

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM/NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2005**

LOCATION: Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, Washington

PARTICIPANTS: [Attendance list](#).

MEETING AGENDA:

Thursday, 27 January 2005 – RRT/NWAC Meeting (Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA)

- 8:30 – 8:40 Welcome/Introductions (Capt Danny Ellis, MSO Puget Sound & Dale Jensen, Ecology)
- 8:40 – 9:00 Overview of the Roles and Responsibilities of the RRT/NWAC (Sheldrake, EPA)
- Membership/Organization (Executive Committee, Steering Committee, Workgroups and Public Involvement)
 - Function and Activation Process
 - NCP Authority and the NRT/RRT
 - Recent Activation Examples
- 9:00 – 9:45 Presentation on RRT/NWAC Action on the Oil Spill Early Action Task Force Recommendations (Capt Boothe, USCG D13 and Dale Jensen, Ecology)
- 9:45 – 10:15 Public Comment Period (RRT/NWAC)
- 10:15 – 10:45 Overview of Mt. St. Helens Eruption (Cynthia Gardner, USGS)
- 10:45 – 11:00 **BREAK**
- 11:00 – 11:30 OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120 Requirements for Oil Spill Volunteers and Responders (OSHA)
- 11:45 – 12:00 Annual Update of the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) for 2005 (Sheldrake, EPA)
- 11:45 – 1:00 **LUNCH (No Host)**
- 1:00 – 1:30 Nisqually Wildlife Refuge Briefing (US F&W / DOI)
- 1:30 – 2:00 Idaho DEQ Radiation Protection Program and Policies (IDEQ)
- 2:00 – 2:30 NRP and NIMS Update and National Rollouts (FEMA/USCG/EPA)
- 2:30 – 2:45 **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:30 Workgroup Updates and Charter Review (All)
- Steering Committee
 - GRP
 - Logistics
 - Communications and Outreach
 - Response Technologies
 - Marine Firefighting
 - Hazardous Substances
 - Wildlife
- 3:30 – 4:15 Agency Updates (All)
- 4:15 – 4:30 Announcement of RRT/NWAC Meeting Dates for 2005 (Beth Sheldrake, EPA)
- 4:30 **ADJOURN**

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JANUARY 27, 2005 MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order at 0847 hours by Dale Jensen (Ecology). The introductory address was given by Mark Dix (MSO Puget Sound). He mentioned that Captain Ellis (MSO Puget Sound) could not attend the meeting as he is scheduled to retire in July. Mark Dix mentioned that Captain Ellis sends his thanks to other agencies and groups for their assistance during the response to and clean-up of the Dalco Passage Oil Spill. Additionally he sent a special thanks to the Tacoma Fire Department for the use of their training center for the command post during the incident. Mark Dix mentioned that he has observed an increased effort amongst response agencies to conduct outreach with the regional stakeholders. He said that he is very interested in improving response times to spills and has focused training and drills on accomplishing that objective. He stated that the USCG and MSO Puget Sound are increasing the number of vessel monitors to improve both security tracking and spill response. Mark Dix concluded by stating that the relief for Captain Ellis will be Captain Stephen Metric who is due to take over in late June. Beth Sheldrake (USEPA) concluded the introductory remarks by announcing some slight modifications to the agenda and asking each of the RRT/NWAC members to introduce themselves.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RRT/NWAC

Beth Sheldrake provided a [presentation](#) that detailed how oil and hazardous material spill planning, preparedness, and response are done in the Pacific Northwest. She provided an overview of the role of the RRT/NWAC, its membership, its legal authority and responsibilities, and its capabilities to support the on-scene coordinators at an incident. She described the link between the state and federal response agencies and the National Response Team (NRT). She outlined the process involved in activating the RRT/NWAC in support of an incident and provided examples of recent activations, including the recent Dalco Passage Oil Spill, the Thermo Fluids fire, the New Carissa grounding, and the Bellingham Pipeline Explosion. She also discussed the use of the www.rrt10nwac.com website to manage information, including GRPs and the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP), and to support the response community and the public. She encouraged everyone to bookmark the site for future reference. She then discussed each of the workgroups and the role of the Steering Committee to manage each of the other workgroups in support of Executive Committee goals and objectives. Following the discussion of each of the workgroups and committees, she fielded several questions from those in attendance, including whether the RRT/NWAC has considered creating a WMD workgroup. To this Beth Sheldrake explained that the Hazardous Materials Workgroup has taken on WMD and that they are incorporating national guidance related to WMD in Chapter 7000 of the 2005 NWACP.

