

Arabian Oil Company, Ltd.
Terminal & Marine Department
Environmental Protection Section



**IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT OIL SPILL
RESPONSE EXERCISE BETWEEN PAJ AND
SAUDI ARAMCO**

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INTRODUCTION

Oil Spill is one of the most critical issues for the petroleum industry. Most of oil companies have already owned enough capability to respond to oil spill incidents in usual operations, in accordance with the government regulations, mainly the Marine Pollution.

Furthermore, the international and the regional concern took place to Arabian Gulf area after Gulf crisis, where the biggest oil spill accident in the history has occurred on 1991G.

However, the said oil spill triggered international concern over the world and regional concern to the gulf environment conservation, especially necessity of strengthens oil spill response capability.

HISTORY RECORD OF PAJ'S OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT AT AL-KHAFJI

- Petroleum Association of Japan(PAJ) on behalf of Ministry of International Trade and industry of Japanese Government (MITI) has asked Arabian Oil Company (AOC) to set a Stockpile of Oil Spill Response Equipment Base at Al-Khafji as one of the scheme of major Oil Spill Program, which has been implemented since 1991 to cope with major oil spill in and out of Japan.
- AOC received a proposal regarding the “Stockpiling of Oil Spill Equipment at AL-Khafji“ in September, 1993 from the Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ).
- AOC received the PAJ’s Oil Spill Response Equipment on March, 1994 and March, 1996.
- The inauguration Ceremony of the PAJ’s Stockpiling Base and Equipment Demonstration were conducted on by PAJ and AOC at Field Office-Alkhafji with attendants of some officials from Saudi Arabia “Ministry of Petroleum & Minerals”(PETMIN) and Japan. As for Kuwaiti delegation headed by Executive Secretary of Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME).

PAJ'S OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT AT AL-KHAFJI BASE

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|---|----------|
| 1- VIKOMA High Integrity Sprint Boom -250m | (4units) |
| Power Pack | (4units) |
| Air Inflation unit | (4units) |
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| 2- PHAROS MARINE Oil Skimmer GT-185 | (4units) |
| Power Pack | (4units) |
| Remote Control Unit | (4units) |
| High Pressure Cleaning Unit | (4units) |
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| 3- VIKOMA POWERVAC SYSTEM
(Beach cleaner) with Diesel Engine | (2units) |
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| 4- VIKOMA Fastank 2000 gallons | (8units) |

COMMENTS ON PAJ'S OIL SPILL PROGRAMME ON BEHALF OF AOC

Base management of Stockpiled Oil Spill Response Equipment

In accordance with " The Agreement of Oil Spill Response Equipment Storage", "Entrustment Agreement" and "Lending Agreements" concluded between Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) and Arabian Oil Company (AOC).

AOC is managing any thing related to the above mentioned or with borrowing parties by coordination with PAJ at Tokyo. This Equipment is supervised by AOC's Top Management and through Terminal & Marine Department - Environmental Protection Section (EPS).

Experience in lending the PAJs oil spill Equipment.

Since PAJ started at Khafji base with the procedure of lending though the PAJ's lending agreement to the borrowing parties (any member companies of Gulf Area Oil Companies Mutual Aid organization (GAOCMAO) and/or Government Authorities. None of the members have requested to us, which this mean good news of no major oil spills in the area.

Also no request from any parties through "Special contact" was made for lending of Oil Spill Response Equipment which was concluded between PAJ and AOC.

Delivery of PAJ's Oil Spill Equipment to saudi Aramco-Ras Tannura

The first delivery of PAJ's Equipment was implemented on November 27, 1999 to Saudi Aramco-Ras Tanura to be used for the Joint Oil Spill Response Exercise between PAJ and Saudi Aramco.

At that time, local contractor (ACMC) was requested by PAJ through AOC (coordinator) to transport some of PAJ's equipment from PAJ's base at Alkhafji to Ras Tanura by special transportation contract.

The documentation and transportation works have been carried out smoothly and safely without any obstructions and the equipment were arrived on the due time.

Maintenance of the equipment

The Routine maintenance work for PAJ's equipment is held on the monthly bases through local contractor “Arabian Construction & Maintenance Company” (ACMC), and supervised and controlled by Environmental Protection Section (EPS), Terminal and Marine Department (TMD). Also, there is General maintenance program is taken for the equipment on Semi-Annual bases (Six-months period).

The maintenance work includes Dry Operation on the site, Checking Oils, changing of damaged spare parts if it is needed, cleaning of Equipment, Rearranging of the storage area.

PAJ's Training for Oil Spill Response Staff of Alkhafji-base.

Regarding exchange information (exercises) between PAJ and Khafji base, it was conducted two times. First at UAE - Sharjah base on November 1997. Six staffs have attended the said exercise from AOC and two staffs from contractor (ACMC). The training was to operate and deploy Booms at Offshore with skimmers, fixing and folding FASTANK, addition to presentation and lecturing.

Then, Second at Saudi Arabia-Ras Tanura on November, 1999, joint oil spill response exercise was conducted between PAJ and Saudi Aramco and participating of Oil Spill Response Staff of Alkhafji-base (AOC's staff / ACMC's staff) with attendance of some Saudi Government Authorities members.

IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE BETWEEN PAJ AND SAUDI ARAMCO

EPS/TMD has been requested through AOC's top management to involve on Oil Spill Response Exercise between PAJ and SAUDI ARAMCO at Saudi Arabia-Ras Tanura from the period of 27~30 November 1999.

After the preparatory meeting between PAJ, Saudi Aramco and AOC which was held at Ras Tanura, the main subjects of the exercise have been discussed such as Exercise Scenario, date, Schedule/Program and number of participants. As well as delivery of some PAJ's Oil Spill Response Equipment from Alkhafji-base to be used in the exercise (one Oil Boom {250m}, one Skimmer, two Beach Cleaner and eight Fastanks).

The Oil Spill Response team of Alkhafji-Base (Total numbers is 8 persons, 5 from AOC/3 from ACMC) have participated successfully on the said exercise.

Exercise Objectives for Arabian Oil Company, Ltd. (AOC)

1. Conducting with Saudi Aramco by exchanging the information of Oil Spill Response in order to establish new Regional coordination.
2. Exercise communications with Saudi Aramco and consultation with PAJ.
3. Determine the time of preparation and mobilization of equipment to be delivered to borrowing party when requested in case of emergency.
4. Quick response of using PAJ's Equipment in case of emergency.

Exercise Benefit for Oil Spill Response Staff of Alkhafji-base.

1. Getting new experience by conducting Training for AOC's Oil Spill Response Staff with other parties.
2. Practical exercise for using PAJ's Equipment on the actual oil spill accident.
3. Knowing the members of other parties in PAJ/Saudi Aramco.
4. Doing the exercise of Oil Spill Combating on rough weather gave a good opportunity for Oil Spill Response Staff to deal with the problem even in the bad weather condition.
5. The strong inward of working in a team with the others gave good indication for the successful experiment