

International Oil Spill Response Technical Seminar

Preliminary Study on Marine Oil Spill Contingency Plan System in China

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Abstract

Incomplete system framework, out-dated contents and poor operability are prominent problems existing in the current marine oil spill contingency plan system of China. In order to solve these problems, this paper put forward the three-level marine oil spill contingency plan system, which is formed by the national, local government and enterprise marine oil spill contingency plans. The three-level plans have their own focuses. The national contingency plan focuses on constructing an orderly and efficient emergency command system according to the national laws and regulations, and conducting cross-regional coordination of emergency resources. The local government contingency plan puts emphasis on constructing the graded emergency response system, coordinating the emergency resources within the local area and making the normative emergency disposal procedures. The enterprise contingency plan is the specific disposal procedures prepared by the oil spill high risk areas or enterprises in order to response to marine oil spill accidents, with more clear responsibilities and stronger operability.

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1. Introduction

Contingency plan is a descriptive file of crisis prevention and control system and its operation mechanism, and is the fundamental basis for emergency disposal (YingjunXie et al., 2010). In recent years, severe marine oil spill

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accidents have become more frequently in China and caused serious damage to the marine environment. In order to further improve the emergency disposal mechanism for marine oil spill accidents and regulate the emergency response procedures, the marine oil spill contingency plans system is being prepared and perfected (Kun Liu, 2013). The Ministry of Transport is taking the lead to establish the *National Emergency Disposal Plan for Severe Marine Oil Spill*. Emergency disposal plans of China's coastal provinces are being prepared as well. But currently there are still such problems as incomplete plan system, poor operability and ineffective connection between plans. Under the framework of China's contingency plan system, this paper proposes a three-level marine oil spill contingency plan system which is suitable for China, and makes suggestions on contents of plans at each level.

2. Contingency plan system of China

According to the *Comprehensive Contingency plan for National Public Emergency*, China's contingency plan system is composed by comprehensive plan, special plan, department plan, regional plan, grass root plan and large-scale activity plan. All such plans are directly related to marine oil spill disposal except the large-scale activity plan. The major functions of contingency plans mentioned above are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Major Functions of China's Contingency Plans

Plan Type	Major Functions of Plan
Comprehensive plan	It is a comprehensive contingency plan and applicable to the response work for severe sudden public incidents which need to deploy emergency resources cross provinces or are beyond the disposal capacity of the provincial people's government where the accident occur, or require the State Council to be responsible for incidents disposal.
Special plan	It is a coordination plan and mainly refers to the emergency response plan prepared by the State Council and relevant departments to response to one or more types of sudden public incidents. It refers to the schemes, plans and measures which are made to response to one or more types of sudden public incidents and involve with responsibilities of several relevant departments under the State Council.
Department plan	It is a specialized plan which is made according to the comprehensive plan and the responsibilities of the department under the State Council. It mainly refers to the emergency response plan for sudden public incidents which are disposed mainly by one department of the State Council and coordinated by other relevant units.
Regional plan	It refers to the comprehensive plans of local areas (province/city/county level etc.). It is the normative procedures made based on the comprehensive contingency plan in order to response to sudden public incidents in the local area.
Grass root plan	It is a foundational plan, and refers to work plans, support plans and working rules made by large-scale enterprises, public institutions or high-risk industries units in order to response to emergencies.

Based on the position of the above plans defined in the *Comprehensive Contingency plan for National Public Emergency*, the department plan shall be a lower plan level under the special plan. But currently in China, it is the fact that the contingency plan system has begun to take shape prior to the *Emergency Response Law* of China and *Comprehensive Contingency plan for National Public Emergency*, and therefore, it causes that the special plan and department plan are in parallel plan level. The illogicality between the two types of plans is adverse to the management of the contingency plan system and the improvement of emergency efficiency (Haibo Zhang, 2013). The current contingency plan system framework in China is shown in Fig.1.

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