



ALASKA DEPT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



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SECTOR ANCHORAGE

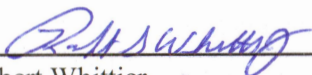


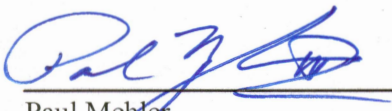
USEPA (REGION X)
ALASKA OPERATIONS OFFICE

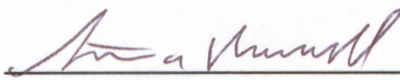
February 1, 2013

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. The Western Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan is the guideline for establishing operations in the event of a major response effort to an oil spill or hazardous material release. This volume supplements the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases* (Unified Plan).
2. Information contained herein will be disseminated to agencies and personnel involved in various response and cleanup activities.
3. The Western Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan is the result of a joint planning effort. Members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Department of the Interior, and numerous other Federal, State, local, Native and industry participants contributed to this document.
4. We solicit comments and recommendations to improve this plan. Please forward your comments to Mr. Dale Gardner (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Prevention and Emergency Response Program, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501), or Mr. Nicholas Knowles (U.S. EPA, Alaska Operations Office, 222 W 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501).


Robert Whittier
Federal On-Scene Coordinator, USEPA
Region X (Alaska Operations Office)


Paul Mehler
Captain, USCG
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
Captain of the Port, Western Alaska


Steve Russell
State On-Scene Coordinator, ADEC
Central Alaska Response Team

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WESTERN ALASKA SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Promulgation	<i>i</i>
Table of Contents	<i>iii</i>
Unified Plan and Subarea Contingency Plan Descriptions	<i>ix</i>
Record of Changes	<i>xiii</i>
Federal National Response Center Notification	<i>xv</i>
State Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Notification Placard	<i>xvii</i>

RESPONSE

PART ONE

NOTIFICATION A-1

A.	Emergency Response Notification List	A-1
B.	USCG and Federal Agency Contacts	A-2
C.	Alaska State Agency Contacts	A-3
D.	Local Contacts	A-4
E.	Other Points of Contact	A-11

PART TWO

EMERGENCY RESPONSE A-13

A.	Unified Command Structure and ICS	A-13
B.	Roles of the OSCs, RP, PRAC/OSRO, and RSC	A-14

PART THREE

RESPONSE PROCEDURES A-17

A.	Response Objectives	A-17
B.	Scope of Activities	A-17
C.	Ramp up Procedures	A-19
D.	Additional Response Protocols	A-21
E.	Geographic Response Strategies	A-23
F.	Potential Places of Refuge	A-23
G.	Emergency Towing System	A-24
H.	Marine Response and Salvage Recovery	A-24

RESOURCES

RESOURCES: PART ONE - COMMUNITY PROFILES B-1

RESOURCES: PART TWO - EQUIPMENT B-129

- A. Commercially Available Equipment..... B-131
- B. Non-Commercially Available Equipment B-133
- C. Industry/Spill Cooperative Equipment B-138

RESOURCES: PART THREE - INFORMATION DIRECTORY B-139

- A. Airports and Air Services B-140
- B. Bird and Other Wildlife Response..... B-144
- C. Contractors: BOA and Term..... B-145
- D. Historic Properties Protection..... B-147
- E. Emergency Services/Managers B-147
- F. Fishing Fleets and Organizations..... B-148
- G. Government Contacts and Information..... B-149
- H. Hospitals B-150
- I. Intake Water Use Facilities..... B-151
- J. Not Used B-151
- K. Not Used B-151
- L. Laboratories B-151
- M. Media B-152
- N. Alaska Native Organizations and Federally-Recognized Tribes B-153
- O. Organizations: Environmental, Health, and Volunteer B-157
- P. Port Authorities, Harbor Masters, and Marine Pilots B-157
- Q. Not Used B-157
- R. Response Agreements..... B-159
- S. Salvage Companies..... B-159
- T. Federal and State Natural Resource Trustee Emergency Contacts... B-159
- U. Not Used B-160
- V. Vehicles B-160
- W. Weather Service..... B-161
- WWW. Useful Websites B-163

