

# **Gas supply emergencies & Customer responsibilities**

## **A view from HSE**

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seminar  
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# What is a gas supply emergency?

- Emergency endangering people due to loss of gas pressure
- Too low gas pressure means gas appliances don't work properly:
  - CO poisoning
  - Build up of unignited gas and explosions
- GSMR aims to minimise risk of a gas supply emergency

# Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996

Enacted following HSC/DTI report 'Britain's Gas Supply: A safety Framework' (1995)

Criminal law NOT civil

A permissioning, safety case regime – low frequency high consequence events.

Key objective – to minimise the risk of a gas supply emergency (loss of pressure endangering people) – from occurring or continuing.

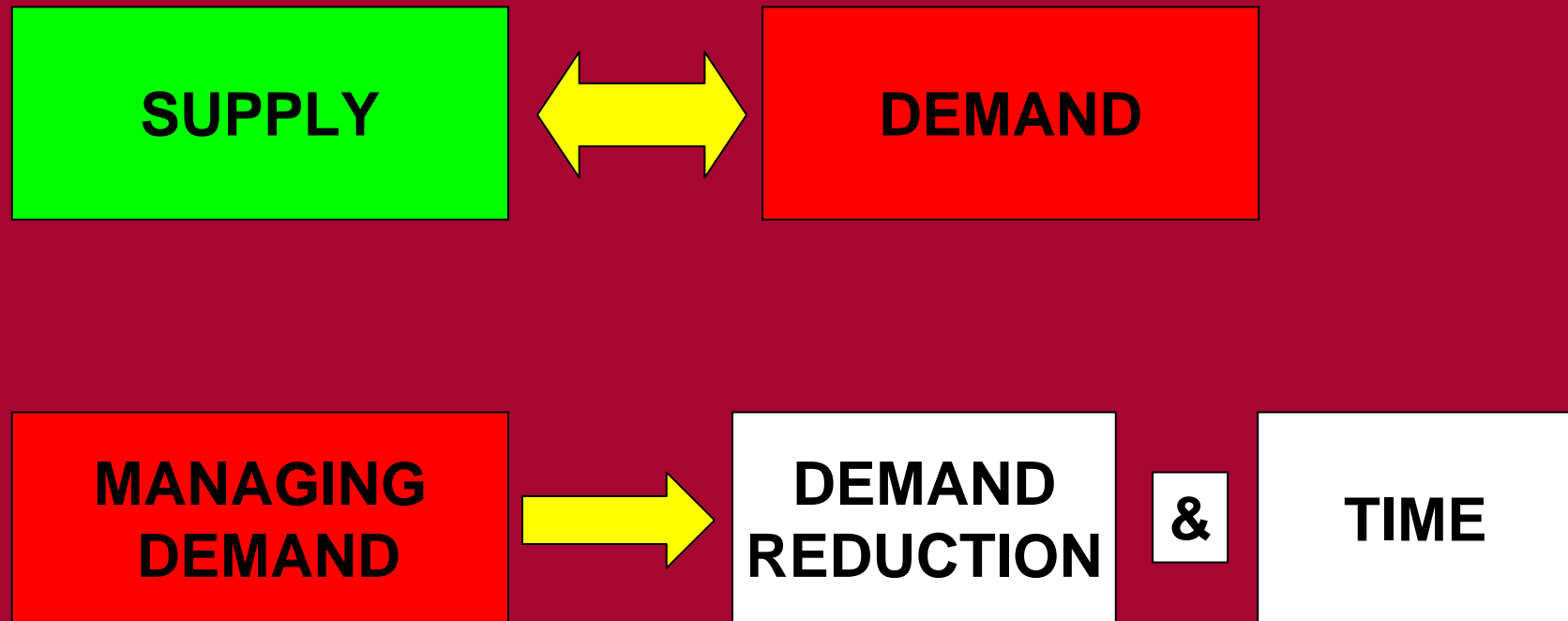
Aimed at safety – risk from gas - not security of supply or the wider social and economic issues.

Immediate risk or longer term e.g. later in a winter.

# GSMR - protecting consumers

- GSMR requires ALL consumers to be protected
  - industrial and domestic – but particularly aimed at the most vulnerable consumers (e.g. domestic)
- How? By maintaining safe pressure OR safely isolating consumers
  - Safely isolating certain consumers whilst maintaining safe pressure in the rest of the network is not a supply emergency – and is a key strategy in the safety cases.

