



ALERT FLASHPOINT

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ALERT DISASTER CONTROL



THE knowledge obtained through the provision of our global Emergency Response Services, over the last two (2) decades, has played a significant part in the tremendous importance **ALERT** has placed on the continued progressive development of our Preventative Safety Services.

Under the "Disaster Control" umbrella, **ALERT** Preventative Safety Services have proven to be a cost effective and efficient means for our customers to successfully achieve their desired Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental objectives.

The development of these services has corresponded with the region's evolution from previous superficial or token attitudes towards OHS&E policy and procedure. Through this increased level of safety awareness our customers have undertaken the implementation of Safety Management Systems, incorporating "total management and employee commitment". This has in part been as a result of regulatory body or government legislation. More to the point, this has resulted through an appreciation of the significant financial returns experienced by those companies who have truly made "safety" a contributing element within their corporate policy.

Quite simply, the number of "disastrous" situations actually occurring has been on a steady decline over the past few years, whereas Preventative Safety Services have increased dramatically.

ALERT personnel take great pride in "working together" with our customers and serving their requirements. Our commitment to professional and cost effective quality service has continued to strengthen through our customers support. The familiar "blue coveralls" have become commonplace within the regions refineries and shipyards, container ports, chemical carriers, ocean going tankers, drilling rigs (on and offshore), platforms and barges (pipelay and heavylift).

In addition to Emergency Response Services our Preventative Safety Services include the provision of the following Consultancy Services;

- Quality Assurance
- Environmental Auditing
- Safety Management System Auditing
- Fire Systems Installation and Auditing
- Fire and Safety Representatives/Advisors
- Emergency Response/Contingency Planning
- Risk Assessment and Safety Case Development
- Toxic Environment (H₂S) Protection

FIRE AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES

ALERT Fire and Safety Specialists recently completed the Xijiang 30-2 Platform, hookup and commissioning project for Phillips Petroleum International Corporation Asia, offshore China. The multi phased project incorporated: Implementation of a Safety Management System; Site Specific Safety and Survival Training; Safety Equipment Installation and Commissioning; Accident! Incident Investigation; Safety Auditing.



ALERT personnel, through their involvement with the Safety and Survival Training Center and Emergency Response Services, incorporate "hands on" methodology in achieving optimum results for our customers.

Utilizing **ALERT** personnel to implement Safety Management Systems, supervise fire and safety related modifications or commissioning of new equipment, assessing audit reports or training internal safety personnel, has become increasingly common within Africa, the Middle East or Asia/Pacific Regions.

FIRE/SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AUDITS

Alert Disaster Control (Asia) Pte. Ltd. presently retains entitlement to conduct Health and Safety Management System Audits under license by Safety Projects International.

The Five (5) Star Health and Safety Management Auditing System is a comprehensive assessment of the current level of Health and Safety standards being utilized within an organization. The Auditing System complements the planning and control functions of the Safety Management System. It provides an overall assessment of the validity, reliability and effectiveness of the policy, procedures and System standards employed for a project.



ALERT provides **accredited** Auditors whose professional qualifications (ships officers, offshore installation managers, civil firefighters and HAZMAT specialists) enable us to better serve our clients, regardless of industry application.

Recent Occupational Health and Safety Management System Audits and Fire Safety Assessments have been conducted for: P.T. McDermott Indonesia; Shell Australia; Phillips Petroleum; Malmac Sdn. Bhd.; Hyundai Heavy Industries; XCL China;

Digicon Geophysical; Racial Survey; BP Kwinana; Japan Drilling Corporation

NOTE: **ALERT** has previously conducted Accredited Internal Auditors training at our Safety and Survival Training Center in Singapore. It has come to our attention that certain companies and individuals have been marketing and providing this service as a commercial venture. The course in question is an **INTERNAL AUDITORS program only**, enabling the successful participant to audit within his/her premises of employment as stipulated by **ALERT**.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CONTROL (HAZMAT)

SINCE the publication of our last Flashpoint (July 1995) **ALERT** Hazmat Teams have responded to a variety of emergencies within the region. Having the capability to respond quickly with state of the art equipment and trained professionals has enabled **ALERT** to successfully contain, clean-up and dispose of all hazardous materials in compliance with regulatory requirements.

However, several noteworthy factors have come to light. Upon arrival at the four (4) previous Hazardous Material Control

operations **ALERT** identified improper procedures that had been initiated prior to our arrival. These occurrences resulted in personnel being unnecessarily exposed to known toxic substances.