RRT/NWAC ACTION ON SPILL EARLY ACTION TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chip Boothe (USCG) introduced the circumstances surrounding the Dalco Passage Oil Spill, the response to the incident, and the political involvement following the response, which led to the creation of the Oil Spill Early Action Task Force (henceforth referred to as the Task Force). He explained that the charter for the Task Force was to investigate the actions of USCG and Ecology following the notification of the spill and to identify improvements for future oil spill responses. He stated that as the Task Force evolved, there were peripheral areas identified to explore and improve. He mentioned that Rear Admiral Garrett and Governor Gary Locke worked together to convene the Task Force and that he recognized about four or five members of the Task Force in the audience. He said that during the month of work on the Task Force, they acknowledged that the RRT/NWAC is the primary planning/preparedness authority in a situation like the Dalco Passage Oil Spill. He said that the processes used during the response were fundamentally sound, but that there are certainly areas of improvement for future response actions. He stated that the Dalco Passage Oil Spill presented unique and challenging situations during the early hours of the incident without a responsible party.

Chip Boothe explained that as a result of the identified challenges in the Dalco oil spill response, the Task Force developed 11 broad recommendations, each with one or more associated sub-

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recommendations. He explained the composition of the Task Force, which consisted of 12 members, plus representation from Ecology and the USCG, whom did not have voting rights. Further, he explained that many of the task force members had some limited experience with the RRT/NWAC, which required some of the time to be spent on educating the Task Force on the role of the NRT, the RRT, and the NWAC. He stated that of the 11 recommendations, nine were unanimously adopted by the Task Force. On the final two recommendations (10 and 11), the Task Force voted 9 – 3 and 7 – 5 in favor of implementation, respectively. Recommendation 10 directed an assessment of all regional citizens' advisory council to advise the RRT/NWAC and other spill response organizations to improve early action at spills in the future. Recommendation 11 established the immediate creation of an independent entity to review and provide guidance to state and federal spill response organizations during and after oil spill responses. He explained that neither Task Force Recommendation 10 nor Task Force Recommendation 11 fell within the purview of the RRT for implementation. He also explained that the USCG has no statutory authority to hire extra personnel to oversee the actions of the RRT and that Washington State will not support either of the final two recommendations until further review by the legislature.

Chip Boothe continued by explaining that the nine unanimously adopted recommendations agreed upon by the Task Force have been considered by Ecology and the USCG. He explained some of the actions taken by each agency since the Task Force recommendations were published. He also explained that all of the recommendations have been forwarded to the RRT/NWAC for consideration and implementation. He highlighted the fact that the Executive Committee met and reviewed each of the unanimous recommendations and the associated sub-recommendations for incorporation and assignment to appropriate workgroups and committees. He also explained that those recommendations adopted by the RRT/NWAC will be incorporated into the 2005 Strategic Plan and the NWACP.

Dale Jensen emphasized that the focus of the recommendations is to increase the effectiveness of the response within the first 12 hours following notification. He stated that there are logistical challenges in responding to oil spills within the Pacific Northwest, especially along the Outer Coast and areas of the Puget Sound. He also stated that once the proper notifications were relayed to the USCG and Ecology, the response went very well and that the entire response community came together to effectively manage the incident. He also agreed that there is always room for improvement. He said that one of the overarching messages from the Task Force was the need for increased citizen involvement in spill response. He explained that this message has been received at the state level and that the legislature and Ecology are assessing what resources are available to increase citizen involvement. He said that Ecology is currently drafting a report on the Dalco Passage Oil Spill that will be published on February 18, 2005 and provided to the legislature on March 4, 2005 for inclusion in state rulemaking.

