the importance of having a robust oil spill preparedness program in place. Oil spill contingency planning is an integral part of preparedness that will ensure prompt response to mitigate the adverse effect of any spill.

The degree of complexity involved in the planning process will greatly depend on the type of operation, local conditions, and environmental and socio-economic sensitivities. However, the overall objective is always to develop a capability in compliance with the regulatory framework and that can sustain an ongoing response commensurate with the risks. This capability requires suitable equipment, sufficient logistics, and competent and trained personnel supported by proven, exercised plans. A reliable system of review and maintenance will ensure the plan remains relevant and appropriate to changing levels of risk within the organization. The importance of stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process allows for meaningful discussion and resolution of conflicting interests while in a non-emergency situation. This cyclical process, when guided by a set of internationally-recognized practices and procedures will enable the industry to deliver acceptable health, safety and environmental performance.

This session outlines the current views on best practices in oil spill contingency planning, according to the Good Practice Guide (GPG) developed under the IOGP-IPIECA Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (JIP). It will also cover how functional oil spill contingency plans can be developed to address the operational needs of individual organizations.



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