US ERA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Freshwater Spill Symposium 2009

28 – 30 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, Hydhramaut 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



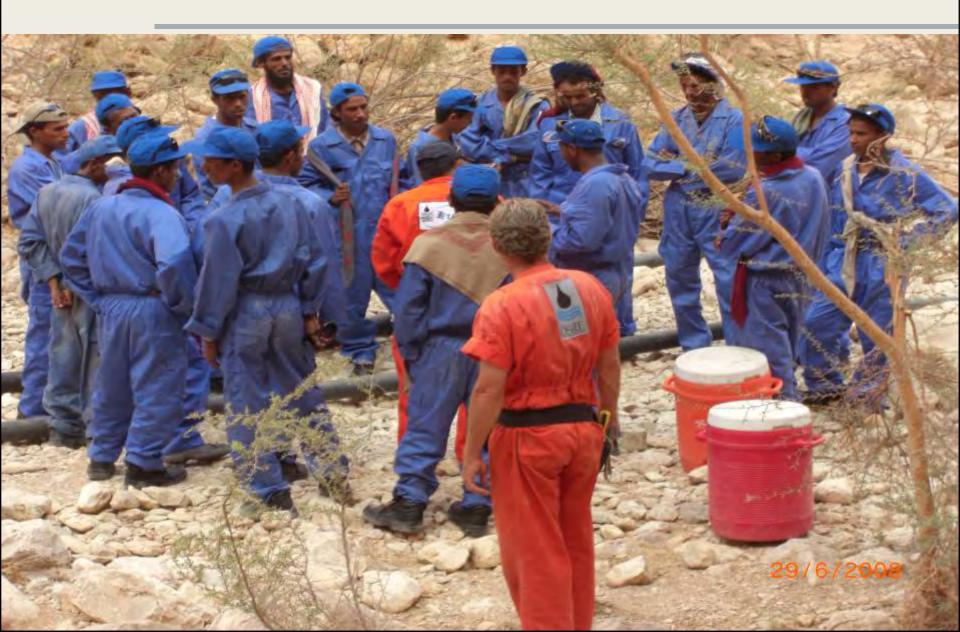
Challenges – language & culture



Challenges – language & culture



Challenges – language & culture













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Risks

- Health & Safety
- Wildlife
- Security

















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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Lesson Learnt

- Responders
 - High fitness level
 - Local knowledge
 - Resourceful
 - Good interpersonal skills
- Welfare
- Local support
- Think out of the box

The End



Questions?

