

Slajd 1

Brief information about the in-field exercise on Odra River of 08.09.2009

Exercise Overview:

„Rescue operations following a spill of oil derivative substance into the watercourses of the border zone” carried out at Urad, Ślubice County, on 8 September 2009.

Jr Brig. Sławomir Klusek

Head of Operations Department, PHQ SFS in Gorzów Wlkp.

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OBJECTIVES

1. Skills development: carrying out, managing and coordinating rescue operations,
2. Improvement of warning and alerting systems, command and cooperation with services operating with the National Firefighting and Rescue System units at the scene of accident,
3. Improvement of cooperation between different rescue services of the Lubuskie Province within an integrated rescue system,
4. Verification of the preparedness to act and of the resources at the disposal of the Central Operational Resources Support (CORS), the Provincial Operational Resources Support (PORS) and other rescue services,
5. Assessment of the alerting procedures used to notify the German side of incidents in the border zone,
6. Improvement of cooperation between Polish and German HQs and rescue services for the event of a major accident in the border zone,
7. Demonstration of tactical and technical capabilities of the SFS Firefighting and Rescue units and other services cooperating in the mitigation of the consequences of ecocatastrophes.

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LOCATION OF THE SOURCE OF ACCIDENT AND THE PROPAGATION OF SPILL

A failure of a tank barge carrying residual fuel oil (RFO) in the middle reach of the River Odra (Oder), near Rapice, Ślubice County, resulted in a damage to some of the cargo compartments. Consequently, 50 tons of RFO leaked from the tank barge. The spill is propagating towards the town of Ślubice at the stream rate of approx. 0.7 m/s. The wind is light, rated at 3 m/s, westerly, and the air temperature is 20°C. The barge has been moored to the bank on the Polish side of the river.

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ACCIDENT DETECTION

At about 9.30 am the spill was spotted by the barge crew who reported the situation to the fire brigade (the Operational Control Centre of the SFS in Ślubice).

The first truck companies are dispatched to the accident site in order to assess the situation.

The details are transmitted to the Provincial Rescue Coordination Post at the PHQ SFS in Gorzów Wielkopolski, which takes the control of the rescue operation.

The PRCP in Gorzów Wlkp. notifies the National Centre for Rescue Coordination and Civil Protection at the SFS Headquarters in Warsaw and alerts the fire brigade unit in Frankfurt (Germany), as well as the other services (Support Services) cooperating with the Emergency Management Centre for the Lubuskie Province in Gorzów Wlkp.

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The Report Form sent by the Provincial Rescue Coordination Post (PRCP) at the Provincial Headquarters of the State Fire Service (PHQ SFS) in Gorzów Wlkp. to the Oderland Regional Control Centre in Frankfurt on the Oder (Regionalleitstelle „Oderland”).

Attachment No. 1 to the International Warning and Alarm Plan for the River Odra

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The Report Form sent by the Provincial Rescue Coordination Post (PRCP) at the Provincial Headquarters of the State Fire Service (PHQ SFS) in Gorzów Wlkp. to the Brandenburg Situation Centre in Potsdam (Lagezentrum Brand-und Katastrophenschutz Brandenburg).

Attachment No. 1 to the International Warning and Alarm Plan for the River Odra

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The reply – acknowledgment received from the Brandenburg Situation Centre in Potsdam (Lagezentrum Brand-und Katastrophenschutz Brandenburg).

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Polish State Fire Service in Gorzów Wlkp

REPORT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
INFORMATION EXCHANGE TRAINING

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Map of the accident area.
Spill propagation Direktion.
Place of accident.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE EXERCISE AREA

The planned area of the exercise is **a section of the River Odra in Urad, referred to as the Operational Area No. 15**. The designation is consistent with Attachment No. 12 - Study for the purpose of delineating operational sections and the principles of cooperation with the German side in case of necessity to carry out a pollution control operation on the boundary waters of the River Odra and Nysa Łużycka, published by the Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection.