Dale Jensen continued by stating that the RRT/NWAC has a challenge ahead of it as it attempts to pull together the recommendations and provide regional leadership for the spill response community in the aftermath of this high-visibility incident. He stated his belief that the RRT/NWAC ought to be provided the opportunity to let the local, state and federal agencies implement the Task Force recommendations before determining how they should be implemented by the RRT/NWAC. He also said that the GRPs should be utilized whenever there is a spill and that lessons-learned during the incident should immediately be incorporated into these types of spill response plans. He mentioned that Ecology is currently focused on incorporating lessons-learned on the central Puget Sound and will be expanding their efforts into other areas soon. He said that Ecology is working with its USCG response partners to improve response times and acquire improved response resources. He also outlined the work that is being done at the state and local level to develop and train volunteer responders, but that this effort has been delayed due to safety concerns and potential liabilities. He mentioned that the legislative process is ongoing and that concerns raised by the Task Force have been discussed during work sessions in December and January. He emphasized that citizen involvement is improving and that there are several

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non-governmental organizations (NGOs) leading the effort, but that response agencies need to work with the NGOs to determine how to effectively incorporate volunteers into the response structure at a spill.

Chip Boothe introduced Beth Sheldrake and explained the work that she and the Steering Committee had done to quickly incorporate the recommendations of the Task Force into the strategic direction for the RRT/NWAC. She presented a quick overview of the process that the RRT/NWAC uses to allocate resources and provide relevant leadership to the response community well into the future. She explained outlined the RRT/NWAC Strategic Plan and explained how it is updated every other year by the Steering Committee. She also explained the three different planning horizons that help to prioritize resources and are designed to turn today's conceptual response themes into tomorrow's applicable response tactics. She provided an overview of the current draft which had been revised during this year's update cycle to incorporate and highlight the strategies that correspond with the adopted Task Force recommendations. She also mentioned that the draft of the 2005 Strategic Plan had not yet been approved by the Executive Committee. She said that she expected the plan to be approved by the Executive Committee during the June RRT/NWAC Meeting and uploaded to the website shortly thereafter.

Beth Sheldrake began a detailed overview of the plan by reading the mission statement and explained the five objectives contained in the current draft of the RRT/NWAC Strategic Plan; Planning, Incident Support, Response Technologies, Partnerships, and Preparedness. She explained that each objective has several associated strategies that provided a means of achieving the desired objective. She also explained that each of the identified strategies may also have one or more tactics that may be used to further a strategy. She then explained the key to color-coded strategies in the current draft that identify the initial incorporation of the Task Force strategies. She explained that the red text indicates existing strategies that incorporate recommendations made by the Task Force and that the blue text indicates new language or entirely new strategies that are based on Task Force recommendations. She also explained that the abbreviation 'EATF' refers to the recommendation number from the Task Force. She concluded the briefing with a detailed overview of each of the changes proposed in the draft.

Beth Sheldrake then offered attendees the opportunity to provide feedback on the Task Force recommendations and how they have been adopted by the RRT/NWAC. Fred Felleman of Ocean Advocates, Roger Mowry of the Washington State Maritime Cooperative, Jim English of the Vashon & Maury Island Community Council, Mike Moore of the Task Force, and David Swicke of British Petroleum all made comments or asked questions related to the role of the RRT/NWAC and member agencies in future spills. Chip Booth, Dale Jensen and Mark Dix all provided additional insight into how the RRT/NWAC could've played a bigger role in the Dalco Passage Oil Spill, how the RRT/NWAC is responding to the Task Force recommendations, and how they expect a much more efficient response to spills in the future.

OVERVIEW OF MT. ST. HELENS ERUPTION

Beth Sheldrake introduced Cynthia Gardner (USGS) to provide an overview of the current situation at Mount St. Helens and how it relates to the Incident Command System (ICS). Cynthia Gardner provided a [presentation](#) that detailed the USGS response to the increased volcanic activity at Mount St. Helens that began on September 23, 2005. She explained the potential hazards associated with a volcanic eruption and the accompanying ash fall. She also discussed the technological improvements that have been developed since the eruption in 1980 that are helping USGS scientists to gather real-time spatial, geological, and atmospheric data from a safe distance. She concluded her briefing with a discussion of the Unified Command structure that was established and maintained for weeks after the initial flurry of activity at the mountain.

