Section 9101

RRT10 and NW Area Committee Charter
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Oil and hazmat spill response is a unique regulatory field where public trust demands a rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated response action by federal, state and responsible parties.

In Region 10, we are committed to:

- Zero missed notification to each other.
- A bias towards a rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated response when spills or incidents occur.
- Joint decision making through unified command.
- Maintaining our organization’s expertise on the area plan and be full participants in the planning process.
- Ensure that organized transitions occur when RRT/NWAC agencies experience turn-over of key people.

RRT and Area Committee Function:
The National Contingency Plan (NCP) is the rule book for implementing CERLCA and OPA. All response actions by the federal agencies must be consistent with the NCP. Since inception, the NCP has required federal agencies to develop and maintain Regional Contingency Plans (RCP). After the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (prompted by lessons learned from the Exxon Valdez oil spill), the NCP was updated to require Area Contingency Plans and Area Committees, across the USA.

Region 10 is the only Region to develop a “unified plan” where USCG, EPA and all States in the region sign on to one Plan, and that plan meets the requirements for a Regional Contingency Plan and an Area Contingency Plan. We do not have subarea contingency plans. Previous state and federal RCP’s were shelved for an area-wide focus on one Unified Plan. Then Region 10 took it a step further and combined the RRT meetings with the Area Committee meetings. The RRT/Area Committee Strategic Plan is written to apply to both organizations jointly.

The Region 10 Executive Committee is a combination of the Region 10 RRT, and the NW Area Committee which includes three individual areas of responsibility (Sector Columbia River, Sector Puget Sound, and Inland.) Part of the rationale
for holding joint meetings is the fact that there is significant overlap in the respective memberships, including Federal, State, Tribal, and EPA representatives.

The combined RRT and Area Committee meetings have a long history of success and reflect the inherent business culture and spirit of partnership we have in the Northwest. With the large geographic area of responsibility managed by RRT-10 and the Area Committee, the combined meeting approach was found to be the most efficient and effective method to ensure response and planning coordination, as well as sharing of ideas.

The decision to form the joint Executive Committee and hold joint meetings was made around 2002. There are three meetings per year, each a day and a half long. The meetings are moved around the region in an attempt to maintain a presence and outreach to as many local responders as possible. The Area Committee Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs are welcome to hold additional meetings in their Sectors or sub areas to supplement the three annual combined meetings. See a brief overview of the two-day combined meeting agendas below:

**Day 1:** Half day session with RRT10/NWAC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meeting is open to the NCP designated RRT members, Area Committee Co-Chairs, and any other agency representatives invited by them. At the end of the half day meeting, there is the option of a closed door session for NCP designated RRT members only where sensitive issues may be discussed. Any NCP designated RRT member may raise issues for discussion during the closed door session. All RRT member Agencies should have a representative at these half day Executive Committee and closed door RRT sessions.

**Day 2:** Full day Area Committee meeting, hosted by EPA, USCG COTP and State. The objective is to engage with local officials and responders from the local area where the meeting is held. This provides an opportunity for the EPA, COTP and State that are hosting the meeting to create a meeting agenda that will be interesting and worthwhile for their local community. This meeting is open to everyone.

**Relationship of RRT to NW Area Committee:**
The RRT has two roles spelled out in the NCP:
1. Support the FOSC during incident-specific activations
2. Ensure effective regional planning and preparedness.

If the Area Committee is fully functional and effective at multi-agency joint planning and preparedness, then the RRT’s primary focus is limited to preparing for incident-specific activations and planning for support of the FOSCs. RRT Co-Chairs and all RRT members are encouraged to observe the full-day Area Committee meeting on Day Two, in order to support and maintain familiarity with FOSC and SOSC issues and concerns.
RRT/NWAC Organizational Groups:

- **Workgroups:** Work in subject areas that require ongoing attention to improve both the NWACP and the function of the RRT/NWAC. Area planning developments should be memorialized in the NWACP if appropriate. The workgroups report to the Steering Committee.
- **Task Forces:** Work on specific issues that have a limited scope and a clear end point. The task forces report to the Steering Committee.
- **Steering Committee:** Guides the preparedness work of the Area Committee and the RRT task of preparing to support the FOSCs. Ensures that workgroup and task force efforts are meeting the needs of the Executive Committee. Frames decision points for the Executive Committee. Manages the annual update to the NWACP.
- **RRT Coordinators:** Designated to coordinate the work of the RRT, which includes preparedness and planning responsibilities. In R10, the RRT Coordinators from EPA and USCG D-13 also serve as the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee.
- **Area Committee Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs:** Act as representatives for their agency and approve RRT/NWAC policy and procedures. Ensure that the steering committee, workgroups and task forces are enhancing their ability to respond. Ensure responses are conducted in accordance with the NWACP.
- **RRT Co-Chairs:** Ensure that the RRT is ready to fulfill their NCP obligations. Ensure that adequate area planning is conducted.
- **Executive Committee Members:** Ensure that NWACP policies and procedures appropriately incorporate the expertise and capabilities your agency provides.

### NCP Designated RRT Members:
- US EPA
- USCG D-13
- Dept. of Agriculture (US Forest Service)
- Dept. of Commerce (NOAA)
- Dept. of Defense (USACE)
- Dept. of Energy
- Dept. of Health and Human Services (ATSDR)
- Dept. of Interior
- Dept. of Justice
- Dept. of Labor (OSHA)
- Dept. of Transportation (FAA)
- FEMA
- GSA
- Idaho BHS
- Oregon DEQ
- Washington Ecology
- Makah Tribe

### Executive Committee Members:
- All NCP designated RRT members
- Sector Portland
- Sector Seattle
- WA DOH
- WA EMD
- OR Public Health
- OR State Fire Marshall
- ID Health and Welfare
- US Navy

### Area Committee Members:
- All members of the Exec. Committee
- Industry
- County/City Agencies
- Non-Profits