Man-Made Disasters

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliations

Instructor’s Name

Course Code and Name

Due Date

Man-Made Disasters

**3. How well do you think the United States is prepared for a disaster like the one you selected?**

Although the US has transitioned to cleaner and renewable energies, the Energy Information Administration approximates that 37 percent of America’s energy is crude oil, especially petroleum. It will take some time for America to resort to renewable energy ultimately; hence oil spillage will continue. In 2010, America experienced the worst ever oil spillage in its history when the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded. The nation took about 87 days before ultimately capping the oil spillage. However, since then, the US has advanced in its preparation for a similar oil spillage disaster. Several agencies are working together to prevent and minimize oil spillage disasters, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Coast Guard. The US has also enacted laws that give the agencies the ability to prepare for the disaster. For example, the Oil Pollution Act requires storage facilities to report to the government on their disaster mitigation plans and preparedness (The US Department of the Interior, 2021). The Department of Interior also plays an essential role in preparing for oil spillage disaster, having scientists and experts to help in decision making. The DOI also established the Inland Oil Spill Preparedness Program in 2015 to educate personnel to participate in disaster preparedness. Therefore, the US is well prepared for an oil spillage disaster.

**4. Discuss the factors that can influence the effects a disaster may have on a community or region.**

One cannot predict where the next disaster will occur. However, many factors will contribute to or reduce the disaster severity. The disaster’s magnitude will determine the effects it causes. For example, in 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig exploded; more than 4 million barrels of oil flowed from it, and 11 people died. Furthermore, it took the government more than 87 days to completely cap the oil. However, people’s vulnerabilities also play an essential role in the effects of the disaster. At the start of the disaster, the number of deaths is scattered among the age groups (Mahar et al., 2021). However, sometime after the disaster, deaths would depend on the people’s age and health status. Children and the elderly may be highly affected by a disaster because of weakened immune systems. Furthermore, the nature of the infrastructure at the place of disaster determines the amount of property destroyed and people affected. For example, people in countries with stricter building and construction rules may retain most of their buildings after an earthquake. In the case of oil spillage in Macondo, most of the oil spilled into the ocean, causing more harm to marine life than humans. However, the community’s preparedness and the response would help to reduce the effects. If the community had a disaster mitigation plan, they would minimize disaster effects such as deaths.

References

Mahar, P., Lynch, J., Wathen, J., Tham, E., Berman, S., Doraiswamy, S., & Maina, A. (2021). *Disasters and their Effects on the Population: Key Concepts*. aap.org. <https://www.aap.org/en-us/Documents/disasters_dpac_PEDsModule1.pdf>.

The US Department of the Interior. (2021). *Emergency Response to Oil Spills and Hazardous Material Release*. Doi.gov. <https://www.doi.gov/oepc/preparedness-and-response-oil-spills-and-hazardous-substance-releases>.