RESOURCES: PART FOUR - LOGISTICS..... B-165

- A. Equipment Considerations..... B-165
- B. Personnel Considerations..... B-168
- C. Communications B-170
- D. Command Posts B-175
- E. Storage and Disposal B-178

HAZMAT
PART ONE

HAZMAT RESPONSE	C-1
A. Initial Notification of Response Agencies	C-1
B. Recognition.....	C-1
C. Evaluation	C-3
D. Evacuation	C-5
E. Direction and Site/Entry Control	C-6
F. Command and Control.....	C-6
G. Communications	C-7
H. Warning Systems & Emergency Public Notification	C-7
I. Health and Medical Services	C-7

PART TWO

RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAZMAT ACTION	C-9
A. Discovery and Notification.....	C-9
B. Removal Action	C-9

PART THREE

STATE HAZMAT ACTION.....	C-11
A. Authority.....	C-11
B. Response Policy.....	C-11
C. State Response Capabilities	C-11
D. Responsibilities.....	C-12

PART FOUR

FEDERAL HAZMAT ACTION.....	C-13
A. Authority.....	C-13
B. Jurisdiction.....	C-13
C. Response Policy.....	C-13

PART FIVE

SUBAREA HAZMAT RISK ASSESSMENT	C-15
A. General.....	C-15
B. Facilities.....	C-16
C. Transportation.....	C-16
D. References.....	C-24

PART SIX

RADIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ISSUES	C-25
---	-------------

SENSITIVE AREAS

INTRODUCTION..... D-1

PART ONE - INFORMATION SOURCES D-3

PART TWO - AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN D-7

- A. Background/Criteria D-7
- B. Areas of Major Concern D-8
- C. Areas of Moderate Concern..... D-9
- D. Areas of Lesser Concern..... D-9
- E. Areas of Local Concern..... D-9

PART THREE - RESOURCE SENSITIVITY..... D-11

PART FOUR - BIOLOGICAL AND HUMAN USE RESOURCES D-19

- A. Introduction..... D-19
- B. Habitat Types..... D-20
 - 1. Benthic Habitats..... D-20
 - 2. Shoreline Habitats..... D-20
 - 3. Upland Habitats D-21
- C. Biological Resources D-25
 - 1. Threatened and endangered species..... D-25
 - 2. Fish and Wildlife D-32
 - 3. Vegetation..... D-44
- D. Human Use Resources D-46
 - 1. Fish Hatcheries and Associated Ocean Net Pens..... D-46
 - 2. Aquaculture Sites..... D-46
 - 3. Cultural Resources..... D-46
 - 4. Subsistence and Personal Use Harvests..... D-46
 - 5. Commercial Fishing..... D-47
 - 6. Sport Fishing and Hunting..... D-47
 - 7. Recreational Sites and Facilities D-47
 - 8. Commercial Tourism D-47
 - 9. Marinas and Ports D-48
 - 10. Fish Processing D-48
 - 11. Logging Facilities D-48
 - 12. Water Intake/Use D-48

PART FIVE - LAND MANAGEMENT D-51

- A. Land Management Designations..... D-51
 - 1. Access to Lands D-51
 - 2. State D-51
 - 3. Federal D-51
- B. Land Management Maps D-52

BACKGROUND

PART ONE - SUPPORT INFORMATION..... E-1

- A. Subarea Plan E-1
- B. Subarea Description E-1
- C. Area of Responsibility E-7
- D. Regional Stakeholder Committee E-7
- E. Subarea Committee..... E-9

PART TWO - RESPONSE POLICY AND STRATEGIES E-13

- A. Federal Response Action Priorities/Strategies E-13
- B. State of Alaska Response Priorities E-15

PART THREE - SUBAREA SPILL HISTORY..... E-17

- A. Navigable Waters Spill History E-17
- B. Inland Spill History..... E-18
- C. Hazmat Release History..... E-20
- D. Oil Fate and General Risk Assessment..... E-28
- E. Ice, Wind and Currents E-29

