WEBINAR

HNS & ALTERNATIVE FUELS

ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHALLENGES?



DECEMBER 15
2026

11:00 a 12:00 P.M.
GMT-3 - Argentina/Uruguay

LANGUAGES SPANISH / ENGLISH
(Simultaneous translation available)

arpel
ASSOCIATION OF OIL, GAS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPANIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances) risk landscape is evolving rapidly as the energy and maritime sectors transition toward lower-carbon energy and alternative fuels. New substances with hazardous and noxious properties are increasingly being produced, transported, stored and handled across the oil, gas and shipping industries, creating new challenges for spill preparedness and emergency response.

For industry, the emerging risks posed by these substances have significant implications for personnel safety, environmental protection, business continuity and operational resilience. Responding effectively is likely to require different expertise, procedures, equipment and protective measures from those traditionally used for oil spills.

At the same time, maritime and governmental authorities are increasingly seeking training and contingency planning support to strengthen preparedness for these emerging risks. The growing use of alternative fuels further highlights the need for industry, authorities and response organizations to build a common understanding of the hazards and strengthen their ability to prepare for and respond to HNS incidents.

The regional picture reinforces the importance of this issue. Latin American and Caribbean companies have identified HNS as a priority. The region handles significant quantities of HNS, including FAME, BTEX, LPG, fertilizers and petroleum coke, while LNG infrastructure and terminals continue to expand. Furthermore, methanol production is significant in the Caribbean, and hydrogen and ammonia projects are emerging across the region.

OBJECTIVES:

In this context, Arpel and its Emergency Response Planning Project Team, in collaboration with ITOPF and IMO, have decided to hold a webinar aimed at providing participants with:

- A shared understanding of the risks associated with HNS and alternative fuels, as well as the challenges involved in responding to incidents involving these substances.
- Practical insights into preparedness and response, including substance behavior, responder safety, and public health considerations.
- Examples of good practices and lessons learned from the region and from international experience.
- A clearer understanding of existing knowledge gaps and potential next steps.

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

- Spill response and emergency preparedness professionals
- Industry health, safety and environment -and emergency- officers and managers
- Maritime and environmental authorities
- Port authorities and port operators
- Operators of terminals and storage facilities
- Emergency management and civil protection agencies
- IMO and other relevant intergovernmental organizations
- Fire brigades and firefighting specialists
- Hazardous materials (HAZMAT) response teams
- LNG, LPG and natural gas industry professionals
- Renewable energy and energy transition companies
- Shipping companies, shipowners and ship operators
- Shipbuilders, naval architects and marine engineering companies
- Insurance and reinsurance companies

SPEAKERS



Hernán Luna

Marine Assurance Manager | YPF

Hernán joined YPF in 2013. He has a degree in Maritime Transport and over 30 years of experience in the industry, working on board, in port operations, and in emergency and crisis management as a Merchant Navy Deck Officer, Head of Port Operations, Emergency Preparedness and Response, as well as a Vetting Manager.



Andrew Le Masurier

Senior Technical Adviser | ITOPF

Andrew joined ITOPF in 2019 and is a member of the Asia-Pacific Team. His background is in environmental science and before joining ITOPF he worked in contaminated land consultancy. Andrew has attended numerous complex spills in South America, Europe, Asia and in the Caribbean and has provided training workshops worldwide. Alongside oil spill response activities, Andrew is the ITOPF lead on alternative fuels, is an active member in several working groups on the topic and has presented papers on the implications of alternative fuel spills at Interspill and Spillcon.



Chiara Della Mea

Head of Pollution Preparedness and Response Section, Marine Environment Division | IMO

Chiara Della Mea is the Head of the Pollution Preparedness and Response Section at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), where she leads the section's work on strengthening spill prevention and response capabilities and supporting technical collaboration at the international level. She is responsible for advancing the implementation of the OPRC, OPRC-HNS, and related conventions, and coordinating regional preparedness and response efforts across member states. Before joining the IMO, she worked as a Senior Claims Manager at the IOPC Funds, gaining extensive expertise in the international compensation framework for oil pollution damage. Earlier in her career, she contributed to the Secretariat for Marine Environment Protection at the Italian Ministry of Environment, focusing on domestic and intergovernmental marine environmental policy.



Tomás Lastra Milone

Maritime Emergency Response Specialist | YPF

Tomas is a maritime operations and emergency response specialist in the energy industry, with experience in oil spill preparedness and response, contingency planning, Incident Command System (ICS) management, and maritime risk assessment. His professional background combines hands-on operational experience with oil spill and hydrodynamic modeling, data analysis, and emerging technologies applied to emergency prevention, preparedness, and response. He is currently expanding his focus into Marine Assurance and LNG operations, with a particular interest in integrating international standards, simulation, artificial intelligence, and field experience to improve decision-making and anticipate risks in complex maritime operations.

Join the conversation!

Bring your experience, questions and perspectives on the emergency preparedness and response challenges ahead.

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