Deepwater Horizon
An Incident Commander’s Perspective

Capt. Scott Schaefer
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Area of responsibility for ICP

Coast of Mississippi and Alabama to Apalachicola, Florida and 60 miles off shore
Successes

- ICS Works
  - Objectives
  - Command and General staff
  - Tactics
  - Planning
Successes

- Operational period 24 or 48 hours
- USCGC 225’ buoy tenders with Spilled Oil Recovery System
- Ocean busters
- Heavy oil recovery device (HORD)
New technologies for shore

Cherrington – oil and sand sifter
BeachTech2000
Successes

- Applied response technologies
  - In-situ burning
  - Dispersants
Successes

- Boom deployment
- Mobile used trained OSRO personnel
Successes

- Qualified community responders
- Affiliated volunteers
- California support
Challenges

• Role of the National Incident Commander
  • 2004 SONS Drill
  • 2010 SONS Drill
  • Deepwater Horizon
  • Daily Phone call
Challenges

- Mutual Aid
  - Releasing equipment
- Emergency Mutual Aid Compact
  - Not utilized
  - Worked well in Yellowstone River Response
Challenges

1,100 people in Incident Command Post
Challenges

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Air operations
  - Equipment and personnel not in IAP (not in Ops)
  - Separate IAP
  - Issues resolved by National Pollution Fund Center
Challenges

- Media Relations
  - Press conference ban
  - Field personnel stopped engaging
  - “Keep the Blue in View”
Challenges

- Liaison
  - Information flow
- Daily reports
Challenges

- Performance measures
  - Percent environmentally sensitive sites protected
  - Feet of boom
  - Number of skimmers
Challenges

Marco Skimmer

Stingray Skimmer
Overall

Mobile Alabama ICP

- Increased size of response from 1,000 to 26,800 personnel
- Worked together cooperatively to protect the environment
- “Help me, help you”