OSHA 29 CFR REQUIREMENTS FOR OIL SPILL VOLUNTEERS AND RESPONDERS

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Steve Gossman (OSHA) discussed the role of OSHA and specifically how they ensure protection of the health and safety of spill responders. He discussed the history of the agency, their legal authority, and the link between the federal and state regulators. He explained that the states have the authority to create their own health and safety laws which could be more stringent than OSHA, but that they may not be less stringent than the OSHA standards. In some states, the state regulators have jurisdiction over private employees, whereas OSHA has jurisdiction over both federal and state employees. Steve Gossman provided pamphlets describing the role and mission of OSHA to all attendees before discussing the specific requirements for emergency responders as outlined under subsection Q of 29 CFR 1910.120. He explained that there are different requirements for each of the various levels of response. He then tried to specifically address the oil contaminated beach cleanup issue for volunteering citizens. He explained that OSHA has issued a directive that they will only enforce the requirement for 4-hours of training for beach cleanup, while the Washington Department of Labor and Industries requires 8-hours of training for beach cleanup. He said that in either case, during an extended cleanup at an oil spill, OSHA could become an advisor to the site safety officer when requested by the incident commander or the RRT/NWAC. He then discussed the types of worker protection resources and technical services OSHA could provide to protect emergency workers and volunteers.

WORKGROUP UPDATES:

Before turning the discussion over to each of the workgroup chairs, Beth Sheldrake reviewed the modifications that were made to the workgroups, including the creation of the Communications and Outreach Workgroup from the former Public Affairs Workgroup, the development of a Logistics Workgroup from the disbanded Communications Workgroup, and the newly created Wildlife Workgroup.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Beth Sheldrake [presented](#) a quick overview of the initiatives that are ongoing, including finalizing both the 2005 Strategic Plan and the 2005 NWACP. She also mentioned the improvements that have been made to the website to increase outreach and gather feedback from stakeholders on policies such as the IO/LO Staffing Policy.

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLANNING

Jack Wylie (ODEQ) [presented](#) a brief update regarding recently completed projects, including the Middle Columbia and Lower Deschutes GRPs, the initiation of the Clearwater/Lochsa GRP, the improvements made to the Shoreline Database and the inclusion of a GRP template within the 2005 NWACP. He also mentioned the ongoing work on the Biological Opinion, Archaeological Issues, and Economic Resource Protection and the group's goals.

LOGISTICS

Beth Sheldrake also mentioned that the Logistics Workgroup is still working to determine membership and objectives, but that the workgroup chair, Scott Knudson (USCG D13) has been selected and will be developing an action plan and charter soon.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Beth Sheldrake and Elin Storey (Ecology) [presented](#) an overview of the Communications and Outreach Workgroup and explained that it has met several times to develop the charter and action plan. She stated that the EPA Region 10 Public Information Officer, Mark MacIntyre (EPA) has volunteered to chair the workgroup and that they would begin drafting the JIC manual and reviewing key portions of the 2005 NWACP soon.

RESPONSE TECHNOLOGIES

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Elin Storey and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis (Ecology) have been preoccupied with the Dalco Passage Oil Spill while the ERA has been occurring. Nevertheless, the work continues on the Straits of Juan de Fuca Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) and the Workgroup is looking at response options for oil spills in these challenging areas. Additionally, they are evaluating these technologies while learn about natural resources that must be protected. They mentioned that this is a very labor intensive process that requires a great deal of feedback from the community. There is an ERA meeting in Port Townsend in March for 3 days to continue the process and this will be a great opportunity for other agencies and citizens to provide feedback. Matt Bernard mentioned that the ERA is a process that draws strength from consensus. He stated that during the meeting they would evaluate several response scenarios, one of which is to do nothing, to be able to offer recommendations to the RRT/NWAC.

MARINE FIREFIGHTING

Mark Dix mentioned that the Portland Marine Firefighting Workgroup has been disbanded, but that the Puget Sound is going strong. CDR Dix reported on a big grant received by Seattle Fire and that they are working on an ambitious agenda.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Beth Sheldrake [presented](#) the improvements made to Chapter 7000 of the 2005 NWACP. She mentioned that several technical references related to WMD had been included, that the chapter had been revised to reflect recent changes to the NRP and NIMS, and that the contact information for local and regional HAZMAT teams had been updated.

WILDLIFE

Charlie Hebert (USF&W) [presented](#) an update on the rapid developments made by the workgroup to draft a charter and action plan, lay the foundations for creating a RRT/NWAC Wildlife Plan and an associated Wildlife Branch within the response structure, and agree upon ambitious goals for completing much of the work by September. He mentioned the upcoming two-day meeting where members of the workgroup would be finalizing the plan and drafting the required documents.

