

# **APELL:** Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level.

## **What is APELL?**

The programme was **developed** by UNEP in conjunction with governments and industry.

The **purpose** is to minimise the occurrence and harmful effects of technological accidents and environmental emergencies.

The **goals** are to prevent loss of life or damage to health and social well-being, avoid property damage, and ensure environmental safety in the local community.

The **strategy** is to identify and create awareness of risks in an industrialised community, to initiate measures for risk reduction and mitigation, and to develop co-ordinated preparedness between industry, local authorities and the local population.

## **The APELL Process:**

- 1 Identify emergency response participants; establish roles, resources and concerns.
- 2 Evaluate the hazards and risks that may result in emergency situations.
- 3 Have participants review their own emergency response plans.
- 4 Identify the required response tasks not covered by existing plans.
- 5 Match these tasks to the resources of the identified participants.
- 6 Make changes to existing plan, integrate into overall community plan and gain agreement.
- 7 Commit the integrated plan to writing and obtain approval from local government.
- 8 Educate participants about the plan and ensure all emergency responders are trained.
- 9 Establish procedures for periodic testing, review and updating of the plan.
- 10 Educate the community about the plan.

***APELL is  
a modular, flexible  
methodological  
tool for preventing  
accidents and,  
failing this, to  
minimise their  
impacts***



## What are the benefits?

Even if risks are believed to be low, the consequences to a company of a major accident can be severe in physical, financial and reputational terms.

**APELL can help protect the company as well as the community by reducing the likelihood of accidents and reducing their impacts.**

Companies are becoming more transparent, proactive and responsive in their relationships with stakeholders. Emergency preparedness planning requires effective communication between all parties, which helps to build relationships based on common interest.

**APELL can help to build relationships between a company and the community which will be of benefit over the longterm.**

Relationships with between a company and community will be severely tested if there is a major accident, but if trust exists, the company will be better placed to communicate effectively in the case of an emergency as well as to recover more quickly from one.

**APELL can foster community awareness and understanding of the operation and its management which should generate the confidence, trust and support which companies need whether or not they experience an accident.**

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Accidents inevitably accompany offshore development. They are the source of environmental pollution at all stages of oil and gas production. The most typical causes of accidents include equipment failure, personnel mistakes, and extreme natural impacts (seismic activity, ice fields, hurricanes, and so on). Their main hazard is connected with the spills and blowouts of oil, gas, and numerous other chemical substances and compounds. The environmental consequences of accidental episodes are especially severe, sometimes dramatic, when they happen near the shore, in shallow waters, or in areas with slow water circulation (Patin, 1999).

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*Further information:*

[www.uneptie.org/pc/apell/](http://www.uneptie.org/pc/apell/)

[offshore.environment@unep.fr](mailto:offshore.environment@unep.fr)

*Helping people prevent, prepare and respond appropriately to accidents and emergencies.*