



CLIENT STORY

U.S. Naval Air Station Keflavik



SUMMARY

U.S. Naval Air Station Keflavik (NASKEF) was the host command for all U.S. defense activities in Iceland. As a halfway point between the continental U.S. and Europe, the base was commonly used as a refueling stop for a number of NATO allies. One of the Navy's responsibilities at the base was providing firefighting and hazardous materials response along the flight line.

Among the aircraft that routinely refueled at the base were numerous F-16 fighter jets. Additionally, due to its unusually long flight line, NASA identified NASKEF as an alternative emergency landing site for the Space Shuttle. Both of those vehicles use hydrazine fuel, a rare and extremely corrosive, poisonous and flammable liquid that presents a unique set of hazards to emergency responders. The harsh climate of Iceland created additional challenges.

Overcoming Barriers



CHALLENGE

While the prevailing National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 471/472 standards on hazardous materials response are internationally recognized and the training protocols well-established, hydrazine fuel is not part of the curriculum and presented an unusual training challenge for the HAZMAT response team.



SOLUTION

The consultants and instructors at SafetySkills worked closely with Navy officials and representatives of the Keflavik Fire Team to augment the training curriculum and safe operating guidelines to include hydrazine scenarios.

Hydrazine was first used as a component in rocket fuel mixtures and is commonly found on spacecraft, from the Viking program moon landers in the 1970s to the Mars Curiosity rover in 2012. It is rarely used in terrestrial vehicles, but does fuel the emergency power unit on the F-16.

Custom Solutions



CHALLENGE

The Icelandic climate presented a different set of challenges. Standard HAZMAT response techniques and equipment just don't work the same in a driving snow storm with 60 mph winds. Cones, tarps and tubs go flying, decontamination solutions freeze, and visibility can drop to zero.



SOLUTION

SafetySkills consultants went back to the drawing board, working with Icelandic locals to develop equivalent alternative procedures and equipment that would work in the potentially-harsh winter environment.

A coastal town in southwest Iceland, Keflavik has milder temperatures than might be expected that close to the Arctic Circle, with average daytime highs staying above freezing even in the winter. The biggest challenges are the powerful winds that blow off the Atlantic, and heavy year-round precipitation, which can combine to create a chaotic situation for HAZMAT responders.

Our process

SafetySkills balances a deep knowledge of safety with the ability to produce high-quality, responsive instructional content. All of our products and services are developed 100% in-house, and are supported right here in our Oklahoma City studio by the people who made them. Our singular focus on training employees in life-critical competencies allows us to offer high quality content that connects with people.

We believe engagement changes everything. Because safety is imperative to growth, highly engaging and relevant content is crucial to the success of any company. With this in mind, our courses are designed to reinforce company brand messaging, with a high degree of interactivity and industry-specific content to produce the most effective results.

ABOUT SAFETYSKILLS

SafetySkills is a leading provider of products and services focused on keeping workers safe through effective training.

With a proven track record of over 20 years, operating in 18 countries and 8 languages, to over 10,000 public and private sector organizations, and over 1 million learners, SafetySkills leverages its experience, resources and technologies to meet its client's EHS and emergency response training and certification requirements.



519 NW 23rd Street
Suite 200
Oklahoma City, OK 73103
(888) 844-3549