In the exercise area affected by the possible threat the River Odra is approximately 180 m wide, its bed reaching the depth of 3.0 m and the stream rate falls within the range of 0.5 – 1.3 m/s. The data does not apply to flood emergencies. The Operational Area No. 15 (P15) in the village of Urad, located in the limits of the Operational Section V (URAD), is **a first category** area in terms of technical infrastructure. P15 has an asphalt paved access road, a hard-surfaced yard, a large back area, a slow water flow, groynes that provide support for operations and a bankline that is well-suited for this kind of operations thanks to an easy access to the water.

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Location of Operational Area No. 15

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Organisation of Operational Area No. 15

Operational HQ
Operational section II NFRS – Lubuskie Province
Operational section I NFRS – Lubuskie Province, Support services
Operational section III German FS – Oder – Spree District
Operational section IV, German FS – Frankfurt an der Oder

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Operational Section I

(Specialist Chemical Rescue Group - GORZÓW CORS, Specialist Water and Dive Rescue Group - GORZÓW PORS, SWDRG - ŚWIEBODZIN PORS)

Tasks:

- setting up of a rigid barrier to separate the working areas where the oil-derivative substance is to be collected,
- setting up of a sorbent barrier,
- preparation of the site for a skimmer,
- cleaning of the water,
- flushing of the river banks with water cannons,
- cleaning of the bankline,
- preparation of the site for a container to collect the recovered RFO.

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Foto

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Operational Section II

(SWDRG - NOWA SÓL PORS, SWDRG - MIĘDZYRZECZ PORS)

Tasks:

- setting up of a rigid barrier separate the working areas where the oil-derivative substance is to be collected,
- setting up of a flexible barrier,
- preparation of the site for a skimmer,
- cleaning of the water,
- flushing of the river banks with water cannons,
- cleaning of the bankline,
- preparation of the site for a container to collect the recovered RFO.

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Foto

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Operational Section III

(Resources from the Oder-Spree District)

Tasks:

- setting up of a flexible barrier,
- setting up of a sorbent barrier,
- preparation of the site for a skimmer,
- cleaning of the water,
- cleaning of the bankline,
- flushing of the river banks with water cannons,
- preparation of the site for a container to collect the recovered RFO.

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Foto

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Operational Section IV

(Resources of the German Fire Service from Frankfurt an der Oder)

Tasks:

- setting up of barriers (directional and flexible),
- preparation of the site for a skimmer,
- cleaning of the water,
- cleaning of the bankline,
- flushing of the river banks with water cannons,
- preparation of the site for the disposal of used sorbing agents,
- preparation of the site for a container to collect the recovered RFO.

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Foto

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Provincial Inspectorate for Environmental Protection (PIEP)

During the exercise, PIEP inspectors performed the following tasks:

- Continuous monitoring of the accident site, sampling water from the River Odra downstream of the barriers, in order to determine the quality of the river water and the degree of risk for the environment;
- Monitoring of the River Odra from the recovery site in the direction of Słubice;
- Teaming up with the Headquarters staff and advising the Head of Rescue Operation as regards the methods used to mitigate the consequences of the spillage and the handling procedures of the hazardous substance.

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The Police and the Border Guard

Tasks:

- Securing of the area of operation
- Securing of the access roads
- Carrying out an investigation to determine the causes of the accident

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The local government of Słubice County and district/borough authorities

The county administrator, acting as the Civil Defence Chief of the County, provided assistance to the rescue units in the recovery effort by:

- Organising a supply base and facilities for the rescue teams;
- Establishing the site and procedures to dispose of the recovered waste, upon approval by the PEIP;
- Providing necessary assistance of local auxiliary services, working together with the rescue units.

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Operational Headquarters (HQ)

1. **Chief of Staff** – Słubice County SFS Commander
2. **Polish Members of Staff:**
 - Mr Józef Kłobuck, representing the County Emergency Management Centre
 - A representative of the district authorities of Cybinka

- A representative of the Water Authority from Słubice
 - Mr Tomasz Parada, representing PIEP
 - Ms Regina Waszkiewicz, representing the Department of Environmental Protection and Forestry at the County Administration Office in Słubice
- 3. German Members of Staff:**
- Mr Klaus-Peter Schulz, Mr Danny Busse, Mr Stephan Werner and Mr Gerd Giese, representing the Oder-Spree District.