PART FOUR - ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS..... E-35

SCENARIOS

INTRODUCTION..... F-1

- A. SPILL HISTORY F-1
- B. HAZARD ASSESSMENT F-1
- C. VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS..... F-1
- D. SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS F-2

PART ONE - COASTAL OIL F-3

- A. WORST CASE SCENARIO F-3
- B. MAXIMUM MOST PROBABLE CASE SCENARIO..... F-11
- C. AVERAGE MOST PROBABLE CASE SCENARIO F-14

PART TWO – HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASE..... F-17

PART THREE – INLAND OIL..... F-19

- A. WORST CASE SCENARIO F-19
- B. AVERAGE MOST PROBABLE CASE SCENARIO F-28

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES

PART ONE INTRODUCTION	G-1
Purpose and Scope	G-1
How to Use These Geographic Response Strategies	G-1
Who to Contact for Input	G-2
How the Document was Developed	G-2
 PART TWO: GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES.....	G-7

POTENTIAL PLACES OF REFUGE

PART ONE INTRODUCTION	H-1
A. Purpose and Scope	H-1
B. How the Document was Developed	H-2
C. How to Use the Potential Places of Refuge Section	H-4
D. Who to Contact for Input	H-5
Tables and Figures	
Risk Assessment Maps:	
Figure H-1: Composite Map of All Risk Factors Combined	H-7
Figure H-2: Locations of Major Oil Spill Events	H-8
Figure H-3: Locations of Spill Response Hubs/Equipment	H-9
Figure H-4 Location of Noncrude Carrier Routes	H-10
Figure H-5: Logistics	H-11
Figure H-6: Locations of Frequent Fishing Vessel Traffic	H-12
Figure H-7: Locations of Cruise Ship Traffic	H-13
Figure H-8: Locations of Bulk Fuel Storage	H-14
Table H-1: Site Assessment Matrix Key	H-15
Table H-2: Site Assessment Matrix	H-16
 PART TWO PPOR INDEX & MAPS	H-17
PPOR Index Map	H-17
PPOR Map 1	H-19
PPOR Map 2	H-21
PPOR Map 3	H-23
 PART THREE REFERENCES	H-25

UNIFIED PLAN and SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLANS

Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, which occurred in March of 1989. The law requires oil storage facilities and vessels to submit to the federal government spill prevention and response plans detailing how they will respond to product discharges and to take responsibility to clean up any spills that may occur. OPA streamlined and strengthened the U.S. Coast Guard (CG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic oil spills. OPA amended the Clean Water Act and, in conjunction with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), it mandates a "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)" to provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. OPA called for the establishment of Regional Response Teams to oversee spill response planning and protocols and Regional Citizens Advisory Councils to monitor the oil shipping industry in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound. Oil Pollution Act requires the CG and the EPA to prepare oil spill response plans for the State of Alaska, which is designated as an entire planning "region" under federal guidelines.

Alaska statute, also passed as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, requires the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to prepare a state-wide master plan addressing oil and hazardous substance discharges. In late 1993, the State Emergency Response Commission and the federally-led Alaska Regional Response Team approved the concept of combining state and federal planning requirements and developing joint plans. The *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases*, more commonly known as the Unified Plan, meets these federal (NCP and OPA) requirements for regional and area planning, as well as state planning requirements. The Unified Plan, along with the supplementary Subarea Contingency Plans, represents a coordinated and cooperative effort by government agencies and was written jointly by the CG, the EPA, and the ADEC.

Alaska statute divides the state into ten regions for oil and hazardous substance spill planning and preparedness. The CG and the EPA joined with the ADEC to use these ten regions for area planning instead of the federal planning divisions since this would facilitate unified planning for the State of Alaska and prove more practical, as well. Because the State of Alaska is called a planning "region" under federal planning guidelines and to avoid confusion with the other federal term, "area contingency plans," these ten subordinate planning regions of the state are called "subareas" in the context of the Unified Plan.

