

Exercise Saffron

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Scope

- Network Emergency Co-ordinator (NEC) industry exercise held on 9th and 10th November 2011.
- Required under the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 to test arrangements in place to manage a Network Gas Supply Emergency.
- Participants included NEC, Network Emergency Management Team (NEMT), Transporters, Shippers, DECC, Terminal and Storage Operators.
- Observations and feedback provided by exercise participants.
- NEC exercise report, prepared by NEC Emergency Planning Team, to be provided to the HSE.

Scope

- Gas Deficit Emergency (GDE) as a result of severe weather conditions affecting North Europe.
- Day One:
 - Formulation of a strategy to prevent or mitigate the effects of a developing GDE.
 - 6 shippers agreed to provide Commercial Feedback, P70 (Notice of Shipper Commercial Interruption) and Emergency Curtailment Quantity (ECQ) data.
 - NTS and DN Firm Load Shedding Exercise.
- Day Two (emergency has moved on several days):
 - Formulation of a restoration plan.
 - Possible admission of Emergency Specification Gas as part of restoration strategy.

Observations

- General Observations:
 - Effective test of emergency procedures.
 - A number of innovations successfully introduced in exercise including:
 - Use of on the day data.
 - Use of Commercial Feedback from Shippers.
 - Structured challenge and review meetings between NEMT Incident Controller and NEC Officer.
 - A number of recommendations identified as a result of Exercise Saffron.

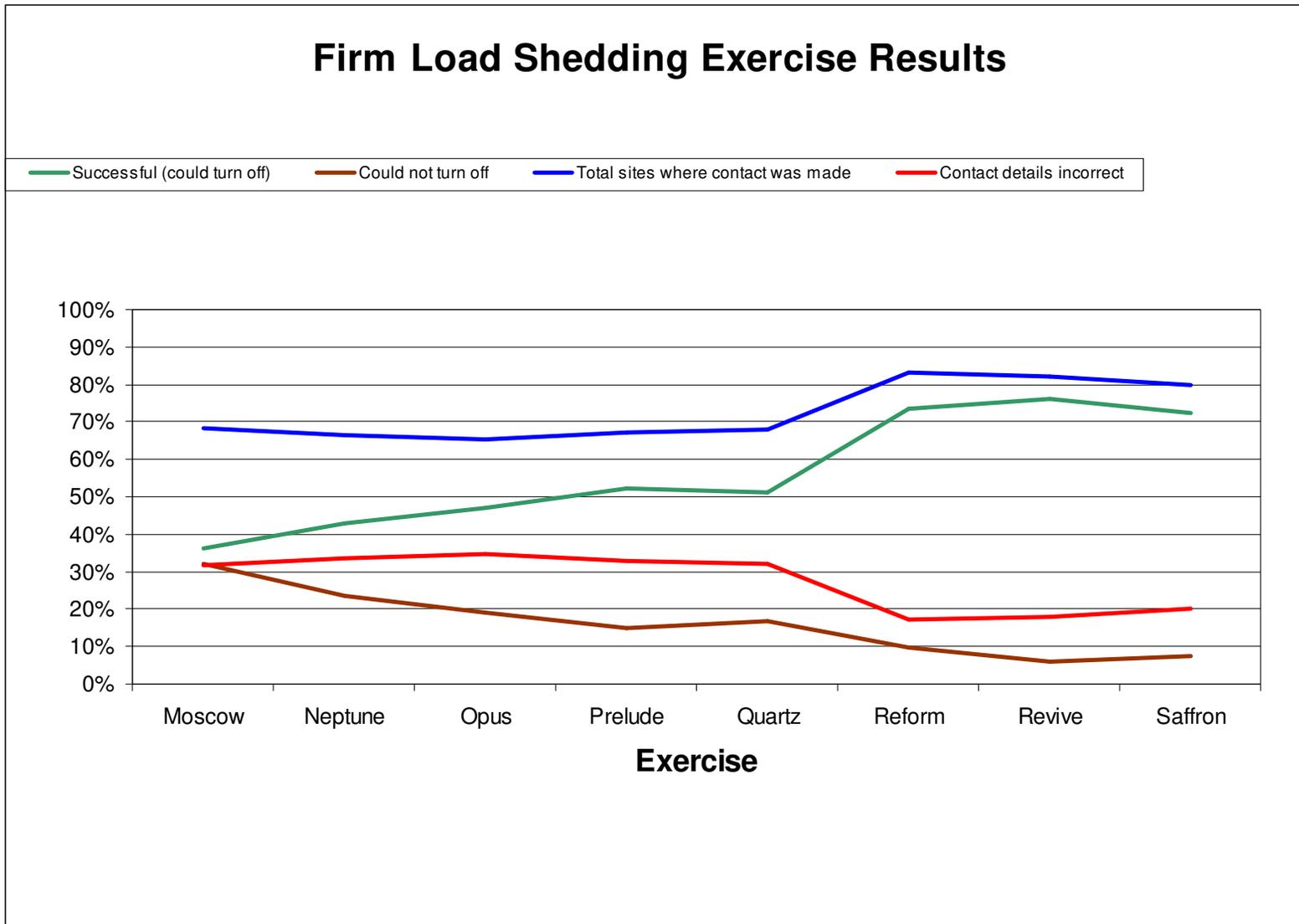
Observations

- Observations highlighted by exercise participants included:
 - Different tempo to previous more process driven NEC exercises.
 - Periods of exercise inactivity for non-NEMT participants.
 - Some NEC forms and communications not received in line with participants' expectations.
 - Limited P70 and ECQ data provided by Shippers.
 - Commercial Feedback process trialled could be made more dynamic.

