Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group (JEG)
Draft guidance on firewater retention
Workplan & Future Activities

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1. JEG Strategy

• A minimum set of requirements to ensure a basic and harmonized level of safety for hazardous activities throughout the UNECE Region

• Application of accepted good practice procedures to ensure conformity with international standards

• Assistance of national authorities and operators in ensuring an adequate safety level by means of trainings and seminars

Tools & Products → Safety Guidelines & Checklists
2. JEG - Tools and Products

→ **Safety Guidelines**

Accepted Good Practice Procedures to ensure Conformity with International Standards

→ **Pipelines**

→ **Tailings Management Facilities**

→ **Oil-Terminals**

→ **Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters**

→ **Fire-Water Retention and Management**

Conclusion after the Joint UNECE Seminar to the 25th anniversary of the Sandoz accident (Bonn, 2011):

“Sufficient safety measure to prevent transboundary waters from spills of fire water are still not in place, endangering whole River Catchments, and demonstrating the need for a Strategy/Guidance to Fire Water Retention!”

International Expert Group to draft the JEG Safety guidelines/Best Practices for Fire Water Retention

Work Schedule:
→ 1st meeting 17 January 2017, Geneva
→ 2nd meeting 20/21 June 2017, Budapest
→ International Seminar „Strategies for Fire Water retention” 5th September 2017, Slubice
→ 3rd meeting 6 September 2017, Slubice
→ 4th meeting 18 January 2018, Edinburgh
→ October 2017 – March 2018 – consultation with Stakeholders
→ April 2018 – July 2018 – last amendments and translation
→ 8th MoP, October 2018, Astana – Guidance to be agreed by the Parties
→ 10th CoP, December 2018 – Guidance to be agreed by the Parties

I. General recommendations (ECE/MP.WAT/2018/9-ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/12),
II. technical and organizational recommendations (ECE/MP.WAT/2018/10-ECE/CP.TEIA/2018/13)

→ Fire-Water Retention is a major element according to EU Seveso III Directive in Annex II, Point 5., to restrict the effects of a major accidents
→ However nearly no EU country has specific regulations for Fire Water Retention

Key Elements:
- Governments should provide leadership and create suitable administrative frameworks to establish the need for fire-fighting water management and retention in case of emergencies at all hazardous activities (i.e. not only restricted to storage)
- Fire-Fighting water is dangerous to waters irrespective of the burned material (even burned packaging material is contaminating fire-fighting waters to a water-endangering fluid)
Key Elements:
- Fire-Fighting water might not contaminate waters and soil and must be retained completely and disposed adequately.
- Fire-Water Retention has to be established at all industrial activities (not only storage), which have to be subdivided in fire compartment areas as small as possible.
- As an example for firewater retention capacities the German VdS 2557 directive or the Swiss Guidance for firewater retention can be used in industrialized countries.
- For less industrialized countries a fast and rough estimation according to a direct proportionality of the firewater retention volume needed to the largest fire-compartment area can be assumed.
- Advanced Fire-Water protection can lead to a 10 fold reduce of the retention volume assumed.
- Even a complete burn-down has to be taken into account, if there is no sufficient fire-water retention capacity.
5. Summary of ongoing Activities

Response Exercises
- Odra, Germany/Poland (4 September, 2017),
- Danube, Hungary (October, 2018)

Raising knowledge at Universities
(NMU, Dnipro – Final Workshop, 16/17 May, 2017)
→ On-line training methodology

On-site Trainings (TMF) in Georgia, Armenia
Caucasus Region (authorities and operators)
Kick Off Meeting 9 December 2017, Yerevan

Guidance for Fire Water Retention
To be agreed at the 10th CoP and 8th MoP
6. **JEG Work plan 2019 -2020**

1. Disseminate, test and facilitate the application of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Fire-water Management and Retention

2. Support the implementation of UNECE safety guidelines and checklists in countries with economies in transition and interested United Nations Member States beyond the UNECE region

3. Promote transboundary response exercises

   - **Further promote the Guidance for Firewater Retention**
   - **Checklists to support the existing guidelines**
Outlook - Future Activities
(Deficiencies identified by the „Sandoz“-Seminar)

- Checklist to the Safety Guidelines for Pipelines
  With special attention to Ageing and Lifetime Extension

- Guidance for Firewater Retention

- Checklist to the Safety Guidelines for Oil Terminals
Thank You for Your Kind Attention!

Never again!