

**Regional Response Team IV
Annual Report
2013**

Mr. Mike Faulkner
National Response Team
USEPA Headquarters
OEM/MC 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Faulkner,

Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan requests that Regional Response Teams (RRT) provide letter reports to the NRT, summarizing recent activities, organizational changes, operational concerns, and efforts to improve state and local coordination. The RRT 4 report is submitted for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2013.

Executive Summary

Regional Response Team 4 (RRT) was very active in 2013. Our semi-annual meetings in Myrtle Beach, SC and Durham, NC allowed us to better understand the broad range of response capabilities and concerns at the local level in our region. Local Emergency Planning Committee members have been invited to give presentations and participate in our meetings, enhancing our relationships.

The RRT actively participated in training and exercises throughout the region. These included a table top exercise involving a request to apply dispersants on the surface of the water in June. This TTX helped us to streamline our activation calls and recognize the potential access needs for various service agencies supporting a response. The RRT also supported the Ardent Sentry exercise at various locations throughout the region.

The RRT was activated to support the EPA OSC during the Aliceville, AL train derailment and fire which involved the release of Bakken crude oil. The EPA OSC requested permission to conduct in-situ burning to remove oil from a wetlands area per the RRT In-situ Burn plan. Although the response tool was not used due to a change in conditions allowing the burn, the RRT learned that the collection of information necessary for review prior to approval can be challenging, thus possibly requiring more resources on site to complete the task in a timely manner.

Our Science and Technology (S & T) Committee continued with the arduous task of updating our Dispersant Use Plan, In-situ Burn plan and the creation of a Vessel Decontamination plan. Determining a path ahead for the consultation process was most challenging and resulted in the call for a "consultation summit" to be held in Saint Petersburg, FL in February 2014. We also continued to develop our relationship with Regional Response Team 6 as we forged ahead with the development of our plans to ensure a more cooperative response across the gulf.

Along those lines, the EPA / USCG Boundary Line MOA was signed. This agreement was many years in development and resulted in a simpler line of demarcation between the inland and coastal zones.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Bay Springs Pipeline Spill

At 1535, on February 5, 2013, Plains All American Pipeline contacted the NRC with notification of a discharge of crude oil from an eight inch line near Bay Springs, MS. into Piney Branch. Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) responded and requested EPA assistance. Once on site, MDEQ and EPA estimated approximately 100 barrels of crude oil had discharged from the transportation pipeline. The product migrated overland from the discharge point into Piney Branch a tributary of Tallahoma Creek. The discharge impacted forested wetlands as well as Piney Branch. SCAT was employed to help direct cleanup efforts. An administrative Order was issued by EPA to ensure an appropriate response by the PRP. Although a cleanup endpoint was established for the site it was necessary to modify this based on net environmental benefits for impacted habitats. OSC Jose Negron, 404-563-8754, Negron.jose@epa.gov

Aliceville Train Derailment

A little past 12:00 am on Friday November 8, 2013, a 90 unit train operated by Alabama & Gulf Coast Railway, a short line railroad owned by Genesee & Wyoming Rail, derailed south of Aliceville, AL. The train, carrying Bakken crude oil, was enroute from Amory, Mississippi to Walnut Hill, Florida when it derailed on a wooden trestle in a wetlands area. Twenty six (26) tanker cars filled with Bakken crude oil derailed into a wetland slough at the head waters of Lubbub Creek. Lubbub Creek discharges into the Tombigbee River. Shortly after the derailment the rail cars began discharging oil, which caught fire. Approximately 11 cars were involved in the fire. The rail line was closed from mileposts 680-685. Emergency responders from local agencies evacuated a nearby residence initially but allow the resident to return home. Air monitoring was conducted at the scene and in the surrounding area during the three days that the fires continued to burn. Due to the danger and difficulty first responders faced accessing the rail cars, it was decided to allow the cars to burn out. OSC Garrard requested an incident specific activation of Regional Response Team IV and requested permission to conduct in-situ burning as a clean up tool. The RRT granted his request, but the tool was not used due to the weathering of the oil and other operational considerations. OSC Jordan Garrard, 404,562-8642, Garrard.Jordan@epa.gov

