

Preparing for Disaster

Environmental Strategies, LLC – Melanie Jarrell

Are you prepared for the worst case scenario at your oilfield? Have you considered the worst thing that can happen? Have you become aware of risk evaluation whereby you can determine the risks you are willing to take but prepare for reducing that risk wherever possible?

Let's look at your risk reduction philosophy for a minute or two. You decide to bring in an expert at risk evaluation, get the lowdown on your highest risks, then what? Usually you are handed a very lengthy report that gets put on the shelf. What about the expert that takes the advice of the risk expert and turns it into a sound PLAN for action?

This is what we do. We take expert risk analysis and advice, and turn it into a plan for action – not just a plan but a well thought out step by step action plan. There is a difference in a plan and an action plan. Usually the action plan is the condensed version where everyone gets something to do: becomes responsible, and that is the action plan.

What about “planning ahead” action plans? Do we think sufficiently enough about this? Do we respect the logic that this could potentially happen and thus plan with appropriate actions for it?

This is what we do. We take action plans and practice those actions until they become second nature to each individual that has a part in the action. It is called role playing or table top drills. We take your plans and make sure they are do-able. That they are not just a nice idea or philosophy but actual resources and manpower do-able. After Katrina, the U S Coast Guard found out what action plans developed by the operators were “do-able” and which were just fancy philosophy. Those operators that actually got cleanup crews out to the fields where the oil tanks had been moved several hundred feet spilling oil in their wake, those were the operators that were capable of putting action plans into place and getting things done amidst much confusion.

This is what we do: take those plans, play them out and determine where the weak links are, revise the plan and make it solid and do-able in a real time situation.

If you have not taken your risk evaluations and made some sort of attempt at a strategic plan and an action/ tactical plan, now is the best time to do this. Where will you get those resources when everyone else is looking for the same resources? Have you made provision via contracts and first rights of refusal friendships with your vendors to ensure you will get what you need – will it be available? Do you need to circumvent the entire system of sharing resources to hold your own resources in stock for a greater risk reduction strategy? This is what we do. We parlay with operators' management strategy to enhance their best chance of winning: we determine the best mix of equipment, resources, and manpower that is necessary to resolve a risk situation gone bad. Gone worse – a hurricane that has upset not only your oil and gas field but fifteen others. Risk analysis is a good start – remember to think things all the way through to the end result – saving lives, property, the environment with a good strategy for tactical planning and operations. This is what we do.