

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Freshwater Spill Symposium 2009

28 – 30 April 2009





Oil Spill Response

April 2009



The Challenges of Responding to an Oil Spill Incident in the Desert

Case study: Yemen Spill 2008



Content

- 💧 Introduction
- 💧 Challenges
- 💧 Risks
- 💧 Risks Mitigation Measures
- 💧 Oil Spill Response Options
- 💧 Lessons Learnt

Introduction

- ◆ Source: overflowed oil and rainwater from process pit
- ◆ Affected area: spread over approximately 8km over two connected 'wadis'.
- ◆ Date: June 2008
- ◆ Location: Seiyun, Hydhamaut region, Yemen



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Challenges

💧 Environment

- Weather
 - Extreme weather conditions
- Landscape
 - Dangerous rocky cliffs

💧 Language & Culture

- Language barrier
 - Translator

💧 Logistics

- Lack of proper equipment
- Manpower

Challenges - Environment



Challenges - Environment



25/6/2008

Challenges – language & culture



Challenges – language & culture



9/7/2008

Challenges – language & culture



29/6/2008

Challenges - logistics



24/6/2008

Challenges - logistics



Challenges - logistics



26/6/2008

Challenges - logistics



Challenges - logistics



5/7/2008

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Risks

- 💧 Health & Safety
- 💧 Wildlife
- 💧 Security

Risk – health & safety



Risk – health & safety



Risk – health & safety



29/6/2008

Risk – health & safety



Risk – health & safety



1/7/2008

Risk – health & safety



3/7/2008

Risks – health & safety



28/6/2008

Risk – health & safety



6/7/2008

Risks - wildlife



Risks - security



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Risks Mitigation Measures

- 💧 Risk Assessment
- 💧 Local Knowledge
- 💧 Welfare
- 💧 Drills (eg. Medi-evac, flash flood evac)



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Oil Spill Response Options

- 💧 Manual Cleanup
- 💧 Low Pressure High Volume Flushing
- 💧 In-situ burning



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- 💧 **Lessons Learnt**

Lesson Learnt

💧 Responders

- High fitness level
- Local knowledge
- Resourceful
- Good interpersonal skills

💧 Welfare

💧 Local support

💧 Think out of the box

The End



Questions?