



Major Incident Response Services

Events involving significant releases, fires or explosions can result in loss of life, damage to the facility, business interruption and regulatory agency investigations. Significant time and expense must be dedicated to recover from a major incident and return to business. The investigation will be complex and may involve OSHA, CSB, EPA and other authorities, as well as negotiations with plaintiffs, insurance companies, contractors and vendors.

Services

ABS Consulting assists companies and their legal representatives in the aftermath of a major incident with the following goals:

- Understanding the incident and targeting root causes to prevent similar events
- Navigating regulatory requirements, requests and sanctions
- Assisting with the facility's return to operation

Those services have included:

Site Support

- Site Control Agreement considerations
- Evidence identification, collection and preservation
- Interaction with regulatory agencies
- Protocol development
- Demolition planning and equipment removal
- Start-up safety evaluation
- Field support personnel

Investigation Activities

- Root Cause Analysis (RCA)
- Fire and Explosion Investigation (FEI)
- Facility Process Safety Management evaluation
- Policies and procedure assessment
- Defense against sanctions and suits
- Expert witness assessment

Follow-up Services

- Safety, Risk and Integrity Management training
- Safety Culture appraisal and improvements
- Safe recommendations implementation
- Inspections to prevent future incidents



To help clients recover from major incidents, we:

Secure and control the incident scene – Securing the incident scene preserves evidence and protects personnel from hazards. ABS Consulting can assist in several areas such as defining hazards and their extent, then planning for removal; identifying areas with potential evidence; evaluating the structural integrity of damaged equipment and planning for shoring/stabilization; and developing site control agreements and protocols to quickly secure and control the incident scene.

Identify, preserve and collect evidence – As the investigation progresses, evidence is identified and needs to be properly documented, collected and stored. Our Root Cause Analysis Handbook devotes an entire chapter to evidence gathering and preservation. ABS Consulting has provided staff to serve as site stewards, whose role is to document any inspections of evidence in the field, help plan how evidence will be removed, document removal of evidence, and to serve as custodian of the evidence once collected.

Interface with regulatory agencies – Each agency has its own authority, direction and protocols. ABS Consulting has direct experience with OSHA, CSB, EPA, Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard and others. We can guide you through the inspection process by providing initial forms and procedures and negotiating protocols for the investigation.

Engineer demolition or removal of equipment – ABS Consulting can evaluate damaged structures and equipment for integrity and determine appropriate ways to deconstruct and repair your unit.

Perform a RCA – Prior to restarting after an incident, a thorough investigation of the root causes is needed to make sure the event is unlikely to reoccur. The ABS Consulting SOURCE™ uses state-of-the-art techniques to perform a RCA and help you understand what caused an incident, prevent recurrence and promptly restore the confidence of workers, management, regulators and the public. We facilitate the investigation by: (1) collecting, organizing and analyzing data, (2) identifying root causes, (3) developing recommendations and (4) maintaining consistency and organization within the team throughout the analysis process.

Conduct FEI – Analysis defines point(s) of release, ignition sources, extent of flammable cloud, fire patterns/thermal exposures, explosion energy and blast contours, with the results helping distinguish between the origin and knock-on events. Modeling supports the investigation and may include dispersion, fire, explosion and structural modeling, and in some cases computational fluid dynamic and finite element modeling. The analysis method can determine (or exclude) potential initiating events, the sequence of follow-on events and the event timeline. The data is often used to reject false claims and to design adequate structures for future application.

Offer expert witness assistance – Regulatory citations and civil litigation are often an outcome of major incidents. To defend against potential allegations made against a company, ABS Consulting provides recognized technical experts with the experience and gravitas to develop specialized arguments and serve as expert witnesses.

For more information – Call us at 1-281-673-2800, e-mail us at info@absconsulting.com or visit www.absconsulting.com.

**We provide a 24-hour hotline for incident investigation services.
Call (865) 368-HELP (4357) to speak directly to a lead investigator.**