

Scientific Support Coordinator (SSCs)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides SSCs in coastal and marine areas. The SSCs serve on the OSC's staff as the head of a scientific team. This support team provides expertise in environmental chemistry, oil slick tracking, pollutant transport modeling, natural resources at risk, environmental trade-offs of countermeasures and cleanup, information management, contingency planning, and liaison to the scientific community and the Natural Resource Trustees. EPA provides the SSCs for the inland areas.

U.S. Coast Guard District Response Group (DRG) and District Response Advisory Teams (DRAT)

The DRG is framework within each Coast Guard District to organize District resources to support OSCs during response to a pollution incident. DRGs assist the OSC by providing technical assistance, personnel, and equipment, including the Coast Guard's pre-positioned equipment. The DRAT is a team available to provide specialized support to the OSC concerning funding, equipment, and resources.

U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV)

The U.S. Navy (USN) is the federal agency most knowledgeable and experienced in ship salvage, shipboard damage control, and diving. The USN has an extensive array of specialized equipment and personnel available for use in these areas as well as containment, collection, removal equipment specifically designed for salvage related and open sea pollution incidents. This service is provided by the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

ATSDR provides emergency response assistance, gives health consultations in public health emergencies, provides technical assistance and estimates health risks to humans from exposure to hazardous substances. Specific roles during an emergency include: health assessments, toxicological profiles, and emergency response.

Oil or Chemical Spill Notification
call the National Response Center at
800-424-8802

Oil Spill Response

in the Region IV Coastal Zone, contact the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO):

MSO Wilmington, NC 910-792-8408	MSO Charleston, SC 843-724-7616
MSO Savannah, GA 912-652-4353	MSO Jacksonville, FL 904-247-7310
MSO Miami, FL 305-732-0160	MSO Tampa, FL 813-228-2189
MSO Mobile, AL 334-441-5121	

In the Region IV Inland Zone, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
404-562-8700

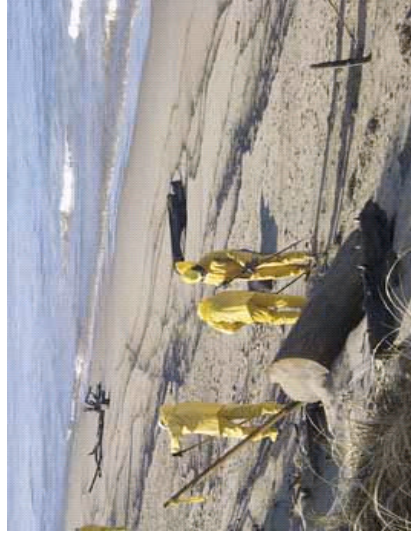
Inland Zone U.S. Coast Guard Offices are:

MSO Huntington, WV 800-253-7465	MSO Louisville, KY 800-253-7465
MSO Paducah, KY 502-442-1621	MSO Memphis, TN 901-544-3912

State Pollution Response Contacts are:

North Carolina 919-733-3867	South Carolina Spill: 888-481-0125 Office: 803-896-4000
Georgia 404-656-4300	Florida 850-413-9911
Alabama 334-242-4378	Mississippi 601-352-9100
Tennessee 800-258-3300	Kentucky 800-928-2380

Special Forces Available for Pollution Response



Document prepared by:
Region IV

Regional Response Team

RRT IV Co-Chairs:

U.S. Coast Guard 305-536-5651
U.S. EPA 404-562-8721

For more informational pamphlets concerning various subjects go to the RRT IV Web Site at www.nrt.org

The National Response System

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Response System (NRS) is the federal government's mechanism for emergency response to discharges of oil into navigable waters of the United States, and releases of chemicals into the environment. The system provides a framework for coordination among federal, state, and local responders and responsible parties.

The National Response System is described in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 300. The NCP establishes three organizational levels:

- The National Response Team (NRT);
- Regional Response Teams (RRTs); and
- On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs).

National Response Team: The National Response Team's membership consists of 16 federal agencies with responsibilities, interests, and expertise in various aspects of emergency response to pollution incidents. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) serves as chair and the Coast Guard serves as vice-chair of the NRT. The NRT is primarily a national planning, policy, and coordinating body and does not respond directly to incidents. The NRT provides policy guidance prior to an incident and assistance as requested by an On-Scene Coordinator via a Regional Response Team during an incident. NRT assistance usually takes the form of technical advice, access to additional resources/equipment or coordination with other RRTs.

