

From: Bush, Earnest D

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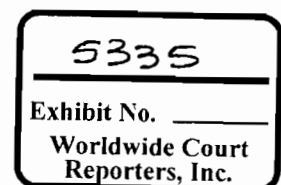
Subject: Notes from Port Arthur Spill Presentation

Importance: Normal

Earlier this week BP Shipping sponsored a session with Capt. J.J. Plunkett of MSU Port Arthur. He spoke about his response as FOSC to the Eagle Otome spill in the Port Arthur. If you are not familiar with this incident, here is a news article. ( Click here). Some key points that I felt were important from his presentation were his expectations of the Responsible Party (listed below). He will also be here attending some courses during Crisis Training Week so that will be a good chance to pick his brain.

#### **Expectations of an RP:**

- **Know your Federal On-Scene Commander**
  - It is important to at least be acquainted with the FOSC before you have to deal with them in a response. Sometimes your FOSC is not a responder by background and that could complicate how they perceive your response efforts. So it is beneficial to know their backgrounds to better know how to approach them in a response.
- **Use of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP)**
  - Each state has an area contingency plan, and its basic premise is to identify the state's resources (i.e. environmental, socio-economic, etc) and how to protect them, and who to notify in case of an emergency. Our Oil Spill Response Plan is aligned with the ACP's and your environmental unit is well trained in using these plans to identifying sensitive areas.
- **It's the RP's Spill**
  - The USCG enters a response with the idea that they are there to assist the RP, unless you give them the impression that you are incompetent, then they will take over.
- **Local Unified Command Post w/ team staffing**
  - USCG expects someone to be close to the scene that has the authority to make decisions. This is somewhat of a challenge to us since we run our responses from Houston, but in my opinion, we can run a response from Houston until we are at the point where shoreline can be impacted. We have set up the Houma Operation Learning Center as an alternative command post in case we need to move closer.
- **Collaborative style that keeps the stakeholders informed**
  - Need to keep invested parties or potential invested parties informed and also use personnel in your unified command (i.e. USCG Liaison Officer) who knows the local stakeholders to aid in that process.
- **Openness with Public and Media**



- No news is not always good news. Please get out press releases quickly and be open about the response effort.
- **Best Effective Response**
  - Do not bring your "A" game; bring your "A+" game.
- **Expect IC to be a good manager**
  - It is ok for an IC not to know everything about spill response since they are not supposed to be making tactical decisions, but this person must be very well versed in being a manager who can handle fast-changing projects.

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*Want to be able to do more than scream in a crisis?*

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