Guaranteed Access to Emergency Response Plans

Collaboration without the Cloud™

BLACKED OUT COMMUNICATIONS

Reliance on technology is reliance on a network. Networks in remote locations are intermittent at best so what happens in an emergency when you need to communicate?

When major incidents occur, the communications system is often the first casualty. With communications to the outside world cut off, vital decisions need to be taken by the field crew.

Despite the spread of mobile technology across the globe, events such as natural disasters, acts of war and terrorist attacks can render all communications useless – instantly isolated and in the dark, both literally and metaphorically.

In recent years, smartphones have captured first-hand the carnage wreaked by catastrophic events but the footage fails to provide the viewer with a broader sense of their true impact. Moreover, the images or videos rarely surface until after the event has run its course. Indeed, there are still very few ways in which those on the ground can get large quantities of meaningful data to those who can help quickly.

Recent disasters such as the *Costa Concordia* grounding, the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion and spill, and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station release all happened quickly with little to no warning and had devastating results. That's what an emergency is all about of course.

**The question is what would you do in this situation?**

Whilst looking around to analyse the extent of the damage and assessing the on-going hazard can you get to the Emergency Response Plan – or is that nowhere to be found whilst the emergency is going on around you?

What else are you thinking of right now?

- Where might the incident spread to, what is in its path and what further damage might result?
- What emergency tools and resources are to hand?
- Where are key pumps and valves located?
- How can the flow of hazardous fluids to the seat of the incident be turned off?

What did the Emergency Response Plans say? If only it was to hand! Perhaps the plan was lodged with local emergency responders to have knowledge of what they are facing? And, there's little to no chance that the communications systems are working so that you can speak to anyone.

Or perhaps it's all calm, the plan is to hand, communications are clear and the emergency is being dealt with in the right way. Let's hope so.
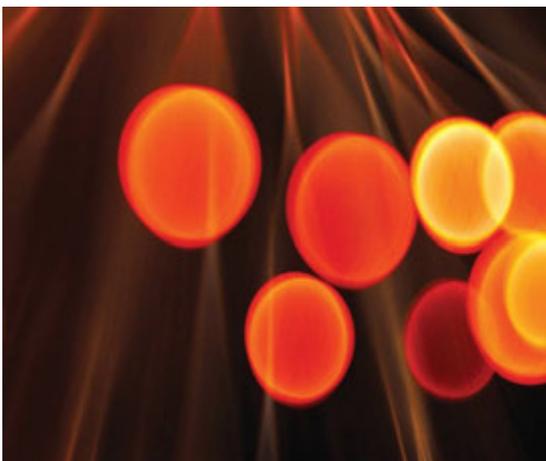
Keeping Emergency Response Plans updated

The Emergency Response Plan ("Plan") is one of those activities that everyone knows is a need-to-have but the development and maintenance of the Plan is tiresome. The production may be deferred but even after agreement and production there is a need to keep the Plan up to date with any changes being communicated out to those who need to know. This requires both time and money. Weigh that up against loss of business operations with the resulting monetary losses, reactions from the market and shareholders and, most importantly, the potential loss of life and suddenly the Plan seems like a really good idea after all.

But how to keep the Plan updated simultaneously with the various copies dotted around in global locations? Are the right parts of a corporate Emergency Response Plan in the right places to take account of local country regulations and unique local topography and environmental conditions?

Is all the dependent data available including engineering drawings and operational processes? Also is there detailed information on chemicals used and hazardous waste products generated (HAZMAT)? Is this information lodged with emergency responders who may need it to adapt their response plans based on the new or unforeseen circumstances now facing them?

Incidents are rarely due to one equipment or process malfunction. Rather they are usually the concatenation of three or more separate lapses such as, an equipment failure, a deviation from an established process, a communication failure on the rig, between the rig and shore, between consortia members or perhaps a failure to replicate the learnings from one field location to all similar field locations or a failure to abide by statutory regulations….the list goes on.

In dealing with catastrophic situations access to the right information is critical. Catastrophic incidents are dynamic and progressive. The first imperative is the safety of the field crew, the second the containment of the incident whilst a plan of resolution can be put together and the mobilisation of necessary resources enacted.

Communications and Data Backlog in the face of an Emergency

Network compression and network acceleration technologies have been tried in the past, but have had limited success when a network has gone down. Even satellite phones are not immune to trouble on the ground and are unable to
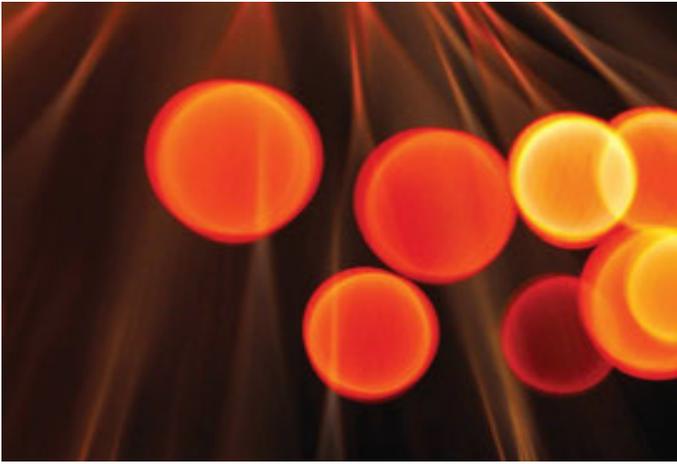
transmit large amounts of data over what effectively becomes a bandwidth bottleneck in an emergency situation.

Latest developments are now successfully delivering much larger volumes of data to the network edge (where the corporate network stops and wireless technologies are needed). They combine compression and network acceleration technologies with content distribution and geo replication, and are already being used for tactical surveillance and reconnaissance in remote areas of the world where obtaining and transmitting data is critical and network or satellite connection cannot be guaranteed.

Using this technology a standard laptop in the Emergency Grab Bag with a pre-loaded virtualised portal would have been updated with any and all changes to the Plan so it is the most up-to-date version for those on the ground. If the event is so catastrophic that the Grab Bag is not accessible the information would still be available on a shared portal for responders to view and act upon.

Disconnected from the networked world the local portal holds all the data available at the operational HQ e.g. maps, weather forecasts, potential transportation obstacles, and detailed regional information on the hazards they may face.

Emergency Response Plans empower field crews and local first responders with the critical information concerning the topology and operations of the facility together with the availability of on-site and local emergency resources but they must be accessible.

Dynamic, changing Emergency Response Plans can be synchronised across consortia members, to remote field locations and key field workers rendering poor and intermittent networks a problem of the past using the latest technology.

Try the technology for yourself for free*

Available through to March 18th 2015 you can ensure your company's Emergency Response Plans in the field are fully synchronised with HQ by running a complimentary and non-obligatory Proof of Concept trial of iOra Software*. Enter this link http://bit.ly/1BMTXUN into your browser to sign up for your Proof of Concept

*Conditions Apply.