



Presenter:

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BULK TANKER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

sharing lessons and improving outcomes

**20th October
Melbourne Park Function Centre**

Hosts



National Bulk Tanker Association

It began with a simple 'phone call



BROOK'S CREEK SPILL

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What Happened

- On May 8th, 1989 a road tanker transporting Jet A1 turned over on the Federal Highway (*Goulburn to Canberra*) at Brooks Creek
- In a 'phone call people were asked to go to the incident scene and report back to Sydney on the incident. It was believed that the tanker was empty?
- **IT WAS!**
- **All 34,000 litres had gone into Brooks Creek**

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The Brook's Creek Spill

- The product ended up in hard-to-access country back of the Lake George escarpment
- It had been raining for some weeks previously and it was '*bog-a duck*' territory
- **Spill response equipment had to come from Sydney, took many hours to arrive and was completely unsuitable for the terrain**

Rough access track to spill site



And then?

- It was “*made apparent*” that Brooks Creek was a tributary of the Yass River, which supplied the Yass town water supply
- TV & The Press picked up on this and ran adverse news stories for some days
- **There was no oil spill emergency response gear in the National Capital**

There was room for improvement

- The response was *hindered* because no one had any experience or training
- Funds were not available to quickly purchase essential supplies locally or pay casual labour
- Funds for day labour and progress payments were made available by two local Canberra companies to get the project moving

CROIERG WAS BORN

- On May 16, 1989 a meeting was called, by Brian O'Connor in Canberra, to form an Oil Spill Emergency Response Group
- This was based on a Mutual Aid scenario as outlined in the AIP Publication “**PETRASFE**”
- The group has grown over the 21 years to now have 39 members, 28 specialist trailers and large supplies of equipment valued at \$500,000

Growth has been steady

- CROIERG has steadily expanded its area of operation and strategic trailer locations are on main transport routes
- Further expansion is planned
- CROIERG appreciates the efforts of the trailer host companies who look after the individual units and provide monthly check reports

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New version spill response trailers



Where are the Trailers based?

- 6 in Canberra, including 2 Training Units
- 1 in Cootamundra
- 1 in Dubbo
- 1 in Eden
- 1 in Goulburn
- 1 in Griffith
- 1 in Holbrook
- 1 in Moruya
- 2 in Newcastle
- 1 in Orange
- 1 in Port Kembla
- 2 in Sydney
- 1 in Wagga Wagga
- 1 in Wauchope
- 1 in Yass
- 1 in Benalla (Vic)
- 1 in Wodonga (Vic)
- 1 in Shepparton (Vic)
- 1 in Melbourne (Vic)
- 1 in Brisbane (Qld)
- 1 in Emerald (Qld)
- Additional back-up supplies are based in Canberra, Dubbo & Shepparton

Training and CROIERG

- Right from the start CROIERG has “**Spread the training message**”
- Many hands-on training sessions have been conducted in various locations
- CROIERG has published an enormous (*print media & web site*) amount of operational procedures, training material and incident reports

The Catalyst

- Specific action by the NSW Fire Brigades following an incident saw concentrated efforts made to bring the idea of accredited CROIERG Oil Industry ER Training Courses to being a reality

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Accredited Training

- **Research by CROIERG showed that there was a lack of competency based training courses for industry emergency responders in Australia**
- American (NFPA) material was examined and provided the base for the ongoing work that has resulted in the courses now in place.

And also

- There have been **big hurdles** to be jumped to reach our objectives
- Hopefully these specialised training courses will see our industry better placed to handle transport emergency situations?

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National Accreditation

- After many, many months of hard work by the staff at the **Transport Industries Skills Centre (TISC)** in Canberra the CROIERG Training Project has gained **NATIONAL ACCREDITATION** status for both the Stage 1 and Stage 2 Courses
- **We have accomplished what we set out to do and what others said couldn't be done**

Fire Brigade Training at the CROIERG Store



ACT & NSW FIRE BRIGADES

The Objective : Trained Crews



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ANY QUESTIONS?

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