



MINUTES

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OFFSHORE LIAISON (EPOL) GROUP

DATE: Wednesday 5 December 2018
LOCATION: Apache, Caledonia House, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells

CHAIR/MINUTES: Rob McRobb and Len Braun

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alison Jansch (Apache)	Moza Al Azri (BP – Observer)
Derek Hart (IADC)	Isla Innes (BP – Observer)
Andrew Lang (Premier Oil)	CJ Macleod (BEIS)
Wendy Aden (Spirit Energy)	Catrin Dickson (Repsol Sinopec)
Pete Lawson (MCA)	Hannah Curd (Shell)
Karen Mackay (ConocoPhillips)	Gwen Thomson (Bristow)
Heather MacLeod (Floatel International)	Chaz Simpson (Deepwater/Transocean)
Chris Shawcross (Bluewater)	Sinead Watson (TAQA)
Stephen Golightly (Petrofac)	Rob McRobb (Police Scotland)
Nick Bailey (HSE)	Len Braun (Police Scotland)
Marc Duncan (Chrysaor)	Phil Lamb (Police Scotland)
Chris Hornsby (Chevron)	
Ruth Evans (Marathon)	
Shirley Daniel (Equinor)	
Craig Robertson (Serica Energy)	
Christopher Mackie (Bluewater)	
Colin Walker (BP)	

1. WELCOME AND DOMESTIC ISSUES

Alison Jansch welcomed everyone to Apache and outlined the domestic issues.

2. OPENING OF MEETING AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair formally opened the meeting and welcomed those who were new to the group.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:-

Rebecca Heginbotham-Blount (Norfolk Constabulary)
Lynn de Boer (UKO&G Chaplaincy)
Gordon Craig (UKO&G Chaplaincy)
John Duncan (Total)
Jennifer Poole (Perenco)
Emma Russell (INEOS)
Lynne MacLeod (INEOS)
Colin Hart (HSE)
Gary Spark (Police Scotland)
Glen Bland (Police Scotland)
Colin Sellar (Subsea7)
Rob Bly (BP)
Catherine Jones (ENI)
Mark Brosnan (CHC)
Helen Stuart (TAQA)
Alix Thom (Oil & Gas UK)
Louise Thomson (Wood)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Tuesday 25 September 2018 were approved.

5. MEDIA SUB GROUP UPDATE

Len Braun advised the Group that the planned soft roll out of Vuelio for use during company exercises was continuing and a fuller update on the progress is expected in time for the March EPOL meeting.

6. MCA UPDATE

Pete Lowson provided the following update to the Group.

The Brent Charlie had recently required SAR aircraft to evacuate non-essential personnel due to a loss of power and a worsening weather forecast. A more detailed summary will be provided once a debrief with Shell has taken place however it is

important to highlight that SAR aircraft are not there to support installations with power failures. This incident had extenuating circumstances which merited an emergency being declared, but does again raise questions about a suitable industry available response and this will be investigated more.

MCA will in future prepare factual press statements which will be released to the media, following the usual 10-minute rule. The release would confirm a general location of an incident and assets responding. It normally would not contain an installation name and wouldn't disclose any details of casualties/fatalities. A protocol has been prepared, for MCA use, which has been circulated with these minutes.

In general, companies and personnel must recognise that delays can occur during emergency evacuations and all care should be taken to ensure the process is managed as smoothly as possible. The use of Vantage should not be used and personnel should not be taking bags off with them. The SAR aircraft are there to get people off quickly in an emergency, not to act as a taxi.

The difference in terminology between evacuation and down-man was discussed and the importance of being familiar with HM Coastguard procedures was highlighted. It is highly recommended that all companies consider ensuring that their OIMs, deputies and other relevant on and offshore staff attend the MCAs Offshore SAR Management course.

Members were thanked for providing some Installation Summary Sheets to the MCA. While these are excellent documents, not all that many have been received to date and therefore companies are encouraged to complete one. The document is not mandatory however the MCA also share it with the police, providing excellent situational awareness for responding officers.

7. HSE UPDATE

Nick Bailey informed the Group that he had an overview of the Brent Charlie incident described by Pete Lowson. He intends meeting up with Pete to discuss HSE assistance in the provision of guidance to industry on what constitutes an emergency situation and what is expected of Companies in such circumstances.

He intimated that the HSE Emergency Response Guide is currently being updated and revised. This assists Inspectors carrying out inspections and provides companies with an overview on what to expect. It is hoped the document will be published by April 2019.

The HSE are working with Oil & Gas UK regarding a technical note for ERRV during exceptional weather conditions.

Nick then spoke about the HSE TEMPSC familiarisation paper regarding the provision of lifeboat familiarisation offshore. (A copy of the TEMPSC Familiarisation Expectations document has been circulated to members).

Work continues in the areas of Decommissioning, Dismantlement and Safety Cases.

8 BEIS UPDATE

CJ Macleod provided the follow update:

The delivery of the NCP Exercise Report was expected to be published by the end of October 2018 after having been reviewed by the necessary partners involved. The delivery of the report however, is now running late with a final draft sitting with OPRED and MCA for a final consultation/review. This process is near completion and the publication of the report is expected early in 2019.

The Temporary SOSREP and associated arrangements are still in place and are likely to remain so until early 2019. The recruitment of a new SOSREP is ongoing and the submission of applications for the post closed on 30 November 2018. Following a sifting process it is expected that interviews will be held in early January 2019. Hopefully the announcement of the successful candidate can be made shortly thereafter.

Following the flare gun incident in December 2017 and the subsequent discussion at EPOL about the legislation and guidance, a question arose about what to do with cartridges involved in misfires or hang-fires from flare guns. The question was posed as to whether OPRED would allow cartridges to be thrown into the sea after they had been soaked in a bucket for 24 hours as it might be safer than transporting them onshore. OPRED discussed this issue internally with the Environmental Management Team (EMT) and their initial response was that if a cartridge was soaked to inert the ignition source they were unsure what the issue would be with returning it onshore rather than throwing it over side. As an environmental regulator, OPRED cannot encourage people to deposit items in the sea. This is meantime awaiting a final decision from EMT.

9 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRILLING CONTRACTORS UPDATE

Derek Hart highlighted an incident to the Group that although did not occur in the UKCS was worth highlighting to the Group. An IADC member recently experienced an incident where a crew member became entangled in a Tag Line and was lifted off the deck. The crew member was uninjured but the incident had serious potential. Following similar incidents in the past many Duty Holders have introduced “tangle free” Tag Lines to help prevent this type of incident occurring.

10 OIL & GAS UK UPDATE

There was nothing to update from Oil & Gas UK.

11 LICENSED POLICE NEGOTIATORS – Guidance for offshore incidents.

Detective Sergeant Phil Lamb delivered a presentation to the Group about the deployment of Licensed Police Negotiators to offshore installations.

12 POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

Due to the extended time afforded to Phil Lamb's presentation, the Chair intimated there was no update from Police Scotland on this occasion.

13 INFORMATION SHARING/ OPEN SPACE

14 DATES AND VENUE OF 2019 MEETINGS

Wednesday 6 March 2019 at Premier Oil, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells

Wednesday 5 June 2019 – Venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 25 September 2019 – Venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 4 December 2019 at Apache, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells

15 AOCB