HQ tasks

1. Achievement of the tactical objectives of the Rescue Operations Manager.
2. Logistical support of the rescue operations.
3. Determination of the methods and procedures to handle the recovered oil-derivative substance according to the remit and objectives implemented by individual institutions and services on the Polish and German side.
4. Provision of an adequate amount of neutralising and sorbing agents to the operational areas.

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Foto

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Deployment of resources (personnel and equipment) on individual operational sections

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Polish resources used in the exercise

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Polish resources used in the exercise

In total: 16 vehicles, 4 watercraft, 56 firefighters 100 m of platform barrier and 2 skimmers

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German resources used in the exercise

Fire Service Units from Frankfurt am der Oder

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German resources used in the exercise

In total: 14 vehicles, 3 watercraft, 67 firefighters 1 flexible barrier and a skimmer

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Conclusions:

1. Regarding the tactical objectives:
 - 1.1 The exercise was a good opportunity to test the alerting procedures used to notify the personnel and employ the equipment, which arise from mutual (Polish-German) agreements on the provision of assistance in the mitigation of the consequences of transboundary accidents. The execution of the alerting phase was correct and the operational control centres on both sides of the border notified relevant resources;
 - 1.2 The exercise provided an opportunity for continuing improvement of the organisation and control of rescue operations with the participation of Polish-German services. The operational control was performed according to the applicable procedures;
 - 1.3 The exercise allowed verification of the preparedness, the condition of equipment and the ability to set it up in the conditions of actual threat to the aquatic environment, both as regards the State Fire Service units of the Lubuskie Province and of the neighbouring districts on the German side, and also the other cooperating parties. All the notified resources were available at the assembly position and ready to carry out their tasks.
 - 1.4 The tactical objectives were attained. The tactical parameters and technical specifications of the deployed equipment were used to the full. However, the coordination and control of the international resources in this kind of emergency requires further development.

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Conclusions:

2. The establishment of international operational command posts (HQs) in the event of transboundary accidents enables close cooperation of personnel and equipment of the participating countries. The staff should also involve representatives of various services, authorities and institutions that are essential to operate properly, according to their scope of objectives and remits;
3. The work of Polish-German HQ has to be improved. For that purpose, it is justified to organise command post exercises, during which staff members will learn about their respective work

principles, differences and similarities in their organisations, responsibilities of the services and authorities participating in the work of staff;

4. The equipment used to mitigate the consequences of pollution of inland waters with oil-derivative substances, being at the disposal of Polish and German fire service units, allows mutual exchange, cooperation and compatibility in this kind of rescue and recovery operations;

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Conclusions:

5. However, the above-mentioned equipment and operational procedures cannot guarantee 100 % efficiency of recovery operations in the event of pollution of inland waters with oil derivatives. This is because of a variable pollution level, the specific characteristics of the river, a wide range of concentrations of oily pollutants in the water and different extent of practicable recovery operations carried out on watercourses. The actual effectiveness of these operations can be estimated as ranging from 20 to 80 %;
6. Rescue and recovery operations carried out on inland waters require a substantial support from the services providing monitoring and protection of the environment on both sides of the border. They supply details, analytical data and information that are essential for the rescue operations manager to make the right decisions and include e.g. the location of protected sites that have to be secured (due to the risk of contamination of potable water intakes etc.);

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Conclusions:

7. In rescue and recovery operations which involve a large quantity of oil derivative substances and a vast area of pollution a helicopter or another aircraft is an indispensable means for effective identification of the scale of threat and the propagation direction, providing the operational services with the possibility to monitor the impact zone from the air and to maintain contact with the HQ;
8. The joint Polish-German exercise in the mitigation of the consequences of various threats occurring in our borderlands has one superior and undoubtedly positive effect, which is the fact that – in the last 15 years – we have had the opportunity to get to know each other and bring our respective authorities and services responsible for civil protection in the area closer. This results in learning about the possibilities of working together, establishing partner relations between the services, carrying out joint activities and building mutual trust.

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Thank you very much.