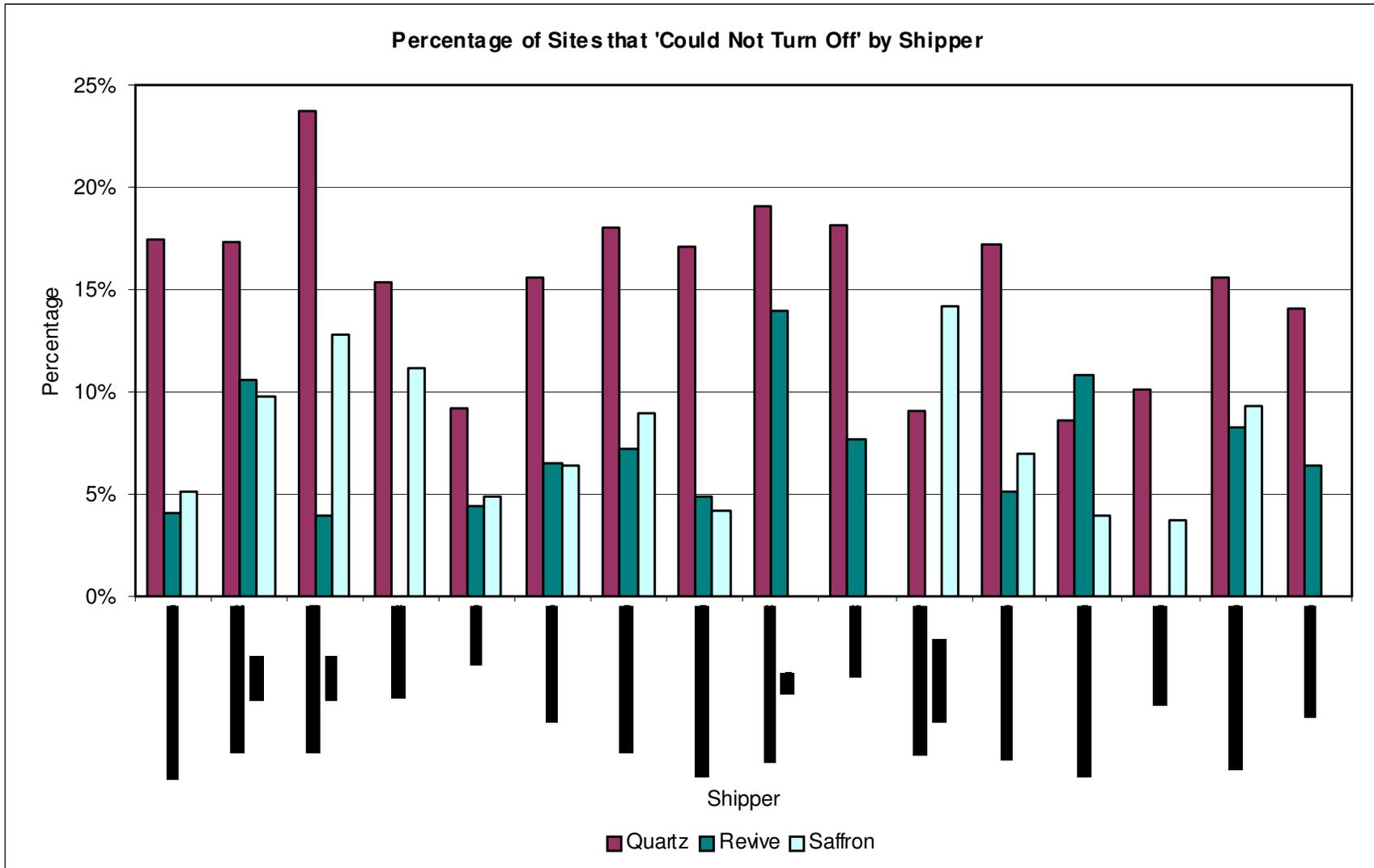
Observations

- Decrease in overall performance on Firm Load Shedding compared to 2010's Exercise Revive:
 - Increase in number of sites with incorrect contact details (17% to 20%).
 - Decrease in number of sites who stated they could turn off (76% to 72%).
- Improvement in performance in a number of Distribution Networks and by a number of Shippers.
- Increase in number of Large GDN Loads compared to Exercise Revive (335 to 400).

Observations



Observations



Recommendations

- Exercise Saffron report makes a number of recommendations including:
 - Improved communication regarding tempo of future exercises.
 - Distribution Networks to examine and share factors that improved or hindered firm load shedding performance.
 - Distribution Networks progress, via Gas Action Task Group, a process for informing Shippers of incorrect contact details.
 - Further training for NEMT members on communications with wider industry.
 - Development of a more dynamic process for obtaining, where appropriate, Commercial Feedback from Shippers during future exercises.
- Exercise Saffron report to be published on HSE website.

2012 Exercise

- NEC Exercise 'T' expected to take place during September 2012.
- Expected to test revised emergency arrangements described in new NEC Safety Case.
- Further information to be provided by NEC Emergency Planning Team during Summer 2012.

Further Information

- For further information or to provide feedback on Exercise Saffron report please contact the NEC Emergency Planning Team using following contact details:

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