# Safe pressure & law of physics



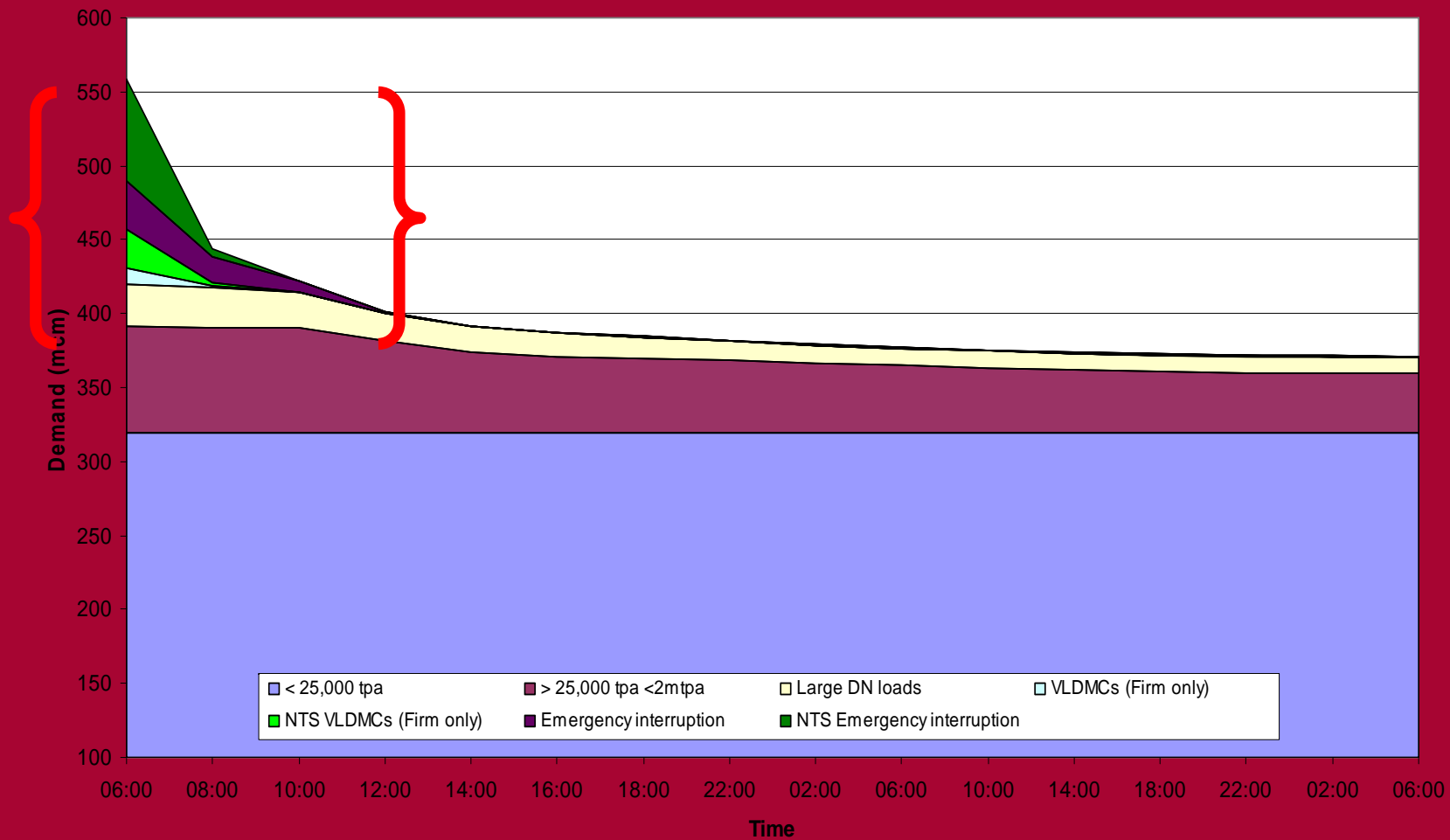
# Reducing demand – How is it achieved?

- Market forces
- Command & Control
  - Emergency interruption
  - Firm load shedding
    - VLDMCs
    - >25 000 tpa
  - Public appeals
- Isolation

# Demand management in practice



Total National Emergency Demand Management



# GSMR - Co-operation is a legal requirement



- All need to understand what is expected of you and have arrangements to discharge those duties.
- If you don't know by now what is expected of you, find out. Should be set out in clear working arrangements
- National Grid, NEC and other Distribution Network operators need accurate contact information. Shippers, suppliers and major consumers have a key role in providing that.



# Co-operation

- A gas conveyor may direct a consumer to stop using gas to avoid a supply emergency developing or if one develops, to minimise the impact.
- That duty is absolute.
- Therefore if instructed to stop using gas, you must do it – or you will be in breach a statutory obligation and will be open to enforcement action, including prosecution
- [Emergency contact leaflet
  - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/gas/supply/initiatives.htm>

# Co-operation

- Industrial consumers need to ensure they have arrangements in place:
  - To keep emergency contact details up-to-date.
  - To stop using gas when directed to do so.

This includes management and practical arrangements.

# Management arrangements



## **POLICY**

Role in demand management

## **ARRANGEMENTS**

Who is responsible?

- For contact information
- For receiving calls
- For taking action

Do they know what to do?

## **CHECK & REVIEW**

Test & check

## **CHANGE?**

Are improvements required?

# Co-operation

- To avoid a gas supply emergency, all industry players need to act quickly and safely
- Can be achieved only by working together
- Effective co-operation requires proactive action by you.
- You can't ignore the laws of physics – to maintain safe pressure – supply = demand. Therefore if not enough supplies, there has to be a demand side response.

# Industry developments

- Ofgem changes to the interruption regime – efficient investment in network capacity
  - All firm
  - But demand management arrangements will have to be as effective as now
- DTI priority user arrangements
  - Reduction v stop
  - 25 000 tpa threshold

# Consequences

- Hopefully we won't get into a position of a gas deficit.
- But if we do – opportunities to minimise the impact.
- BUT the consequences of getting it wrong are serious – National Grid, other DN operators and NEC will not let the network become unsafe and will have no choice but to cut gas supplies to domestic consumers if necessary.
- It is all our interests to avoid that.

