

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM/NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2002
DRAFT MINUTES**

LOCATION: Richland Washington

PARTICIPANTS:

See attached Attendance List.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002 MORNING SESSION (Agenda Items 1 - 3):

The morning session began with general welcoming statements made by the Regional Response Team /Northwest Area Committee Meeting hosts, Mr. Chris Field (USEPA) and Mr. Dale Jensen (Department of Ecology.) Further, the welcoming introductions extended to the new Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) Co-Chairs Captain Jewel (MSO Portland) and Captain Ellis (MSO Puget Sound.)

Attendees/Agency introductions were conducted.

A facilitated discussion was held to explore the roles and responsibilities in a persistent toxic chemical incident in the State of Washington. Participants included local, state, and federal response and support agencies.

Summary of scenario:

- A response by both the Benton and Franklin County to an inland waterway collision between a tug, which is towing an ammonia tank barge, and a passenger cruise vessel "Queen of the West." A threat was posed from both fuel and ammonia that was released.

Issues raised:

- Information and data collection to aid the response.
- Incident Command strategy and set-up.
- Initial Washington State Patrol, Sheriff, Emergency Management, and potential responsible party (PRP) response and notification procedures.
- Mass Decontamination and the capability of local hospital and treatment centers.
- Geographic Response Plan (GRP) utilization.
- The incident command with regards to the relationship between various applicable authorities and the unified command.
- Identification of resources that may be accessed through the RRT and how this process is accomplished. This includes the applicable State and Federal response authorities.
- Various problematic issues under a unified command to include communication, media involvement, and various public affairs and transitional command related issues.
- Issues centered on the integration of various authorities into a local response generated ICS.
- Finally, recognition that outreach is needed to educate applicable agencies and organizations to the various plans that exist for spills in this area.

EPA RESPONSE CAPABILITIES (Agenda Item 6)

(This section was moved ahead on the agenda.)

Mr. Chris Field provided the context for the discussion regarding the demands placed on the EPA and the current status of the EPA's mission. The EPA has been asked under the Office of Homeland Security to be able to respond to six, simultaneous large scale incidents (approximately the size of the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center response.)

Mr. Jeffry Rodin, EPA FOOSC, led a discussion centered on the direction of EPA to move towards a national emergency response program with consistent equipment, training, and resources across the country. The discussion included the following topics:

- The mission of the EPA and the applicable response authorities.
- Federal Response Plan response and applicable emergency support functions under ESF 10 (Hazardous Materials).
- An overview of the National Response System, including available response resources and assistance to include Environmental Response Teams, On-Scene Coordinators (OSC), research and development offices and access to special response resources including Coast Guard Strike Teams, Salvage Teams, NOAA Scientific Coordinators, EPA Coordinators, ATSDR technical assistance, Corp of Engineers, and available Contractor Resources.
- Resource available through the EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) and Emergency Rapid Response Service (ERRS) Contractors to include response vehicles, response offices, air monitoring equipment, associated sampling equipment, heavy equipment, and associated disposal assignments.
- Specialized Contracts to include historical sites and biological assessments.
- Level "A" response related equipment and ability.

KEY NOTES (Agenda Item 4)

Presentations were made by Ms. Donna Fuzi (Umatilla Chemical Depot Center Division Chief) and Ms. Mary Brown (Contractor for the US Department of Energy, Hanford Nuclear Reservation.)

Ms. Donna Fuzi's presentation covered an overview of the general Umatilla Chemical Depot operation during a response. The highlights included the following topics:

- History and background of the facility to include the general mission statement
- Security and emergency operations
- Activation, control and coordination procedures
- Reporting processes and applicable security related issues.
- Facility interaction with regards to the Regional Response Team (RRT).
- Activation of the RRT through the Service Response Force (SRF)
- Weapon disposal related procedures

Ms. Brown's presentation covered an overview of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation general operations. The highlights of the presentation include the following topics:

- Emergency response operations and preplanning agreements.
- Emergency response organization to include the use of Incident Command System (ICS), emergency operations center, support components of the facility, consequence assessment, security, and notifications.
- Interface with off-site agencies to include planning, pre-planning, emergency action level procedures, hazard analysis, and consequence analysis.
- Readiness assurance and communications
- Discussion of recent range fires in the area and how operations were utilized.
- Facility interaction with regards to the Regional Response Team (RRT)
- The facility's identification of a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC)

OSC REPORTS (Agenda Item 5)

EPA

Ms. Sheldrake reports that the EPA has responded to multiple incidents since the last RRT meeting in March 2002. The incidents include a drum response in eastern Washington, a fire at a Western Farms Services facility, where the EPA supplied air monitoring services, and an oil spill response in Sandpoint, Idaho.