To ensure the safety of your personnel and worksite we recommend compliance with the following basic guidelines when dealing with toxic/hazardous substances:

- Compile a Hazardous Substances Register for all hazardous materials.
- Maintain MSDS for all hazardous substances.
- Ensure your Emergency Response Plan is current and covers Hazmat activities.
- Ensure all controlled substances are labelled properly.
- If a leak is detected (from container, drums, tank, etc.) restrict access to the area.
- Identify the substance and notify appropriate authorities.
- If you are untrained, lack proper personal protective equipment, or are unsure of what substance has leaked, stay away from the substance and restrict all access.
- Do not touch, taste, breath or come in contact with any toxic substance.

If you have any questions with regards to hazardous material or toxic substances including transportation, storage, clean-up, removal or disposal, please do not hesitate to call **ALERT** When dealing improperly with toxic/ hazardous substances one must remember that **you may be incurring irreversible damage to your health without realizing it for years to come.**

HOW TO ASSESS YOUR SAFETY TRAINING CENTER

WOULD someone purchase a home or a motor car without seeing it first? Probably not. Would a company install a piece of equipment without carefully evaluating its suitability? Probably not.

Then why do some companies send their people for safety training without a detailed or comprehensive evaluation of the chosen facility beforehand?

Safety and Survival training. The name alone implies that a company's operations have hazards present of such seriousness that personnel have to be trained how to conduct themselves during an emergency. If employees and management fulfill their duties as intended then the risks of these hazards can be reduced to an acceptable level. Unfortunately, humans are responsible for an estimated eighty per cent (80%) of all accidents, so emergencies will occur.

Safety and Survival training. Company personnel are being trained in something you hope (and pray) they will never have to use. However, how can someone be expected to remain proficient at something if they are only exposed to practical applications during formal training sessions. These certificated training programs are normally attended on three(3) to five(5) year cycles. With this in mind it is essential that the safety and survival training received by your people is the best possible.

So you have made a decision to have your people attend a safety and survival training program. In choosing the training facility that best suits your needs what evaluation criteria will you base your decision on; Recognition? Cost? Course Content? Facilities? Instructional abilities and qualifications?

Recognition: Our instructors routinely ask at the beginning of a new class when any of the students have last received similar training. Answers range from 'Never' to 'Several years ago' to 'Just last week'. JUST LAST WEEK! When asked why they are taking the training so recently after completing it somewhere else their usual answer is 'The client doesn't recognize the course I was sent on last week so I have to do it again here'. What is the additional, unnecessary, cost of paying for training twice?

When sending your staff for training it is essential to determine whether the Safety and Survival Training Center is recognized by the industries / companies your firm does business with.

Does the Safety and Survival Training Center carry any government / industry recognition. Examples of recognition:

- National Oil Companies (Petronas, Pertamina, PTT, PNOC, OGDC, CNOOC)
- Foreign Oil Companies (Shell, Esso, Mobil, Caltex, Texaco)
- International Association of Sea Survival Training (IASST);
- International Well Control Forum (IWCF);

- International Maritime Organization;
- ISO 9000 Quality Management System;

Cost: Quite often we at **ALERT** are told our training courses are amongst the most costly in the region. In response to that statement we would ask, "Are you happy with the teaching facilities and the training received by your staff at **ALERT**? Do you feel you are receiving good value for your investment?"

When evaluating costs related to safety training the cost of the course itself cannot

be viewed as the only factor determining whether you are receiving good value. In many cases the cost of a course is a reflection of its content, equipment that is utilized and consumables necessary for each course. The extent of 'hands-on' training or practical training that the student will receive is directly proportional to the quality and quantity of physical equipment incorporated within the training. In order to provide high quality training, sufficiently qualified and experienced teaching personnel must be employed. All these expenses then have to be recovered through course fees.

Nor is the course itself the only cost. Airfares, hotels, meals, transportation are additional costs that have to be factored into the equation. When considering all the associated costs of sending your staff for training, the course price itself may be inconsequential.

What appears on the surface to be expensive may actually be very cost effective.

Course Content: Does the course contain sufficient information? Does it include all subject areas required to achieve needed recognition? Is the course designed and presented in such a manner that it progresses in a logical and interesting way? Does it hold the students' interest?

Any training center that is confident of its abilities to answer these questions will be only too happy to provide prospective clients with course modules, copies of letters or certificates of recognition from industry or government bodies and other sources of reference. This serves to confirm the Safety Training Center is a reputable and recognized training institute. Furthermore, that courses meet or exceed content expectations / requirements and that customers will receive value for the investment of their training dollars.

Facilities: Is the training facility well established with an administration / reception area, fixed classrooms and other learning areas containing the necessary training evolution's? Or does it operate from a single office, personnel residence or converted twenty(20) foot sea container? It should be

noted that international accreditation authorities are very strict in their assessment and acceptance of physical training environments conducive to adult education.

