

Environmentalists Activists

The IMCA HSSE Security Committee has prepared some brief guidance for members based on recent experience on dealing with environmentalist activists. It has been the experience of a number of our members that the main environmentalist activist groups can be divided according to the measures and the impacts they may have:

- ◆ Organisations behaving in a professional and responsible way:
 - In general they do not make any announcement prior to their action.
 - They act in a very professional way.
 - They commit no violence against people and destroy no equipment.
 - They are able to operate safely and professionally offshore.
 - Their activities offshore are designed to have the highest possible visibility and publicity.
- ◆ Organisations behaving in a less responsible and controlled way:
 - These threat actors may be more liable to consider violence.
 - They tend to act onshore.
 - Large numbers of demonstrators may be involved.
 - They tend to provide information about their activities through social media and the web in order to mobilise supporters and activists from other organizations and countries.

Some of our members have gained experience in dealing with both kinds of group. This note primarily covers dealing with environmentalist activists from the first group, in port or onshore, and on board operational vessels offshore.

There is no single approach or solution to avoiding the actions of environmentalist activists. In general, local authorities and clients will support a passive approach. Environmentalist activists and “green” movements can have strong links with the media, and members should remain aware in the case of any publicity, that the image and reputation of the project, the company and the client can be adversely affected.

Security Recommendations

Security recommendations, in addition to a strict implementation of existing ISPS rules and regulations, are:

- ◆ For vessels alongside:
 - proactive communication and engagement with the port authority Port Facility Security Officer (PFSO) or other designated person, to ensure port security is adequate and the potential threats from activists are known
 - thoroughly enforced 24/7 control of access to the vessel

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- additional 24/7 watch by crew members who are “awake and aware” in case of anormal approach in the ISPS area, so that a swift reaction to remove the gangway can be implemented
- an operational communication flowchart on the bridge with an understanding of who to call, when, and why.
- ◆ For vessels offshore
 - additional 24/7 watch by crew members who are “awake and aware” in case of anormal approach to the project area
 - removal or blocking of access to pilot ladders, surfer ladders, low freeboard areas
 - possible use of clear signage around the vessel outlining areas of activity in order to mark clearly any safety and security violation in case of boarding by activists
 - an operational communication flowchart on the bridge with an understanding of who to call, when, and why.

General Principles

Some general principles on how to respond to environmentalist activists:

Do

- Consider your own safety and that of the environmentalist activists
- Explain the safety risks and ask environmentalist activists to move out of any danger
- React passively
- Ask the environmentalist activists to leave the site
- Contact the authorities if the environmentalist activists refuse to leave the site
- Stop the project activity if it puts anyone at risk
- If asked, show any documentation showing your legitimate right to be on site
- Inform the environmentalist activists that you will be taking photographs / video before doing so
- Report the incident

Do not

- React in a confrontational or threatening way
- Do not shout at or threaten environmentalist activists
- Touch or make physical contact with environmentalist activists
- Argue with environmentalist activists, provide facts or vouchsafe your own opinion
- Touch, damage or confiscate any of the environmentalist activists' possessions
- Give the environmentalist activists any documents or materials for removal from site