The Unified Plan contains information applicable to pollution response within the entire State of Alaska and meets the pollution response contingency planning requirements applicable to the federal and State governments. The plan provides broad policy guidance and describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, state and local response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of Alaska and its surrounding waters.

Under both federal and State law, the responsible party for an oil or hazardous substance incident is required to report the incident and mount a response effort to contain and cleanup the release. The federal and state governments mandate response plans for oil tank vessels and facilities that have stringent spill response requirements. If the responsible party fails to respond adequately or if no responsible party can be identified, then the federal and State governments will mount a response and will rely upon the Unified Plan and the

appropriate Subarea Contingency Plan for response protocols and guidance.

Whereas the Unified Plan contains general information for response efforts taking place anywhere in the State of Alaska, the Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) concentrates on issues and provisions specific to its particular subarea. The SCP provides information precise to the area, including emergency response phone numbers, available response equipment and other resources, specific response guidelines, and information on sensitive areas protection and hazardous substance presence.

Alaska State statute mandates a public review of all new plans, an annual ADEC review of these plans, and another public review whenever the plans are significantly revised. The federal government does not require public review for its plans, though the CG and the EPA, as part of the Alaska unified planning process, do cooperate with the State of Alaska and participate in the public review process.

The Unified Plan and the SCPs are presented to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission and the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) for review and comment. The Unified Plan approval process can be found in Annex D of the plan. For subarea contingency plans, the plan approval occurs with the signing of the plan's letter of promulgation by the three plan holders – the USCG, the USEPA and the State of Alaska.

Brief synopses of the Unified Plan and the Subarea Contingency Plans follow:

UNIFIED PLAN SYNOPSIS

Annex A provides the purpose and objectives; existing government contingency planning requirements; federal and State authorities; geographic planning and response boundaries; and the response systems and policies

Annex B explains the unified response organization and gives information on the Incident Command System, the federal and State roles during oversight of an incident or when the government leads the response; and emergency declarations and spills of national significance.

Annex C outlines the operational administration of federal and state laws and statutes, including permits required for oil spill responses.

Annex D gives plan review / update procedures and schedule and addresses drills and exercises.

Annex E offers a summary of area resources, including response equipment; tribal governments and Native organizations; environmental and volunteer groups; state term contracts; laboratories; communications; and waste management and disposal information.

Annex F presents chemical countermeasures, dispersants, and other spill mitigating substances, devices and technology. Specific guidelines for dispersant use and *in situ* burning are included.

Annex G contains the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Alaska.

Annex H provides a standard site safety plan and training guidelines.

Annex I deals with public affairs and has general rules for community relations and media interaction, contacts and checklists.

Annex J addresses radiological response procedures.

Annex K contains the applicable Memoranda of Understanding/Agreement that have been entered into by federal, State, and local agencies.

Annex L addresses hazardous materials by providing an overview of chemical hazards, a chemical profile of Alaska, the extremely hazardous substances at facilities, the chemical risks, and the response capability within Alaska.

Annex M provides the historic properties protection guidelines for federal on-scene coordinators.

Annex N gives a listing of available shoreline cleanup and assessment guidelines.

Annex O presents the ARRT-approved Potential Places of Refuge Guidelines. Several of the SCPs that address coastal areas now include a Potential Places of Refuge Section.

Annex P offers guidelines for marine firefighting, salvage and lightering.

Annex V addresses state and federal policy on volunteers. Definitive guidelines may be developed in the future.

Annex Z provides definitions and a listing of the abbreviations and acronyms that appear in the plan.

Annexes Q, R, S, T, U, W, X & Y are reserved for future use.

The Unified Plan is available on the State of Alaska DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/plan.htm>

SUBAREA PLAN SYNOPSIS

Response Section lists the essential and most immediate federal and state emergency contact numbers on the first page. Emergency contact numbers for other federal and state agencies, plus those for communities within the subarea, follow. Additionally, information on the spill response command structure, procedures and protocols is included.