Regional Response Teams (RRTs): There are 13 Regional Response Teams, one for each of ten federal regions, plus one for Alaska, one for the Caribbean, and one for the Pacific Basin. Each RRT maintains a Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and has State, as well as federal government, representation. EPA and the Coast Guard co-chair the RRTs. Like the NRT, the standing RRTs are planning, policy, and coordinating bodies and do not respond directly to the scene. The RRT provides assistance as requested by the On-Scene Coordinator during an incident. RRTs can convene on scene, at the request of the OSC, in the form of an Incident Specific RRT. RRTs may also provide assistance to state and local governments in preparedness, planning, and training for emergency response.

On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs): The On-Scene Coordinator is a federal official pre-designated by EPA

for inland areas and by the Coast Guard for coastal areas. (Inland/Coastal boundaries are specified in individual Regional or Area Contingency Plans.) DOD and DOE also provide OSCs for radiological incidents from sources under their oversight. DOD also provides the OSC for hazardous substance releases from DOD sources. The OSC coordinates all containment, removal, and disposal efforts and resources during an incident. These include federal, state, local, and responsible party efforts. The OSC has access to the special forces discussed below to support response efforts. The OSC can also be a source of valuable support and information to the local response community.

In support of the above entities the NRS has access to federal "Special Forces" that specialized pollution response capability to enhance the ability of the OSC to prevent, mitigate, or lessen the impact of an oil spill or chemical release.

NRS Special Forces

Assisting the OSC on request are specialists and specialized teams, which comprise the NRS's Special Forces:

Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT)

During a significant incident, the RICT is available to the EPA OSC and may provide assistance in response activities. Responsibilities of the RICT include: support of the OSC in managing response personnel and resources, provide resources, expertise, and assistance, provide advice on and resolution of any permit issues and disputes, provide media assistance, provide contracting and financial assistance, resolve legal issues and site access problems, and provide monitoring, sampling, or analytical assistance.

START Contractor

USEPA contractor providing personnel, materials, and equipment to augment response activities. START personnel are under the direction of and provide support to the OSC, however they can serve as member on the scientific support team. Science and technical related activities include: collecting samples, providing sample analysis, provide data to identify the existence and extent of a release, the source, and extent of danger, identifying safety requirements, monitoring cleanup personnel, evaluating disposal options, assisting in assessment of containment, on-site treatment, and removal options, and performing surveillance activities.

ERRS Contractor

Provides response services for emergency, time critical and non-time critical removal actions and early/interim remedial actions involving the releases of hazardous substances, oil, and other contaminants or pollutants to the environment for USEPA.

EPA Environmental Response Team (EPA ERT)

EPA's ERT is a group of highly trained scientists and engineers based in Edison, NJ and Cincinnati, OH. Its capabilities include multimedia sampling and analysis, hazard assessment, cleanup techniques and specialized technical support. EPA's ERT provides SSCs for the inland zone.

REAC Contractor

This contractor's services are contracted directly to the USEPA Environmental Response Team. Their capabilities are very similar to that of the USEPA START Contractor. Although located outside the region, the REAC Contractor is available for response support to the OSC.

Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)

Radiological Emergency Response Teams (RERT) have been established by the USEPA to provide response and support for incidents or sites containing radiological hazards. Expertise is available in radiation monitoring, radionuclide analysis, radiation health physics, and risk assessment. RERTs can provide on-site support, including mobile monitoring laboratories for radiochemical sampling and analysis.

U.S. Coast Guard National Strike Force (NSF)

The NSF is composed of three strategically located teams and a coordination center. The strike teams have specially trained personnel and are equipped to respond to major oil spills and chemical releases. The coordination center maintains a national inventory listing of spill response equipment and assists with the development and implementation of an exercise and training program for the National Response System. NSF capabilities are especially suited to incidents occurring in the marine environment, but also include site assessments, safety, action plan development, and documentation for both inland and coastal zone incidents.

Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)

The PIAT is a highly skilled unit of public affairs specialists prepared to compliment the existing public information capabilities of the OSC.