

Petrotrin beefing up hurricane response

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With active hurricanes looming throughout the region each season, state-owned oil company Petrotrin is working towards intensifying its emergency preparedness plan to prevent devastation of its offshore facilities and equipment and to control possible oil spills.

Team leader of environment, Shyam Dyal said yesterday that after last year's active season, Petrotrin decided to develop its own hurricane response plan.

This, he said, will be added to the company's oil spill contingency plan, which will be aligned to the national contingency plan, which is coordinated by government authorities.

Dyal made the statements at the Cara Suites Hotel in Claxton Bay.

Energy officials from ten South and Central American countries are in T&T to take part in a two-day emergency response-planning seminar.

Petrotrin is hosting the delegation, which forms ARPEL, a regional association of oil and gas companies. Petrotrin has been a member since 1993.

In welcoming the delegates, chairman of Petrotrin Malcolm Jones said companies and governments around the world needed to develop and undertake the most cost-effective options to prepare and respond to oil spills.

Petrotrin, he said, was in discussion with local bodies and state agencies to ensure speedy logistical arrangements such as customs approval, airport utilization and immigration clearance of oil spill response equipment and aircraft to ensure a rapid response to incidents.

Jones said in recent times, his company held discussions with Repsol to develop an oil spill co-operative for operators in this country.

He said while a bilateral plan existed between T&T and Venezuela, he hopes that work will resume as early as possible with PDVSA on updating such a plan.