Resources Section provides two-page profiles on each of the communities in the subarea; a listing of commercially and non-commercially available equipment; an information directory, offering contact numbers to a variety of resources and companies; and an explanation of logistical considerations, assets, and other supplemental logistics information.

Hazmat Section lists response protocols and the state and federal authorities, policies, responsibilities, and response capabilities. The section also provides a general risk assessment of hazardous substances found within the subarea.

Sensitive Areas Section gives profiles on the biological resources and human use resources that could be adversely affected by a spill. The section includes: graphs depicting the sensitivity of resources; priority ratings from “lesser” to “major” for areas of environmental concern; land management designations and maps; Most Environmentally Sensitive Areas maps; and areas of local concern. Attachments, such as those containing water intake/user lists or salmon escapement tables, may also be found in this section.

Background Section explains legal requirements and boundaries and provides a description of the plan, area of responsibility, the development process and players, and the physical attributes of the subarea, including maps and tidal current flow charts, when available. This section lists the state and federal response priorities, significant historical spills, and abbreviations contained in the plan, and includes the risk assessment maps (when applicable) developed for the places of refuge project.

Scenarios Section will usually offer, depending upon the subarea, scenarios for the worst case, maximum most probable case, and average most probable case for spills in coastal and inland habitats. These scenarios depict how a response to an incident might unfold. When appropriate, vessel and inland hazmat scenarios may also be presented.

Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) Section (*Note: not developed for all subareas*) provides site-specific spill response plans to protect priority sensitive areas identified for specific geographic locations within the subarea.

Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Section (*Note: not developed for all subareas*) identifies potential locations to a move a vessel needing assistance, where actions can be taken to stabilize and/or repair the vessel, in order to protect human life, reduce hazards to navigation, and/or protect natural resources and other uses of the area. In addition to the two-page PPOR documents, the risk maps used to assess and identify the PPOR locations may be available, as well, usually in the Background Section.

Marine Firefighting Plan (*Note: not developed for all subareas*) presents the marine firefighting guidelines as established, usually, by the local government(s) in conjunction with the US Coast Guard. This is a stand-alone plan that can appear in conjunction with the subarea plan.

All subarea plans available on the State of Alaska DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/plan.htm>

RECORD OF CHANGES

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**National
Response
Center**

**Report Spills to the NRC at:
1-800-424-8802**

**or Via the NRC Online Reporting Tool at
<http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>**

*The National Response Center is the SOLE national point of
contact for reporting Oil, Chemical, Radiological, Biological,
and Etiological discharges into the environment anywhere
in the United States and its territories.*

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IT'S THE LAW!

AS 46.03.755 and 18 AAC 75.300

REPORT OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

During Normal Business Hours

call the nearest response team office:

Central Alaska: (907) 269-3063
Anchorage Fax: (907) 269-7648

Northern Alaska: (907) 451-2121
Fairbanks Fax: (907) 451-2362

Southeast Alaska: (907) 465-5340
Juneau Fax: (907) 465-2237

Outside Normal Business Hours

Toll Free 1-800-478-9300

International 1-907-428-7200



Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/spillreport.htm

Hazardous Substance

Any hazardous substance spill, other than oil, must be reported immediately.

Oil – Petroleum Products

To Water

- Any amount spilled to water must be reported immediately.

To Land

- Spills in **excess of 55 gallons** must be reported immediately.
- Spills in **excess of 10 gallons, but 55 gallons or less**, must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the spill.
- Spills of **1 to 10 gallons** must be recorded in a spill reporting log submitted to ADEC each month.

To Impermeable Secondary Containment Areas

- Any spills in **excess of 55 gallons** must be reported within 48 hours.

Additional Requirements for Regulated Underground Storage Tank Facilities

Regulated Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities are defined at 18 AAC 78.005 and do not include heating oil tanks.

If your release detection system indicates a possible discharge, or if you notice unusual operating conditions that might indicate a release, you must notify the ADEC UST Program within 7 days.

UST Program: (907) 269-3055 or 269-7679

rev. Feb./2013

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