RISK INTELLIGENCE
INTELLIGENCE • EVIDENCE • IMPACT

GEOPOLITICAL RISK MONITORING

Saudi Eastern Province Energy

Rapid assessment of people, assets, priority risks, decision triggers, disruption exposure, and accountability.

LOCATION / AREA OF CONCERN	WHY IT MATTERS	STATUS	LAST REVIEWED
Saudi Eastern Province: Dhahran, Dammam, Ras Tanura and Shaybah oil field (remote southeast)	Houthi attacks on the Eastern Province are a standing condition: Dhahran HQ struck 13 Oct, Shaybah and Dammam airport 21 Oct, Ras Tanura claimed 27 Oct, Brent near $116. The live question is whether attacks reach export throughput, and who carries standdown, flight and insurance cost.	Critical	28 October 2026

PEOPLE AND ASSETS EXPOSED

PERSONNEL	FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT	SUPPLY CHAIN / DATA	CUSTOMERS / COMMITMENTS
Field contractors (Shaybah: 2 killed, 2 injured, 21 Oct), airport workers, Aramco staff remote since 22 Oct, tanker crews	Ras Tanura refinery (550,000 bpd) and terminal; Shaybah processing and vehicles; Dhahran HQ and OSPAS command centre; King Fahd Airport	Gulf crude and product loadings, field spares, air cargo, crew rotations, remote systems and delivery schedules	Aramco, Asian and European crude buyers, carriers, service vendors, refiners and contract customers

PRIORITY RISK AND BUSINESS EXPOSURE

#	RISK EVENT	WHO ABSORBS IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	DISRUPTION COST	OPERATIONAL EFFECT
1	Strike disables Ras Tanura loading or refining	Aramco and Gulf-loading buyers first; refiners and tanker owners later	M-H	H	Severe | $1M+	27 Oct: Houthis claimed a missile hit on the 550,000 bpd refinery; Bloomberg reports a fire near the terminal contained, damage unclear, Aramco silent. Gulf loading is recovering with Hormuz.
2	HQ vacancy degrades Dhahran oversight	Aramco operations teams first; traders and counterparties later	M	H	$10-25K*	13 Oct: missile hit the Dhahran complex; fire on floors 6-10, accounts differ. 22 Oct: staff sent home, no return date (Reuters). Aramco has not said which OSPAS functions moved.
3	Repeat strike stands down Shaybah field crews	Field contractors and service firms first; Aramco later	M-H	M-H	$35-86K*	21 Oct: drone debris killed two contractors, injured two; Ministry says operations unaffected. Houthis named Shaybah 19 Oct (unverified). About 1m bpd, 9.5% of the November OPEC+ target.
4	Carrier suspensions outlast Dammam reopening	Airport staff, carriers and shippers first; plants awaiting spares later	H	M	$12-36K*	11 Oct: projectile hit the tarmac. 21 Oct: attack killed two, injured eight; GACA reported normal traffic 22 Oct. KLM suspended Dammam through 31 Oct (aggregator).

DECISION TRIGGERS

#	OBSERVABLE TRIGGER	THRESHOLD / SOURCE	REQUIRED ACTION
1	Confirmed strike on Eastern Province facility or staff	BREACHED 13 Oct (Dhahran), 21 Oct (Shaybah, Dammam), 27 Oct (Ras Tanura claim). Ministry/SPA, Reuters	Live: confirm headcount at Shaybah, Dhahran and Dammam today; hold nonessential field movement.
2	Ras Tanura damage confirmed, or loadings drop	Aramco/Ministry; Kpler loadings under 2.98m bpd (1-15 Oct average) for 3 days	Recompute cargo allocation and delivery commitments; request Aramco's force majeure position; price alternate loading.
3	Iran talks fail or US strikes begin after 3 Nov	Tehran talks (26 Oct); WSJ-reported US campaign warning after 3 Nov (OilPrice)	Reprice Gulf loading and war-risk cover; clear alternate sourcing by 3 Nov.

ANALYST ASSESSMENT / COST BASIS / KEY GAP

Assessment: Verified facts: 13 Oct: missile hit Aramco's Dhahran complex (Reuters, 14 Oct). 21 Oct: Shaybah drone debris killed two contractors; King Fahd Airport attack killed two, injured eight; GACA reported normal traffic 22 Oct. 22 Oct: Dhahran staff sent home. 27 Oct: Houthis claimed a missile strike on Ras Tanura; Bloomberg reports a contained fire near the terminal; no confirmed output loss. Brent $102.94 on 9 Oct, about $116 on 27 Oct. Judgment: First-order: remote operations and short airport disruption already run. Second-order: spares and rotations slip. Third-order: contract, insurance and price exposure if Ras Tanura throughput is lost. Good case: Tehran talks or a Dhahran return.

Cost basis: Moderate-High | $57K-$147K for the contractor and logistics cohort; a Ras Tanura loss is Severe | $1M+ and unpriced. Included: twelve crews x 8 h/day x $180/h x 2-5 days; 30 urgent shipments x $400-$1,200; inspection and security $10,000-$25,000. Assumption: rates are illustrative, all crews idle, shipments diverted; casualties and lost output excluded; *rows 2-4 are components. Moves up on a confirmed Ras Tanura outage; down on a Dhahran return date.

So what: A confirmed Ras Tanura outage turns a cost near $57K-$147K into a throughput and contract question measured in millions, so allocation and war-risk cover need an owner before Aramco speaks.

Key gap: Unresolved: Ras Tanura loadings after 27 Oct; which OSPAS functions left Dhahran; Saudi output baseline (IEA August 5.97m bpd , a September 8.0m bpd headline). Confirm with Aramco, GACA, Kpler.

Sources: Reuters via ThePrint, 14 Oct; Reuters, 22 Oct (six unnamed sources); Reuters via GV Wire, 27 Oct (claim unconfirmed); Bloomberg via Rigzone, 27 Oct; Gulf News, 22 Oct. Aggregators: House of Saud, OilPrice.