

Quiz

Deep Water Horizon Accident

Washington Post 7/14 The Valdez's Unheeded Lessons

1. In the field of engineering, what does the "Exxon Valdez" refer to:
 - a. The name of an Alaskan beach
 - b. The name of an oil tanker
 - c. A preventable oil spill
 - d. The name of the captain of the oil tanker

2. What is a "consortium"
 - a. Another name for a consulting company
 - b. Group of companies that form an independent company to perform common work
 - c. A government-public company
 - d. A company event where money is spent inappropriately

3. What is the advantage of a consortium
 - a. Pool resources to pursue a common goal
 - b. Covered by different laws than incorporated company
 - c. Does not pay taxes on profits
 - d. Ensures employment during bad economy

4. What are the problems associated with an (operational) consortium
 - a. Adjusting goals as situation changes in the presence of differences between stakeholders
 - b. Managing operations in the presence of differences between stakeholders
 - c. Requires cooperation between stakeholders with different objectives
 - d. All of the above

5. The following factors are cited as contributing to the Exxon Valdez accident
 - a. Systems intended to prevent a disaster failed
 - b. No back-ups were in place
 - c. Regulators were too close to the industry
 - d. Inadequate accident response and clean-up plans

Explain how each of the factors contributed to the accident.

Systems intended to prevent a disaster failed _____

No back-ups were in place _____

Regulators were too close to the industry _____

Inadequate accident response and clean-up plans _____

6. Walt Parker, chairman of the Alaska Oil Spill Commission, was quoted as saying "it's almost as if the report had not been written"

a. What report is he referring to? _____

b. What event prompted him to say this? _____

c. Why does he say this? _____

7. Who was responsible for the emergency response to the Exxon Valdez Accident?

8. The Alaska governor was quoted as saying that the disaster was the "the result of gradual degradation of oversight and safety practices"

a. What is "oversight"? _____

b. Who has responsibility for oversight ? _____

c. How can oversight degrade? _____

9. Studies suggest that the Exxon Valdez accident could have been reduced or eliminated by building in redundant protection?

a. What is an example of "redundant protection" in this case?

b. Can redundancy help prevent an accident ?

c. How can redundancy help reduce the impact of an accident?

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10. What is the purpose of each of the chemicals

11. What problem were the workers on the oil rig trying to solve by using both chemicals

12. Was mixing chemicals a common practice

13. Are there regulations that govern the use of more than one chemical or mixing chemicals

14. How did the workers test the effect of mixing the chemicals

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15. According to a BP audit of the oil rig, was maintenance a problem?

16. Assuming a team of 10 workers, how many days would it take to resolve all the maintenance problems?

17. Assuming it costs the company \$300,000 a year for each worker, how much would it cost the company to resolve all the maintenance problems?

18. Why reason did BP give for not consider the maintenance problems a big issue?

Washington Post 7/20 – Blog Uncovers BP photo

19. What phenomenon is described in the article?

20. What are some of the reasons for the post-production group to do this?

21. What are the public relations implications of these actions?

22. How did BP respond to the allegations?

23. Is this a reasonable response? Explain.