MSO Puget Sound

Commander Mark Dix (Chief of Operations, MSO Puget Sound) reported that Captain Ellis (Captain of the Port, MSO Puget Sound) is attending a drill in Bellingham, WA and is unable to attend the RRT meeting. On his behalf, Commander Dicks reports the following response incidents:

- 07/09/02 a tug boat in Everett, WA leaking oil and later sank at its moorings
- 09/06/02 a barge fire, in Port Angeles
- MSO Puget Sound has had an increase in workload as many reservist-related positions have concluded
- MSO Puget Sound is working with Department of Ecology on a response related action level. The 100-gallon action level is will be weighed on a case by case basis and will only be follow when appropriate.

MSO Portland

Lieutenant Commander Dave Pierce spoke on behalf of Captain Jewel and reported the following response related news:

- No significant spill activity since the last RRT meeting.
- Due to a loss of activated reserves, the MSO has seen an increase in effort.
- Continuing to see a deep draft ships violating the MARPOL standards.

Department of Ecology

Mr. Mark Layman (Department of Ecology) reported on the following incidents:

- A fire that involved two 1,000-gallon propane cylinders. Ecology was utilized as technical assistance with ICS
- I-90 tanker fire spill and AFFF fish kill incident.
- Domestic terrorist response on July 21, 2002 where an individual attempted to destroy various courts documents.
- An acid spill in north Seattle that released hydrofluoric and phosphoric acid.
- Rock Island damn release.
- Trident Seafood anhydrous ammonia leak.

OR Department of Environmental Quality

OR DEQ representative reports a whale carcass that was removed from the Willamette River near the confluence of the Columbia River. Further, a discussion was held centered on a 34,000-gallon methanol release in Springfield, OR.

Case Studies

Ecology

Mr. Mark Layman presented a recent case study on the Twisp Cyanide Removal Incident. The presentation included discussion on the following topics:

- The incident was centered on a cyanide removal in Twisp, WA. The site has been contaminated due to a mining process that resulted in cyanide contaminated soil. The State was asked to do stabilization and removal of the contaminant.
- Ecology did an assessment of the site and sampled the site. The most hazardous material found was 20-pounds of sodium cyanide that was left on-site in open containers. Ecology arranged for the removal and disposal of the material.

EPA

Mr. Greg Weigel (USEPA) presented a recent case study on the Idaho State Lab Fire Incident. The presentation included discussion on the following topics:

- A fire broke out in a State Environmental Lab in northeast Boise, ID. Approximately 15 firefighters believed that they were exposed to an unknown air contaminant.
- EPA mobilized their START-2 contractor for a level B response out of Seattle, WA.
- The EPA worked with the state's Boise Regional Response Team and the Civil Support Team to identify the contaminant of concern and to identify the extent of contamination.
- Civil Support Team sampled bunker gear and various wipe samples and ran them through a field portable GC/MS.

AGENCY REPORTS (Agenda Item 7):

Each agency represented at the meeting was asked to give a brief update on significant activities within their agency.

- DOI

Mr. Preston Sleeper led a discussion centered on DOI mission statement.

- Department of Energy

Ms. Debbie Webb, contractor to Department of Energy, reported that DOE has had some changes since the events of September 11, 2002. They are reorganizing into a 10-region system that mimics FEMA. Further DOE is heavily involved in the upcoming TOPOFF exercise.

- MSO Puget Sound

Commander Dix reported that the officer corp at the MSO is new and made all applicable introductions. Further, the Marine Safety and Security Team was stood up with a unit number of 91101 MST.

- CG District 13

Mr. Whitson reported on new equipment and a recent Oil Spill Control Course. The district is planning to present a coastal exercise in late 2003 to test logistics experts. This will cover aspects of communication, transportation, housing, and personnel. Mr. Matt Bernard has returned from a trip to Alaska and reports that progress has been made with Canada and the consolidation of CANUS plans. The draft should be ready to implement by 2004.

- EPA

Mr. Chris Field reported that the EPA has completed their hiring process and currently has 15 OSCs, with 9 in Seattle, 2 in Portland, 2 Anchorage Alaska, and 2 in Idaho. Further, EPA is moving to designation of geographic-specific OSCs which will divide the region up in to specific work areas. The EPA is continuing to progress in the area of emergency response and readiness of counter terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

- Ecology

Mr. Dale Jensen reported that Ecology currently has a 2-billion dollar shortfall and is moving towards a more customer service style of business. They are working towards increasing the speed of the current permitting process. Further, Mr. Jensen reported that Ecology is busy with the geographic response plans that are being updated for portions of the Snake and Spokane Rivers and the upcoming TOPOFF exercise.

- Department of Environmental Quality

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality reports that there is a 300 million dollar tax increase to be voted on in January. The ODEQ emergency response program is

being expanded agency wide so senior managers will be more aware and involved with emergency response. Further, Lt. Commander Paul Simon will be rejoining ODEQ.

- NOAA

Mr. Mike Devany led a discussion centered on the Response Link program. Ms. Sharon Christopherson can provide information on the set up and sign on procedures. NOAA is working with USCG and EPA on an Endangered Species Act consultation for all the response technologies outlined in the Northwest Area Contingency Plan.

