



EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

OGC provides oversight, advise and support for action if needed

Introduction

The role of the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) in an emergency is to **oversee** the company response and to **advise or take action** as necessary. To lessen the potential consequences of incidents, the OGC requires oil and gas operators in British Columbia to establish emergency response preplans for facilities pipelines and wells. The OGC ensures that companies are prepared to respond appropriately to emergency incidents by:

- Reviewing submitted Emergency Response Plans (ERPs) for accuracy and compliance with the OGC requirements;
- Ensuring that producing wells, pipeline and facilities ERPs are updated at least once a year or more often if changes in information are key to implementing the plan;
- Assessing companys' emergency preparedness by attending on site preparation meetings; and
- Evaluating the application and scope of ERP exercises.

What are Emergency Response Plans (ERPs)?

ERPs are pre-planned responses to ensure: protection of public health and safety, protection of property and the environment, and quick and effective response. The Plan, in the form of a report, provides quick access to critical information necessary to effectively respond should an incident or emergency occur.

An emergency response plan may include such things as:

- A process showing steps involved in responding to a potential emergency
- Information on residents, trappers and guide outfitters
- Maps showing buildings, roads and railways near to oil and gas activities
- Instructions for evacuation, sheltering, air monitoring and ignition when necessary
- Government agencies and company contact information with roles and responsibilities
- A communication plan to inform affected parties and necessary authorities
- Company emergency response personnel procedures.

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OGC personnel will provide public information and advice on issues such as sour gas emissions, flaring, odours, pipeline integrity and other safety matters to ensure the public is well informed of potential health and safety risks

What Happens in an Emergency?

In the event of an emergency the OGC must be informed through the OGC/Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) Incident Report Phone Line. The emergency is ranked according to OGC guidelines.

Ranking the Emergency

OGC works with agencies in investigating and enforcing provincial requirements, for instance Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Lands (Agricultural Land Commission), WorkSafeBC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Environment Canada to bring the issue to resolution.

Level 1 Emergency

- No immediate danger to public or environment as no hazardous substance has been released
- Release of hazardous substance is confined to the lease or company property
- Low potential for situation to escalate
- Handled by company personnel

Action Plan would include (but not limited to):

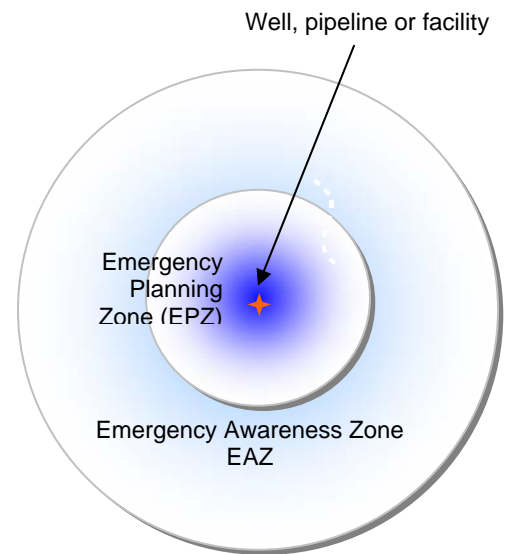
- Alert all well site/facility personnel, evaluate problem and initiate appropriate remedial action
- Non-key personnel must leave the site
- Notify company representative(s)
- Alert or mobilize mobile monitoring equipment
- Advise OGC through the PEP number
- Where incident is near residences, notify/evacuate residents in accordance with site-specific plan
- Prepare for evacuation in case of escalation of the situation.

Level 2 Emergency

- Potential for risk to the public/environment - the emergency could extend beyond company property
- Control of hazardous substance is still possible
- May require the involvement of external emergency services, federal, provincial or local agencies

Action Plan would include (but not limited to):

- Ensure all level 1 actions are taking place
- Begin evacuation of emergency planning zone (EPZ)
- Set up roadblocks to isolate the EPZ





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- Send out monitoring crew; initiate mobile monitoring
- Send company staff to reception centre and inform senior company personnel
- Establish communications links to off-site control centre
- Assemble ignition crew and ready ignition equipment in case of escalation of the situation.

Level 3 Major Emergency

- There exists an immediate danger to the public or environment
- Control of the situation has been lost
- Uncontrolled release of hazardous substance
- Extensive involvement of external emergency services, federal and/or provincial agencies
- Emergency extends beyond company property

In the event that a company's ranking of an event is not consistent with OGC assessment, the company must conform to the OGC's assessment.

Action Plan would include (but not limited to):

- Ensure all level 1 and 2 actions are taking place
- Mobile monitoring equipment in place
- Advise OGC and PEP of the state of emergency
- Expand EPZ as required

The OGC is committed to working with industry and the public to ensure that fair, workable, and enforceable regulations are in place to ensure safety for all. OGC's inspection and enforcement officers are committed professionals and use the tools they have available to ensure industry meets or exceeds the regulations in place to ensure safety of all.

For More Information:

Oil and Gas Commission – Safety Overview: <https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/safety.asp>

Producing Emergency Response Requirements:

https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/documents/guidelines/BC_OGC_Emergency_Response_Plan_requirements.pdf

Drilling & Completions Emergency Response Requirements:

<https://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca/documents/handbook/Handbook%20s11%20Guideline%20for%20Emergency%20Planning%2020031104.pdf>

Oil and Gas Commission publications are available on OGC's Web site: www.ogc.bc.ca

Public complaint response is a priority for the Oil and Gas Commission

If you have general concerns regarding:
noise, smell or spills, or other issues
please contact

OGC 24 Hour Main Switchboard – Fort St. John

Ph: (250) 261-5700

Fax: (250) 261-2084