Area Planning for Oil Spill: How to Get Involved

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Risk of Oil Spills

- Offshore oil drilling rigs
- Refineries
- Large commercials ships
- Tugs and barges
- Oil terminal
- Railroads
- Oil pipelines
- Trucks/mobile facilities
National Response System

National Contingency Plans
Regional Contingency Plans
Area Contingency Plans
State Contingency Plans
Local Emergency Plans
Industry Contingency Plans

Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP)

National Contingency Plans
Local Emergency Plans
Industry Contingency Plans

National Contingency Plans
Region 6 Integrated Contingency Plan
SE LA Area C-Plan
NOLA Area C-Plan
SE TX & SW LA Area Plan
Region 6 Integrate Plan
LA State Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Local Emergency Plans
Industry Contingency Plans
Industry Contingency Plans
Northwest Area Contingency Plan

2018

Also serving as the Region Ten Regional Contingency Plan
Area Plan Content

- Policies that dictate how response to oil and hazardous material spills will be managed.
- Roles and responsibilities of federal, state, local, tribal and responsible party.
- Tools including procedures and best practices:
  - Incident Command System
  - Use of alternative response technology (i.e. dispersants, in-situ burn, non-floating oils)
  - Plans identifying resources at risk including natural, cultural and economic resources
  - Communication before, during and after incidents (Joint Information Centers and Liaison functions)
  - Health and Safety Plans including community air monitoring plans
  - Waste Management
Dispersant Policy In the Pacific Northwest

- Pre-approved, conditionally or not approved areas
- Decision making tools to help RRT members come to decision
- RRT makes decision within 2 hours
- Communication to stakeholders are made
Historic Properties and Cultural Resources: Consultation During Oil Spills

- If not categorically excluded from Section 106, must notify the State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal Historic Preservation Office(s) for consultation.

- Environmental Unit develop protective measures for historic properties or cultural resources.

- Give guidance to the field on inadvertent discoveries (leave in place, mark location, call for advice).
Non-Floating Oils

- Many types of oils under the right conditions. Priority given to preventing, minimizing, and containing non-floating oils
- Respond rapidly and aggressively to recover oils when on the surface (if safe to do so) before the oils start to sink
- Operational Checklist in the Plan
- Notification to the Unified Command of the possibility
Geographic Response Plans (GRPs)

- Each plan covers a specific geographic area and contains information meant to aid the response community in managing the incident through, and as necessary, beyond the initial phase of the response.

- Information in GRPs includes: discussion of spills risks, reference maps, recommended response strategies, shoreline information, resources at risk details, and logistical information.

- By intention, booming strategies are written exclusively for only the highest priority resources at risk in the given geographic area.

- They are not meant to be everything.
Regional Response Teams

- There are 13 Regional Response Teams (RRTs) in the U.S., each representing a particular geographic region (including Alaska, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin).

- RRTs are representatives from offices of the federal agencies that make up the National Response Team (NRT), as well as state representatives and tribes.

- The four major responsibilities of RRTs are: response, planning, training, and coordination.

- In the Pacific Northwest, the NWAC shares responsibility with EPA Region X Response Team
Tribes on the RRT in Pacific Northwest

- Makah Tribe
- Yakama Nation
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
Oil/Hazmat Emergency Response Steps 101

**Initial Assessment/Containment**
- On small spills, this is typically done by the spiller, local hazmat or hired contractors.
- On larger spills, this is done by contractors hired by the spiller or the State/Fed response agency.
- Liaison Officer is responsible for coordinating with stakeholders, organizing, and local assistance and works directly for the Unified Commanders.
- Joint information center generates unified, informative messaging for the public.

**Communicate with Stakeholders/Public**
- Prioritize actions, determine environmental constraints, identify most effective cleanup techniques, and define cleanup endpoints.
- This includes containment, stabilization, and active cleanup.
- In ICS, this type of planning cycle is typically conducted each day, for the next day's operating period. So that each day, responders plan for the next day's operations.

**Plan for Operations**
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment — multi-agency process that assesses damages to and loss of use of for environmental resources, levies penalties against the spiller and identifies possible long-term restoration projects. This assessment is conducted in parallel with the response.
- Claims Against Spiller — allows for reimbursement of private citizens and businesses.
- Penalties — regulatory agencies may charge additional penalties for the environmental damage done.

**Documentation and assessment of penalties against responsible party**
- Unified Command decides when cleanup endpoints are reached.
- UC assigns officers for Operations, Liaison, information, etc. and oversees the following steps.

**Cleanup Endpoints are met, responders demobilize**
- Transition to long-term cleanup, if needed.

**INCIDENT Notification**
- Spiller is required by law to notify the National Response Center and in WA, OR and ID also to notify the States' emergency management agencies. From there, notifications spread out to regionally based Federal and State agencies that complete required Tribal, State and Local notifications.
- If orphan spill or non-compliant spiller, notifications could go from local to State and Federal responders.

**Formation of Unified Command**
- Federal, State, Spiller, Local and Tribal representatives form a Unified Command and make consensus-based response decisions.
- One individual from each entity with jurisdictional authority, resources, and the capacity to engage fully in ICS are welcomed into Unified Command.
- Typically this includes: Spiller Incident Commander, State On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), Federal OCS, Local OSC and/or Tribal OSC.
- If the Unified Command cannot come to consensus on a particular issue, the OSC has the authority to make the final decision.
- UC assigns officers for Operations, Liaison, information, etc. and oversees the following steps.
Unified Command

FOSC
SOSC
LOSC
TOSC
RPIC
Why is important?

- The NWAC/RRT is a formalized entity that have authorities to make decisions about oil and hazardous responses
- Being part of Unified Command is being part of the decision making for response actions taken
- Ensuring your cultural, historical, environmental and economic resources are known
- It is a great responsibility but also an important opportunity
How to get involved and be prepared

- Connect with your area planning contact through the National Response Team
- National Response Team website for information: NRT.ORG
- Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are also a place to ensure planning for response includes tribal resources and concerns
There are 13 Regional Response Teams (RRTs), one for each of ten federal regions, plus one for Alaska, one for the Caribbean, and one for the Pacific Basin. Each RRT maintains a Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and has state, as well as federal government, representation. EPA and the Coast Guard co-chair the RRTs. Like the NRT, the standing RRTs are planning, policy and coordinating bodies and do not respond directly to the scene. The RRT provides assistance as requested by the On-Scene Coordinator during an incident.

To access a RRT Home Page, please select from the following map by clicking within the appropriate region:

RRT Areas
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<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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How to get involved

DENVER, CO - RRT VIII

Site Contact:
Gina Cristiano
Emergency Response/Planning Coordinator
cristiano.gina@epa.gov
1595 Wynkoop St
Denver, CO 80202
www.nrt.org/r8rcp

This site is for posting the R8 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and associated documents.
QUESTIONS?

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