Bespoke Enhanced Oil Spill Responder Training for Petrobras in Brazil

OSRL was tasked with developing and designing an Enhanced Responder Training programme to train Petrobras Responders in Brazil at their response base sites. The level of training provided was adapted from the OSRL in-house training that all of its new employees in responder roles undertake. In total four 5 week courses were delivered in four locations, each tailored to the specific risk and response capability at each of the Petrobras sites, culminating in an in-field specific location exercise. At the end of the project a selected number of Petrobras delegates were identified from the programme with the competence and capability to attend a further week’s ‘Train the Trainer’ course. The aim of this was to enable Petrobras to roll-out a longer term training programme across the Petrobras Response Bases to raise preparedness levels.

BACKGROUND

Brazil’s growing offshore industry has both established producing and developmental fields. Petrobras is the largest operator in Brazilian waters and the National Oil Company of Brazil. It also has a large tanker fleet and a number of coastal terminals, refineries and associated pipelines. Petrobras has more than a dozen response bases within Brazil. These are all well equipped and fully staffed, providing Tier 2 level response within their regions. Petrobras is also a Participant Member of OSRL ensuring access to a global Tier 3 response capability.

THE SITUATION

Maintaining the highest level of preparedness is a key priority for Petrobras. As part of their preparedness strategy, Petrobras required an in-country training program for their field and management staff and approached OSRL to see whether its internal training program could be adapted to meet this requirement. In order to effectively train their staff and a number of response contractors in Brazil, the training needed to be tailored to the particular needs of Petrobras. The course and programme, including practical exercises, had to be specific to the equipment held in the locations, and applicable to the environmental risk and legislative framework of Brazil. In addition, another challenge was to produce a training course which contained all the vital elements within a five week program.
THE SOLUTION

OSRL run a training program for all new staff entering the response department. This course is a mix of theory and practical sessions over a period of approximately 14 weeks. During this time, delegates progress through statutory safety, logistics, strategic, tactical and company specific courses to achieve responder level status, ready to join one of the four OSRL Response Teams.

OSRL’s responder training is recognised to be at the highest level, and initially was not available to industry. On occasion, Member Companies have chosen to second a member of their staff to OSRL to benefit from this opportunity, and then use their newly gained experience to raise standards back at their location.

To meet the Petrobras requirement, the 14 week OSRL ‘Offline’ Training Course was condensed to five weeks by omitting all of the Tier 3 specific elements. Due to the fact all delegates were experienced Petrobras employees who had undergone the necessary safety, environmental and logistical training as a prerequisite to the course, Petrobras also advised that some modules would not be necessary. It was also decided that equipment maintenance should not be taken above the in-field breakdown level so this too was removed from the course. Finally, strategies unlikely to be deployed in Brazilian waters were omitted (e.g. In-Situ Burning). This created a program entirely tailored to the specific needs of Petrobras.

Scope of the 20 day Training Programme:

Intro (1/2 day): Petrobras overview of capability and risk
Safety (1 day): Policies and Procedures, Identification and Control
Strategy Theory (2½ day): Legislation, mapping, SCAT, stakeholders and theory
Equipment Inspection (2 day): Maintenance, logistics, OWI, static displays
Small Craft (2 day): RYA programme + towing
Practical Training (12 day): At sea, shoreline, port and inland
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CASE STUDY

THE RESULTS
The four 5 week courses were run at bases in Sao Sebastian, Itajai, Fortelaza and Angra dos Reis, with a 3 day exercise on Guanabarra Bay in Rio de Janeiro.

Each course contained elements of offshore, shoreline and inland response, with deployments and exercises based on existing plans. This approach had the added benefit of testing these documents for accuracy and currency, something which had not been carried out recently.

The ‘Train the Trainer’ element took selected delegates through planning, objective setting, and how to get the most out of exercises and the participants. The delegates were from across the Brazilian regions, so upon successful conclusion of the course they could return to their response bases to conduct similar Petrobras courses to staff and contractors. Over the past year there has been evidence of this happening through requests for advice and information.

Evidence of the success of the project was seen immediately by the training programmes that were set up round the response bases following the completion of the initial programme provided by OSRL. In addition, a number of exercises and a series of capability audits took place. OSRL made equipment and maintenance recommendations during the course of the project, and these too have been addressed by the client to further improve its preparedness capability.

OSRL’s delivery of Enhanced Responder Training fully met Petrobras’ objectives and expectations of the training programme to the extent that a further course was requested and delivered for employees of the E & P Department of Petrobras. The training programme OSRL delivered for Petrobras is an excellent example of how OSRL training can be tailored to individual client’s requirements, ensuring delivery of a course specific to a client’s operations, environment, spill risk and regulatory requirements.
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