



Alaska Spill Response and Planning Framework

After Proposed Plan Implementation

The Alaska Regional Response Team: (40 CFR Part 300.115)

Leadership: Chaired jointly by representatives from USEPA, the US Coast Guard, and the State of Alaska.

Membership: Mirrors that of the NRT, but also includes State and Tribal members, and does not include a representative from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Geographic Area of Concern: The State of Alaska and adjacent Federal waters.

Meeting frequency: No less than twice per year.

Roles (40 CFR Part 300.115)

To Provide:

- A mechanism for coordination and development of preparedness activities prior to a spill, and for coordination and advice to the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) or Remedial Project Manager (RPM) during a response action [(a)(1)]
- Guidance to Area Committees, as appropriate, to ensure consistency across the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the Alaska Regional Contingency Plan (RCP), and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs). [(a)(2)]
- Communications systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region-wide basis, and supports Area Committees for all of these functions as well. [(b)(1)]
- Incident specific support, as determined by the RRT Chair (that is, the co-chair from the agency providing the OSC or RPM). [(b)(2)]
- Resources from the member agencies, to support an incident specific response, as requested by the OSC or RPM. [f]
- Appropriately qualified agency representatives to work with OSC's in developing and maintaining ACP's. [g]
- Revisions to the RCP, evaluation of the preparedness of participating agencies, and the effectiveness of ACP's, technical assistance for preparedness, and recommendations for changes to the regional response organization, all as needed. [i]
- Recommendations to the NRT for updates or revisions to the NCP. [(i)(3)]
- Review of OSC actions to ensure that the RCP and ACPs are effective. [(i)(4)]
- Encouragement to State and local response communities to improve response preparedness. [(i)(5)]

- Advance planning for use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, burning agents, bioremediation agents, or other chemical agents in coordination with Area Committees, all IAW subpart J of the NCP, and applicable laws, regulations, or requirements. [(i)(6)]
- Preparations for the provision of response resources to major discharges or releases outside the region. [(i)(7)]
- Participation in training and exercises as necessary to encourage preparedness activities of the response community. [(i)(8)]
- Annual reports to the NRT on activities conducted during the previous reporting period. [(i)(10)]
- Efforts as needed to ensure maximum participation in the National Exercise Program for announced and unannounced exercises. [(i)(11)]

Area Committees:

Leadership: State and federal OSCs

Membership: Qualified personnel of federal, state, and local agencies.

Geographic Area of Concern: Each area committee conducts planning for its respective planning area. Alaska will have four planning areas, which will be Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, Western Alaska, and the Arctic. The boundaries of each will be described in the RCP.

Meeting Frequency: At minimum, twice per year.

Roles

- To prepare, maintain, and update an Area Contingency Plan that is adequate to remove a worst case discharge as defined under 40 CFR Part 300.324, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near the planning area.
- To work with appropriate federal, state, and local officials to enhance the contingency planning of those officials, and to assure pre-planning of joint response efforts, including appropriate procedures for mechanical recovery, dispersal, shoreline cleanup, protection of sensitive environmental areas, and protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife
- To work with appropriate federal, state, and local officials to expedite decisions for the use of chemical dispersants and other mitigating substances and devices.
- To ensure that the ACP includes the following:
 - o A description of the area covered by the plan, including the areas of special economic or environmental importance that might be damaged by a discharge.
 - o A description in detail of the responsibilities of an owner or operator and of federal, state, and local agencies in removing a discharge, and in mitigating or preventing a substantial threat of a discharge.
 - o A list of equipment (including firefighting equipment), dispersants, or other mitigating substances and devices and personnel available to an owner or operator

and federal, state, and local agencies, to ensure an effective and immediate removal of a discharge, and to ensure mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge.

- A description of procedures to be followed for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants.
- A detailed description of how the plan is integrated into other ACPs and tank vessel, offshore facility, and onshore facility response plans approved by the President, and into operating procedures of the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC).
- A detailed annex containing a Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan that is consistent with the RCP and NCP, prepared in consultation with the USFWS and NOAA, and other interested natural resource management agencies and parties, IAW 40 CFR Part 300.210.

The OSC Working Group:

Leadership: Ad hoc

Membership: Federal and state OSCs' with predesignated areas of responsibility in the State of Alaska or adjacent federal waters.

Geographic Area of Concern: Statewide

Meeting Frequency: At least once per year in person, and as needed by audio or video teleconference.

Roles

- To ensure consistency across ACP's, Facility Response Plans (FRPs), and Vessel Response Plans (VRPs).
- To identify needed updates or changes to the Alaska RCP and to submit proposals to the Alaska Planning Committee (see below) for said changes and updates.
- To coordinate OSC activities, so as to leverage resources and avoid conflicts across OSC and Area Committee activities.

The Alaska Planning Committee:

Leadership: One representative and one alternate representative from each of the three Alaska RCP signatory agencies.

Membership: Federal and state agency spill response planning personnel, as designated by ARRT and Alaska OSCs. (To be established).

Geographic Area of Concern: None.

Meeting Frequency: At least once per year in person, and as needed by audio or video teleconference.

Roles

- To facilitate the ongoing planning and response activities of the ARRT and OSCs.
- To receive proposals for changes to ACPs or the Alaska RCP from any interested party, and route such requests to the appropriate authority.
- To serve as conduit between the OSC Working Group, Area Committees, The ARRT, and various other stakeholder or non-governmental organizations.
- To identify any perceived inconsistencies between Alaska spill response plans at any level, and to report those to the appropriate authority with responsibility for updating plans and ensuring consistency, per the NCP.

