Oil Spill Response – The Norwegian Model

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Cooperative response model

Norwegian oil spill response is organized in 3 regimes:

• In case of oil spills from ships, the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) is responsible for oil spill response, clean-up and restoration. NCA may, as a government organisation, order mobilisation of all Norwegian oil spill response resources, including NOFO. NCA will compensate resource owners for use of their equipment.

• In case of oil spills from offshore installations, the operator is responsible for oil spill response, clean-up and restoration, using NOFO to implement all practical measures. Through various bilateral agreements, NOFO may utilise all national oil spill response resources, including NCA’s

• In case of minor and local incidents, the municipal emergency response organization is responsible.
Cooperative response model

• NOFO is part of the well established national emergency preparedness model which combines public and private oil spill response resources.

• This unique organizational relationship between public and private response organisations ensures that responsibility and command is clearly defined and that Norway’s total emergency response resources are available at all times.
Norwegian Regulations and Responsibilities

According to Norwegian Law, any industry with a potential for polluting the environment must have emergency preparedness proportional to the probability and sequence of the event, with consent from the authorities.

For field developments / exploration drilling, operators must submit consent applications including:

- Production and Development Plan / Drilling Plan
- Environmental Risk Analysis
- Oil Spill Contingency Analysis

When approved consent with discharge permit is given:

- The operator makes Oil Spill Response Plan for all barriers
- NOFO makes necessary resources available according to the Oil Spill Response Plan
The Barrier Principle
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Barrier 0  is the sum of safety barriers that may prevent the occurrence of an oil spill from an offshore installation (stop the source).

Barrier 1  is the first oil spill barrier to be deployed as close to the source as possible (stand-by vessel (Fi-Fi, rescue and Oil rec))

Barrier 2  is the open sea barriers where the oil escaping Barrier 1 is hunted

Barrier 3  is recovery in costal waters

Barrier 4  is the coastland and stranded oil cleaning
Key Learnings

The multi-barrier principle is a good basis for effective oil spill preparedness
Common resource base and procedures are cost-effective for the operating companies
Clear division of responsibility – the operating company has overall responsibility for combating (strategic command), while NOFO is responsible for implementation of operations (tactical and operational management)
Extensive training and exercises are decisive in order to be well prepared
Focus on technology development and verification through oil-on-water exercises have been decisive for development of new and more efficient solutions
The unique cooperation between public and private emergency organizations ensures that Norway’s total emergency resources are available to everyone at any time.