NISQUALLY WILDLIFE REFUGE BRIEFING

Marion Bailey (USF&W), a wildlife biologist, provided a presentation on the implications of a spill at the Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. She provided an overview of the location of the area and the fact that it is essentially three refuges in one, as it includes Grays Harbor, and the Black River and Nisqually estuaries. She mentioned that there are several potential spill threats to these refuges. The Nisqually and Black Rivers are threatened by the Puget Sound shipping lanes, Interstate 5, and the adjacent railroad transportation lines. Grays Harbor is threatened by the Pacific Ocean shipping lanes, the harbor shipping channels, and urban spills and runoff from Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Ocean Shores, and Westport. She explained the delicate ecology of an estuary, which is a location where fresh and saline water mix, and represents some of the most biologically productive marine ecosystems in the world. She stated that these areas that can be severely impacted by a spill. She described estuaries as special ecosystems where nutrients are supplied to both fresh and marine environments with each tidal circulation and that these nutrients are held available in salt marsh vegetation and mudflats where the invertebrates and plants in this system grow to provide food for thousands of migratory and resident birds and virtually all fish species. She emphasized the need for protecting estuaries in GRPs and response plans.

IDAHO DEQ RADIATION PROTECTION PROGRAM AND POLICIES

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Leslie Aller (IDEQ), the manager of the IDEQ Radiation Protection Program, provided a [presentation](#) on the role of IDEQ in radiation monitoring and assessment. She explained the agency's mission to provide the people of Idaho with independently evaluated information about DOE activities at INEEL. She explained her goal to serve as the technical advisor for each of the state program elements; Environmental Surveillance, Risk Assessment, Radiological Emergency Response, and Public Information and Outreach. She mentioned that her biggest concern is the possible radiological contamination of the Snake River Plain Aquifer. She outlined the agency's monitoring and surveillance programs, which included several types of reporting using various media, monitor milk and agricultural products by collecting samples on a weekly basis from various dairies around the lab, and measuring precipitation and airborne contamination through monitoring stations and radiation samplers. She described the state-of-the-art real-time monitoring network that has been deployed throughout the state. She also discussed the wide variety of media that is routinely monitored for radiological contamination, including several types of air filters, all methods of ambient radiation detection, soil samples, milk samples, surface water samples, groundwater samples, and waste water from the site itself. She also described the importance of the public education component and how she has integrated it in with water awareness week, the annual science expos in Idaho Falls and Twin Falls, Earth Day; several county fairs, presentations to civic groups and schools, websites and published monitoring and surveillance reports.

She described the risk assessment work that is done in conjunction with NEPA and CERCLA regulations on current facility operations, which requires facility hazard assessments and rigorous transportation plans. She also discussed the IDEQ role as radiological responders for INEEL during facility accidents. She described the development of plans to provide for off-site jurisdiction, deliver technical guidance and assistance to local agencies, and direct state-level response. Additionally she explained the role of IDEQ in monitoring and managing risks related to the transportation of radiological materials. She outlined the requirements for risk assessments related to every DOE shipments, developing Idaho-specific training for state and local agencies who may handle radiological transportation incidents, and standardizing survey instrumentation throughout the state. She stated that her primary goal for transportation incidents is to provide rapid risk assessment information to the public, first-responders, and state responders.

She then discussed the resources available from IDEQ, including sophisticated radiological detection equipment and personnel with the required technical expertise. She mentioned the Idaho Radiation Control Program, which provides health physics expertise to the state of Idaho and adjacent state emergency radiological response capability, including the IMERRT (ID Modular ER Response Training). She left provided contact information (800-632-8000) for technical expertise, including a 24-hour duty officer with access to several health physicists and a radiological assessment liaison with NRC. She also left her agency websites for more information on the oversight program www.oversight.state.id.us and www.irespp.org the training program.

NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN

Matt Bernard [presented](#) an overview of the new National Response Plan (signed December 15, 2004). He explained that the NRP builds on what works from previous plans, forges new approaches by using the established national capability for incident management, and addresses the complete spectrum of incident management. He explained the origins for the requirement for the NRP in HSPD-5, which required the development of an all-hazards approach to domestic incident management. He discussed the legal authorities of the NRP, including the HSPDs, the Homeland Security Act, and the Stafford Act to provide a comprehensive national response to a full-spectrum of incidents. He explained that it incorporates NIMS and key FRP and INRP concepts. It introduces and defines Incidents of National Significance as a situation when a federal department or agency, responding under its own authorities, requests DHS assistance, or where the resources of state and local authorities are overwhelmed and more than one federal department or agency are involved and the president directs DHS to assume

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responsibility for incident management. He continued with an overview of the NRP Structure and the ESFs, support annexes and incident annexes. He also discussed the new NRP coordination center, the Joint Field Office, and the increased definition of the role of the law enforcement community in incident management. He concluded by explaining that the NRP provides for improved coordination among federal, state, local, and tribal organizations to help save lives during all types of domestic incidents.