If the administration and classroom areas are run on 'a shoe string budget' then it is almost certain that the 'safety' training will be hanging from that same thin shoestring! Safety training centers must provide an atmosphere that is advantageous to learning. This means classrooms of sufficient size with good lighting and ventilation, adequate

changing / shower / toilet rooms for both men and women, good quality training aids (demonstration equipment; visual aids [videos, overhead projectors, slides, etc.]); hands on equipment for each student, and the like.

Instructors:

What are the qualifications of the instructional staff? What working experience do they have? How versed are they in the course

content? Are they multilingual to address the various languages of the students? Does the training center employ personnel from different backgrounds to ensure that the majority of languages spoken by students are also spoken by a staff member?

Ideally, a good instructor should be a combination of the teacher and the field operative. They would combine the organizational and classroom skills of the teacher with the practical knowledge of the field person. Students can relate very well to this individual for the instructor can effectively incorporate their practical knowledge into the learning sessions. Also, the students realize the information being given to them is based on what the teacher has actually experienced during recent field operations, rather than simply coming from a book.

In summary, choosing a Safety and Survival Training Center is not an easy task. It requires as much forethought and consideration as any other part of your company's operations. You are potentially increasing or decreasing your employees chances of survival based on what you are prepared to accept in safety training.

Choosing the proper Safety and Survival Training Center enhances the moral and financial obligations that are paramount to the progressive development of any company. This cannot be accomplished over a telephone or by looking at a colorful brochure - **You must visit the Center and you must evaluate it carefully! The lives of your people depend upon it!**





BEHIND THE SCENES

ALERT would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our administrative staff, the girls 'behind the scenes'. Whether it's providing logistical support to a Blowout Team in the field or managing the day-to-day activities associated with the operation of the Safety and Survival Training Center, the girls are always there. For this we extend a special thanks, for all of the times we forgot to say it, to these highly valued members and 'back-bone' of the **ALERT** team.



QUEK SIEW TIN
(Agnes)

ALERT's Administrative Assistant, Agnes, in addition to her daily office activities, maintains one of the most comprehensive training registers in the world. With total cross-reference capabilities Agnes has the ability to recall all student data accumulated by **ALERT** since 1989.

Through utilization of **ALERT's** Macintosh Integrated Office System, Agnes compiles all Instructors' Guides, Lesson Plans, Course Notes and Examinations. Agnes also composes all multimedia presentations for the Training Division.

With her diverse capabilities, Agnes has proven to be instrumental in our achievement of ISO 9001 accreditation.



ZAINAL SHAROFF
Bt. Md. KASSIM
(Zain)

A PLEASANT voice or a smiling face can make the day seem that much brighter. Personnel calling or visiting **ALERT's** Singapore Office will usually be greeted by the proverbial 'rose amongst thorns'.

Often inundated with less than understanding oilfield hands and seafarers, Zain maintains the level of professionalism and courtesy that **ALERT** has become noted for.

As **ALERT's** Receptionist, Zain plays an important role in the transfer of data in and out of our corporate headquarters as well as the day-to-day duties associated with her position.



DEBBIE P. ALLCORN
(Deb)

AS Director and Office Administrator, Deb has been instrumental in the continued progressive evolution of **ALERT** since its inception. From development of the Company's initial promotional literature in Calgary, Alberta, Canada through to management and administration of an internationally recognized Emergency Response and Preventive Safety Service Company, 'Deb' has become the name most associated with **ALERT**. Assisting customers with everything from mobilizing fire fighting and blowout control teams, hazardous material control emergencies and day to day training requirements, to her unwavering support of **ALERT** personnel in the field, 24 hours a day, has made Deb 'our' proverbial 'rock in the storm'.

**ADVANCED
FIREFIGHTING**

ALERT is pleased to announce the addition of Advanced Firefighting to our existing course catalogue. The Advanced Firefighting syllabus and practical sessions are conducted as per the requirements of the International Maritime Organization Resolution A.437 Annexes I & II.



The course is of four (4) days duration and incorporates theoretical and practical elements of marine (offshore) firefighting.

To further enhance **ALERT's** commitment to providing the best possible service to our customers, **ALERT** has sought and attained Republic of Singapore Marine Department recognition for this particular course. As Port State Control, the Singapore Marine Department ensures that all regulatory requirements of the International Maritime Organization under Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) are met.

Designed for all offshore personnel, in particular those personnel holding certification, fire team members and fire team leaders, this competency-based program prepares students for that worst-case scenario...a fire offshore.

Remember.... The worst emergency is the one you haven't prepared for!

If you would like further information on any of the articles or products mentioned in this newsletter, please contact

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