



PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARCTIC AND WESTERN ALASKA AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN VERSION 2018.1

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and the U.S. Coast Guard are seeking public input on Version 2018.1 of the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan (AWA ACP). AWA ACP Version 2018.1 is optimized for more efficient responder use and is consistent with the requirements outlined within ADEC's statutory obligations under AS 46.04.200 and AS 46.04.210 and the National Contingency Plan.

The draft Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan, Version 2018.1 is available for public review on ADEC's webpage: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/public-review/>

Under the AWA area's Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators' direction, updates to the AWA ACP focused on an operational plan that will serve to facilitate continuous improvement. Changes include, but were not limited to, removing redundant or extraneous narrative, outdated contact and resource lists, and consistently incorporating links to references and tools that are utilized statewide by each of Alaska's ACPs. This revision presents significant changes and updates to the AWA ACP and leans on supporting web-based information intended to optimize maintenance efforts for all Alaska ACPs. An overview of the changes in AWA ACP Versions 2018.1 is provided as follows.

Sustainable Plan Management

With the restructuring of Alaska's planning organization to align with that of the National Contingency Plan and National Response Framework in 2018, update of response plans through each area committee has become more agile, allowing for frequent adoption of current and relevant information into Alaska's ACPs. During efforts to revise 2018.1 of the AWA ACP, agency planners identified information with statewide applicability, consolidating this information for online access for all of the area plans to reference. Information that becomes quickly outdated, such as contact lists, was removed. In its place, hyperlinks are provided to agencies, stakeholders, and/or commercial entities that routinely update their own relevant contact and resource information.

An example of improved information through the use of hyperlinking to more current data is reflected in the 2018 AWA ACP community profiles section in Chapter 9000. This Section was over 300 pages, with the community profiles providing a static "snapshot in time" of community resource and contact information. This section is now linked to the State of Alaska's Community Database Online at <https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/>. The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development maintains this data for multiple users, ultimately providing responders the most current comprehensive data available.

As the AWA ACP matures under the direction of federal and state On-Scene Coordinators, the Area Committee shall prioritize environmental response topics and ACP components that need development, refinement or updating for area-specific response needs.

References and Tools

ADEC has created a companion website providing references and tools to support responders in each of Alaska's areas. Centralizing the link location on the references and tools website facilitates update and maintenance of these tools and significantly reduces the level of effort to maintain an updated plan. All of Alaska's area committees will contribute to maintenance of response references and tools that have statewide applicability. This approach leverages available federal, state, local, tribal, and stakeholder expertise and resources.

For use in remote areas, responders are encouraged to download the references and tools documents along with their relevant ACP via thumb drive or other portable data storage device. The website is: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/tools/>

AWA Area Committee Website

ADEC also created a companion website for each area committee. For the AWA Area Committee, you will find area-specific information, documents, and plans that are managed by the AWA Area Committee. Examples of this include the Pribilof Wildlife Protection Guidelines and the Cook Inlet and Kodiak Marine Firefighting Plans. These plans are referenced within the AWA ACP and are found at <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/arctic-western-area/>.