- OSHA

Mr. Ron Tsunehara reported that his agency is concentrating on the issuing of guidelines for ergonomics and food processes. Further, there is a memorandum of understanding with the OSHA program to share jurisdiction with the Umatilla facility.

- FEMA

Mr. Mike Hammond reported that FEMA is waiting to see what happens with the Office of Homeland Security.

- NAVY

Ms. Tammy Brown reports that the Navy has been very busy with vessel traffic concerns. This has taken away from the efforts of spill response. There is a worse case exercise planned for March 2003, the RRT will be included.

- Department of Health and Human Services

Mr. Dan Orico with the Joint Regional Medical Planning Office reported that Health and Human Services has published a mass vaccination plan for Smallpox that can be found on the CDC Webpage. Further, Mr. Orico reported that the Northern Command will officially begin soon and that HHS is in the process of planning for the upcoming TOPOFF exercise.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002 (Day Two)
0800 Meeting Begins

INLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM (Agenda Item 8)

Ms. Heidi Newsome (USFWS) began with a general overview of the National Wildlife Refuge Program. The Hanford Reach Refuge was designated on June 9, 2000. The presentation continued to include the following topics:

- Geography and design of the Hanford Reach Refuge
- History of the assessment of the refuge
- The recreational potential, natural resources, geological resources, and botanical resources
- Archeological status of the refuge
- Cold War effects on the Hanford Reach Refuge.
- Federal and State collaboration and coordination to continue to manage the Refuge

Mr. Dave Smith (USFWS) followed with a presentation on the National Burn Area Rehabilitation Team used to rehabilitate heavily burned area such as the Hanford site following the 2001. Further, Mr. Smith covered the lessons learned from the case study entitled the “24 Command Fire.”

FAST WATER OIL SPILL RESPONSE TECHNIQUES (Agenda Item 9)

Mr. Jim Mackey (Hyde Marine) gave a presentation on some new fast-water oil spill response equipment that includes discussion on the following topics:

- History of Hyde Marine
- Float inverter – demonstration and technique (an on-water demonstration was held after lunch)
- VOSS & SORS spill clean up techniques
- Case Study of the CANUSDIX exercises September 25, 2002

WORKGROUP REPORTS (Agenda Item 10)

Deleted from the agenda.

USCG INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE TEAM (Agenda Item 11)

Commander Bill Whitson (USCG District 13) gave a presentation on the creation and implementation of the Coast Guard’s Incident Management Assistance Team. Topics of discussion include the following:

- Requirements and history of the IMAT
- Requirements to requesting the IMAT support. The team is a quick deployment team that is self-sufficient.
- Cost to the IMAT team is approximately \$4,000 per day.
- Continuing challenges that face the IMAT.

OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND – POLLUTION REMOVAL FUNDING AUTHORIZATION AND CLAIMS PROCESS – NPFC (Agenda Item 12)

Mr. Greg Buie (NPFC) gave a presentation on the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The Topics of discussion include the following:

- Discussion of the role of the NPFC and the requirements of the FOSC to access the fund
- Discussion of the term of “substantial threat”
- Use of Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations (PRFA).
- Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and funding reimbursement
- NRDA activities vs. removal and emergency response activities
- Pitfalls of using the system.
- Discussion of claims – what gets paid for and what does not
- Finally contact information for the NPFC.

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES/REVISIONS TO NWACP AND PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS (Agenda Item 13)

Ms. Sheldrake (USEPA) gave a presentation related to the recent changes and revisions to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan. The Steering Committee has been working over the past 9 months to revise the NWACP. The presentation covered the following topics:

- NWACP website is at www.rrt10nwac.com
 - Chapter 1000 – changes to introductory language on WMD response, changes to jurisdictional boundaries, and FOSC transition.
 - Chapter 2000 – incorporation of more checklists
 - Chapter 3000 – revisions to make this section more consistent with the Coast Guard FOG and the addition of credential for wildlife operations branch leader.
 - Chapter 4000 - volunteer policy changes and addition of a Washington specific policy for the leader of the Environmental Unit.
 - Chapter 7000- changes to the introductory language on WMD response, drug lab response, language on WMD planning and lab support for biological analysis. Additional details on technical resources.
 - Chapter 8000- Updates to the Portland area information. Updates to the Puget Sound are anticipated.
 - Chapter 9000- updated the area-planning document. The contact and organization have been updated. The RRT activation procedures updated and finally the addition of SMART protocol.
- Schedule is as follows:
 1. October 7, 2002 Draft Public and Agency Review
 2. December 6, 2002 Comment period ends.
 3. January 29, 2003 Final NWACP available on website.
 4. January 29-30 meeting Final Document to be released.

MEETING WRAP-UP AND ADJOURNED (Agenda Item 14)