AGENCY UPDATES:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Miriam Burbach (FDA) had no updates.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

John Paul (GSA) had no updates.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Steve Gossman (OSHA) had no updates beyond those already presented related to spill response volunteers.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Ron Britton (FEMA) discussed the planned National NRP Rollout and mentioned that FEMA would be invite 2-3 people from each ESF to participate in the Seattle Rollout. He also mentioned that FEMA is continuing to work on NIMS and NRP consistency issues, specifically that the Primary Federal Official does not have operational authority at the scene of the incident.

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY AND WA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dale Jensen and Mark Ligman mentioned that Ecology would be hosting a conference related to SARA Title III at the Seattle Westin on April 4-8, 2005. He said that those interested in attending should go to www.nasttpo.org for more information on the conference. He also mentioned that Ecology had been invited to help plan a marine terrorism exercise. He hoped that it would help determine hazardous materials response capabilities in the state and increase grant applications for federal funds. He stated that the Environmental Risk Assessment was continuing on the coast, but that the Contingency Planning Rule had been delayed because of the Dalco Passage Oil Spill.

USCG DISTRICT 13

Mark Dix explained that the USCG D13 was undergoing many organizational and personnel changes, but that most of the changes will have little impact on the RRT/NWAC. However, he mentioned the retirement of Bill Whitson would significantly impact the RRT/NWAC and the fact that there is no replacement identified for him. He also mentioned that the two MSO commanding officers would be leaving this summer and that Captain Jewell would be replaced by Captain Garrity.

MSO PUGET SOUND

Mark Dix explained that the MSOs were undergoing an organizational change by adopting sectors for each of the Marine Safety Offices and that these changes would be a significant short-term distracter for field units.

MSO PORTLAND

Sean Schenk (USCG MSO Portland) mentioned the fact that MSO Portland was continuing development of the 2006 NPREP Exercise. He mentioned that Mike Block was

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leading the effort and that MSO Portland was looking forward to be hosting and leading an NPREP exercise in 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Preston Sleeper (DOI) mentioned that his office had expanded with a recent hire, Mandy Stanford, who, along with Allison O'Brien, is helping to protect cultural resources everywhere in the Pacific Northwest..

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

David Summer mentioned that the USFS can now be called on to assist in incident management roles for all ESFs in the NRP. He mentioned that the USFS has a variety of resources to offer in a broad range of incidents.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Vic Yashino mentioned that the Seattle District was continuing work on inventories of oil and hazardous materials and should be done later this year. He also mentioned that the USACE had acquired several 104-foot flat bottom crane vessels with an oil recovery system to be used in containing future spills along the Columbia River. He mentioned that the USACOE has 2 similar systems in Seattle, stored near the Ballard Locks. He also extended thanks to Ecology for helping provide USACE staff with ICS training.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chris Field discussed the recent action in the response realm with a train derailment on Cow Creek, which is a tributary to the Umpqua River. He explained that the train lost over 4,300 gallons of fuel and contaminated the water supply to a city downstream. He stated that the EPA continues to work with the railroads to reduce future spills and improve response tactics. He then described a tanker truck rollover on the Lochsa River in Idaho, which is the third recent spill on this river. He said that it was a smaller spill and the impacts to the river were small. Finally he concluded the response debrief by stating that the EPA and Ecology were responding to a pesticide and fertilizer warehouse fire in Grandview. He concluded by stating that originally the EPA had been reluctant and slow to implement ICS nationally. However, the agency recently hired a national ICS coordinator and there will be a joint regional exercise conducted in Las Vegas to evaluate ICS within different EPA regions.

ADJOURNMENT

Beth Sheldrake closed the meeting by reminding all participants that the next RRT/NWAC Meeting would be held in Bend, Oregon on June 1-2, 2005. She then adjourned the meeting at 1610 hours.