The National Response System

Federal, state, and local governments working together to protect Americans from threats to our land, air, and water

Version 10.0
Updated 12_16_09
Presentation Overview

• History and Authorities for Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Response
• National Response System Components
• How the National Response System Works
National Oil & Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)

• NCP describes the national preparedness and response system for oil and hazardous materials
  – Includes chemical, biological, and radiological releases to the environment
  – Both accidental and intentional (including terrorist) releases

• NCP is a regulation found in 40 CFR 300 and administered by the EPA

Chair

Co-Chair

[Logos of various government agencies]
NCP Authorities

- **Clean Water Act** as amended by the Oil Pollution Control Act (OPA 90) and earlier clean water legislation

- **The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a.k.a. “Superfund,”** including the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA) amendments
NRS Components
Overview of Key NRS Components

• NRS comprised of...
  • Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
  • 13 Regional Response Teams (RRTs)
  • National Response Team (NRT)
  • National Response Center (NRC)
  • Area Committees
  • State/Local Governments
  • Special Teams
  • Joint Response Teams with neighboring countries
  • Regulated Industry
Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)

USCG for coastal zone & EPA for inland zone

- Coordinate all containment, removal, and disposal efforts/resources at the incident site
- Ensure proper notification
- Direct/coordinate, and/or provide technical assistance to response efforts at site
- Maintain decision-making authority
- Ensure access to information
Federal OSCs Continued...

• Examples of response actions include:
  • Incident Action Plan development
  • Site safety plan development (response planning)
  • Sample collection and analysis (air/water monitoring)
  • Alternative water supply provisions (potable water)
  • Source control and stabilization (berms, booms, dikes, plugging release points)
  • On-site treatment (neutralization, thermal destruction, solidification, detonation)
  • Off-site waste disposal or treatment
  • Temporary relocation
  • Evidence collection and other law enforcement efforts
OSC Response Assets

- Enforcement authorities to ensure that the responsible party (RP) cleans up the spill or release
- Access to federal technical assistance and contractors for cleanup and salvage
- Authority to access CERCLA and/or Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) funding
- Technical expertise from federal special teams
- Special equipment

EPA Mobile Command Post
Regional Response Teams (RRTs)

- 13 RRTs comprised of 15 Federal agencies plus State representatives
- Co-chaired by EPA and USCG
- Engage in planning and training activities year-round
- Coordinate decision making process for alternative cleanup operations

- Provide technical expertise and resources to the OSC during a response
National Response Team (NRT)

- Comprised of the same 15 federal agencies as the RRTs
- EPA Chair, USCG Vice Chair
- National-level planning, policy, and coordinating body
- Provides advice and assistance to the OSC and RRT during a response

- EPA
- USCG
- USDA
- DOC/NOAA
- DOD
- DOE
- HHS
- DOI
- DOJ
- DOL/OSHA
- DOS
- DOT
- GSA
- NRC
- FEMA
National Response Center (NRC)

- Receives all reports of releases involving oil and hazardous substances including, infrastructure security breaches, suspicious activities, and terrorist related events involving hazardous substances & oil that trigger federal notification requirements
  - Approximately 30,000 incident notifications each year
- Notifies Federal and State OSCs
- Notifies DHS/NOC & EPA/USCG Headquarters
- Preparedness role – supports NRS planning activities
USCG Districts and Strike Teams
How the NRS Works
NRS
Notification & Decision Process

1. Reports also shared with NOC to support situational awareness.
2. This includes local and Tribal representatives as well.
3. Resources available to support the OSC upon request.
NRS Funding Mechanisms

Oil Spills
• OPA 90
  – Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF)

Hazardous Substances
• The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a.k.a., Superfund
Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

• Administered by National Pollution Funds Center
• OSLTF Emergency Fund established to provide funding for:
  – Emergency response actions to protect public health, safety and environment
  – Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) initiation
  – Compensation for claimants who demonstrate that oil pollution caused damages

• As delineated by the OPA, uses of the OSLTF include:
  – Response costs incurred by the Coast Guard and EPA
  – State access for response activities
  – Payments to federal, state, and Indian tribe trustees to conduct natural resource damage assessments and restorations
  – Payment of claims for uncompensated response costs and damages
  – Research and development
  – Other specific appropriations
NCP Preparedness

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)

Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs)

Area Contingency Plans (ACPs)

Facility Response Plans (FRPs)

Vessel Response Plans (VRPs)

State/Local Plans

Federal Agency Internal Plans

International Joint Plans

National Response Framework (NRF)
Regional Contingency Plans

• Developed by multi-agency RRTs
• Provide for effective regional response coordination
• Ensure clear roles & responsibilities
• Include information on government, commercial, academic, facilities, & resources in each region
• Follow NCP format
• Should be coordinated with Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) & LEPC plans
• Designates the boundary between the coastal & inland zones
## Area Contingency Plans (ACPs)

- Developed by Area Committees led by Federal OSCs
- Provides for effective response coordination for worst case discharges

### ACP Contents

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<td>Procedures for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants</td>
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More information on the NRS can be found at:

WWW.NRT.ORG
Questions?