

Co-operation in crisis management

An example of The
Netherlands

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Environmental crises often cross borders

- municipal-, local-, regional-, national-, or international borders
- Action:
 - Step 1: Manage information to create a level playing field
 - Step 2: Take action and counter measures
 - Step 3: Inform relative organisations

5 steps for good co-operation

1. Know the players in the field
2. Seek contact and exchange data on roles, tasks, competences
3. Keep your management involved and updated
4. Develop a “mutual assistance plan” (capabilities, actions, information exchange etc.; mutual expectations)
5. Develop staff exchange programmes

Organisation and responsibilities

- The Crisis Management Department of the ministry of Environment is responsible for preparedness and (partly) response
- Crisis advisory teams are developed to advice responsables in the crisis- and disaster management
- These teams consist of different organisations and expertises (water, air, poison, modelling, meteo, pollution etcetera).

“BOT-mi”

“Environmental assistance team”

- Various expertises involved (E.g. Meteo, water treatment, chemicals)
- 10 different institutes/ organisations
- Products: data, environment assessment and advices
- Addressee: from Fire Brigade commanding officer to National Crisis Team.

How does it work?

In case of a disaster or incident:

- A call for assistance is given to BOT-mi through the Crisis management Department
- A website is “opened” for information exchange (“ICAWEB”, integrated crisis advisory website)
- The BOT-mi members are alerted via this website and meet (virtually) there
- Questions/orders to the members are set by the team leader
- Answers come back as situation reports
- An advice will be compiled and send out

What kind of questions?

- For example:
 - Weather forecast for that particular incident location
 - Effects and counter measures for health of crisis- and rescue staff and people living in that area
 - Impact on water systems, like pollution
 - Counter measures such as blocking waterways or fishing prohibition

How long will an advice take?

- Three products (appr):
 - Information and data (<15 min)
 - Risk assessment (>30 min)
 - Integrated advice(< 60 min)

Information/ data

- Meteo
- Effects of chemicals (safety data sheets)
- Particular information of the incident location
- Etc.

Risk assessment

- Prediction of most probable outcome
- Worst case scenario
 - Assumptions
 - conditions for this scenario
 - Probability (high, middle, low)
- Uncertainty and bottle necks

Integrated advice

- Short- , middle- and long term advice
- Balanced and weighed (E.g. chemicals in water cause fish mortality versus chemicals in air cause human inhalation problems)
- Focused on “best assessment of the risk”
 - Bearing in mind, the most realistic scenario
 - The change of a worst case scenario
- Integrated as far as possible

More information?

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