



**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND**  
REGIONAL CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

ARRT Task Force update:

# Regional Stakeholder Committee

March 2024 PWS Area Committee Meeting Presentation  
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# Regional Stakeholder Committee Definition?

The RSC is a group of stakeholders directly impacted by an incident. They are invited to share their local knowledge with response leadership. RSC members are expected to present issues of local concern, share local knowledge, and help identify local resources that could be useful to the response.



# Regional Stakeholder Committee Definition?

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# What does the RSC do?

Expectation is discussion and guidance on:

- Local concerns unique to area or population
- Local knowledge of value to responders
- Locally available resources that could aid the response

This requires:

- Greater access to planning process & response information
- More access to response decision makers



# What are the benefits of RSC process?

Why initiate an RSC process:

- Builds trust and working relationship with those affected
- Allows “locals” to weigh in on response decisions
- Response is remote, local input, or resources needed
- Assist & support Liaison (LOFR) job duties
- Help UC to support directly affected stakeholders



# Those main RSC points again...

- UC needs to initiate, LOFR a vital player in process
- Invite only, “directly affected” is the key metric
- Discuss local concerns, knowledge, and resources
- Direct access to response decision makers (UC)
- A structured process, requires commitment and work from all
- Helps build trust and working relationship with those affected
- RSC member are adding input, not making tactical decisions
- *Focus/membership may change as response matures*



# ARRT-Initiated RSC Task Force

- The ARRT initiated the RSC Task Force in August, 2022.
- Stated goals:
  - Create consistency across Regional and Area Plans
  - Create job aids for RSC process
  - Work with variety of agencies & stakeholders in Task Force



# Task Force Process

- Initial focus was on developing LOFR job aid
  - Agreeing on RSC definition
  - Sketching out timing expectations on process
  - Information sharing
  
- Recent focus is on RSC members job aid
  
- Also developed Area plan language





# Sample TF Work Products:

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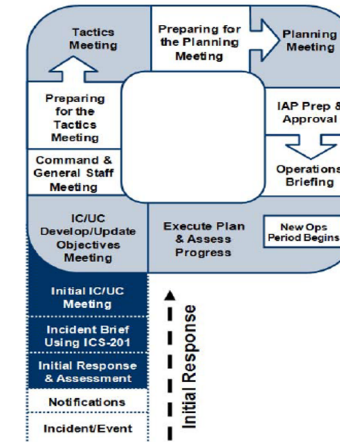


Figure 1 Planning P

### 1024 RSC PARTICIPANT ROLES

#### 1024.1 RSC Chair or Spokesperson

- Selected via consensus of the other RSC members. Until a chair is selected, the LOFR may be the individual coordinating the initial meeting(s).
- Presides over RSC discussions and coordinates input and engagement among RSC members.
- Compiles a summary of RSC member concerns, questions, and requests for additional information.
- Has a working knowledge of the ICS, sufficient experience facilitating meetings, and sufficient time to devote to chairing the RSC.
- Awareness of the content of appropriate contingency plans for the response so they understand typical response resources and how responses are managed. This includes:
  - The Alaska Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and ACP
  - The RP Industry Contingency Plan: Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plan (ODPCP), Oil Spill Response Plan (OSRP), Vessel Response Plan (VRP), or Facility Response Plan (FRP)
- Schedules meeting dates and times in collaboration with the LOFR and RSC members.
- Compiles available response resources (personnel and equipment) from RSC members.
- Assigns RSC members to serve as scribes to assist with documentation, if necessary.



# Sample TF Work Products:

## WHAT IS THE LOFR'S ROLE IN THE RSC PROCESS

The LOFR will be critical to the RSC process. If the UC initiates the RSC process, the LOFR will likely need to manage assigned LOFR duties in addition to the RSC process. Due to the complexity or scope of the incident, the LOFR may require one or more Assistant LOFRs in the ICP or field to maintain a manageable span of control. The RSC process is, by design, more of an exchange and engagement with affected stakeholders and will likely require more effort and involvement. The RSC may prove advantageous since multiple stakeholders can be engaged via the RSC model at a given time, and conversations about local knowledge, concerns, and potential resources can aid the response. Specific LOFR job roles are further described below.

As with other responses, the LOFR is the designated representative of the Incident Commander and/or UC in the RSC process and the main point of contact for RSC members. Typical job duties such as escorting visitors, coordinating with public entities, serving as primary support for agencies involved in the response, and engaging with stakeholders with a vested interest continue even when an RSC process is initiated. Often the PIO helps the LOFR and takes responsibility for interfacing with the media and public for information and preparing information about the incident and response for the public. The LOFR and PIO typically coordinate duties and responsibilities to determine who will handle overlapping functions. EPA, USCG, and ADEC provide guidance to their LOFRs and PIOs, including various stakeholder engagement methods and information sharing. This RSC process is one possible way that engagement and information sharing occur. Additional LOFR duties as related to the RSC may include the following:

- Maintains frequent communication with UC regarding RSC concerns/information, inviting UC to RSC Meetings and scheduling coordinated meetings (i.e., do not conflict) with other UC meetings.
- Serves as a primary incident point of contact for RSC Members.
- Ensures the RSC members understand terminology and abbreviations.
- Ensures the UC knows RSC concerns, recommendations, objectives, and issues.
- Engages with organizations and helps identify how they want to participate with IMT.

## Role of Regional Citizens' Advisory Councils (RCACs)

Note: This section only applies to crude oil responses in Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound. The Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) and Prince William Sound (PWS) Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) offer additional information about RCACs. (See AWA ACP for Cook Inlet and the PWS ACP for Prince William Sound.)

### The RSC Process and RCACs

In addition to the RSC policy being unique to Alaska, the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90) also created another unique Alaska-specific concept: the Regional Citizens Advisory Councils (RCACs). Alaska has two such organizations: Cook Inlet RCAC and PWS RCAC. They are highly active in their respective parts of the state. RCACs are involved with area and regional planning; industry contingency plan review; funding and conducting various projects; monitoring and commenting on industry practices; and monitoring and participating in spill response exercises and training events. Initiating contact with the RCACs (if they are active in the incident location) will be important as the RCACs already have working relationships with local stakeholders they represent and may be a potential resource and interested party during an incident.

LOFRs may need to brief the UC and others regarding the RCACs, the interests they represent, and the potential resources they could provide to the UC during an incident.

In addition to RCACs' roles and responsibilities mandated by OPA90, RCACs may have specific contracts in place that could support the UC and response operations. RCACs also have long-standing relationships established from extensive oil spill drills and exercise involvement that could be leveraged during actual incidents.

### RCACs and a spill response incident

The AWA and PWS ACPs describe the specific response duties of RCACs, including (1) observing response activities, (2) verifying these activities, (3) informing local stakeholders, and (4) advising response decision-makers. Similar to an RSC, the RCACs can provide local knowledge and perspective on local concerns to the UC that can prove valuable for operational decisions. The RCACs should be invited to participate in



# Incorporation of Job Aids

- Need to finish RSC member job aid
- Format and copy edit LOFR and RSC Member draft job aids
- Present draft job aids to ARRT Tri-Chairs (ADEC, USCG, EPA)
- Incorporate into AWA plan first, under new plan architecture
- Other plans to follow
- Outreach



# More Practice Required



# Questions?

Thanks for listening!

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