

There's an oil rig on the beach!



What do we do now?

## **NHS WESTERN ISLES**

**Tom Laverty, Emergency Planning Manager**

**Maggie Watts, Director of Public Health**

**Christina Morrison, Health Protection Nurse Specialist**

**Isabell MacInnes, Health Protection Nurse Specialist**

# Major incident declaration

- **Civil Contingencies Act 2004**
- **An event or situation, with a range of serious consequences, which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agencies i.e. beyond the scope of business-as-usual operations**
- **The decision to declare a major incident will always be a judgment made in a specific local and operational context, and there are no precise and universal thresholds or triggers.**

# Principles of major incident management

- Preparation
- Response
- Recovery

# So what happens next?

- **It's complicated!**
- **National and regional responses – with no/very limited local representation**
- **Local major incident response - WIEPCG**

# National approach

- **SOSREP (Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention) takes charge**
- ***'Response and recovery to a maritime pollution incident impacting the UK shoreline - Scientific, Technical and Operational Advice Note - STOp 1/16'***
- **Salvage Control Unit, chaired by SOSREP**
- **Environment Group, chaired by Marine Scotland**

# Salvage Control Unit Membership

- **SOSREP (Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention)**
- **Transocean (rig owners)**
- **SMIT Salvage (salvers)**
- **Briggs Environmental (counter pollution)**
- **Environment Group Liaison Officer**
- **MCA Counter Pollution & Salvage Officer**
- **HM Coastguard Liaison Officer**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

## **Assessment on site for PH**

- Rig stuck on rocks**
- Smell of fuel/ diesel**
- Houses set back from beach**
- Livestock close to beach**
- Risk assessment**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

- **Weather changing**
- **Oily deposits on fences overnight**
  - **No smell**
  - **? Diesel**
  - **? Hydraulic fluid**
- **Action – site visit and inspection; SEPA sampling**



## Next steps?

- **Advise WIEPCG and seek advice from others**
- **Call Health Protection Scotland**
- **Call Scottish Government Public Health team**

# WIEPCG coordinating local action

- **Protect and preserve life**
  - Health and safety of residents
  - Health and safety of livestock
  - Safety of 'visiting' public
  - Safety of those working to salvage

# Pattern of meetings

- **Battle rhythm – SCU to Env Group to WIEPCG**
- **Consistent agenda**
- **Action points and notes**
- **Summing up**
- **Media release**

# Sampling and Analysis

- **Sea water**
- **Sediment analysis**
  - **Hydrocarbon concentration**
  - **Metals**
  - **Organic carbon**
  - **Particle size**

# Float away

- **22<sup>nd</sup> August**
- **Successful refloat with public attending**
- **Tow underway to Broadbay and safe anchorage to assess damage and effect repairs**

# Timeline

- **7/8/16 tow in trouble Blue light WIEPCG meet**
- **8/8/16 Transocean Winner grounds; major incidence declared**
- **8/8/16 First WIEPCG Problem group**
- **9/8/16 PH chair WIEPCG**
- **22/8/16 WIEPCG declare major incident over; Winner refloated**
- **24/8/16 Winner anchored in Broadbay**
- **21/10/16 Winner leaves Broadbay for Malta**

# WIEPCG debrief and washup

**Structured debrief facilitated by resilience lead resulted in:**

- **Changes to WIEPCG terms of reference**
- **Changes in WIEPCG response to major incidents**

# Questions?

Learn more about the Inter-Island Public Health Forum on Twitter: [#IIPHF](#)