Tupelo, MS Ricin Response

In April 2013, a man living in the Tupelo, MS area is suspected to have sent ricin tainted letters to President Obama and other officials. Two locations in the Tupelo area were tested by the FBI and determined to contain ricin. The locations consist of a karate dojo and a house trailer used for storage. The locations were secured by the FBI and evidence, including ricin tainted items, was collected by the FBI. It was determined that prior to the FBI turning the properties back over to the current owners, the extent of any remaining ricin contamination should be determined and documented. The MS Department of Environmental Quality referred the sampling and decontamination actions to EPA. The EPA, START contractor, and ERRS contractor mobilized to the site on 5/30/13. Sampling of the trailer showed no ricin contamination. After consulting with the National Homeland Security Research Center, the Consequence Management Advisory Team and EPA R3, the OSC decontaminated the Dojo using a 10 % bleach solution. Subsequent sampling of some surfaces proved inconclusive due to interference from bleach. The OSC removed the surfaces in question and replaced them.

Lessons learned included:

- The issue of bleach affecting ricin analysis needs to be further investigated.
- A common data format needs to be established between law enforcement and EPA for transfer of information
- BOTE and BioWatch activities were instrumental in the Region's bio response preparedness.
- Including State agencies (DEQ, DOH and the LRN) early in to the response was very beneficial and made for an efficient response.

OSC Steve Spurlin, 731-422-0101, Spurlin.Steve@epa.gov

Shubuta Crude Oil Spill

A 15 barrel crude oil spill was reported on June 27, 2013 to the National Response Center (Report #1051893). The release occurred from the North Yellow Creek Field Tank Battery #4. The potentially responsible party (PRP), Logan Oil, discovered the release and shut down the production wells associated with the tank battery. The oil discharge occurred from the drain valve on the secondary containment associated with the North Yellow Creek Field Tank Battery #4. By the time the OSC arrived on site the discharge estimate had been revised to 213 bbls. A substantial part of the spill apparently flowed through the drain valve, down a steep hillside and into a waterway, impacting 12 miles including Nickleson Creek, Eucutta Creek, and the Chickasawhay River before being contained. A CWA 311c Administrative Order was issued to the PRP. A SCAT program was implemented to help document and guide cleanup activities. The PRP failed to respond appropriately and the site was federalized on July 3, 2013. Logan oil remained a presence in the unified Command. OSC Leo Francendese, 404-606-2223, Francendese.Leo@epa.gov

Perma-Fix Explosion

On August 14, 2013, an explosion occurred at Perma-Fix of South Georgia, a permitted TSD facility located in Valdosta, Georgia. The explosion occurred when an employee was off-loading a 55-gallon container of acetone type waste into a fuel blending pot. The explosion resulted in a two-alarm fire which engulfed half of the facility and led to the evacuation of residents and businesses in a one mile radius. Three different fire departments responded, as well as the following Agencies: FBI, ATF, OSHA, and Georgia EPD. EPA Region 4 dispatched Florida Outpost OSC Russell to the scene to oversee removal operations. At the time of the explosion, the facility contained 1800 drums of hazardous substances, as well as above ground storage tanks of hazardous substances and roll-off boxes of wastes. Upon arriving on site a Unified Command was established with the RP, Valdosta FD, ATF, Georgia EPD, and OSHA. Major issues facing the responders included air monitoring of the plume and water monitoring in Mud Creek and its tributaries. The fire proved stubborn to extinguish, with flare-ups recurring over a four day period. 1199 containers were compromised by the fire. An underflow dam was installed to protect Mud Creek from runoff. EPA continued to provide air monitoring support as the various agencies conducted site assessments and investigations. 99% of the drums on site no longer had marking due to the fire. This slowed the waste stream disposal process. OSC Chris Russell, 850-274-1575, Russell.Chris@epa.gov

Cordova Mercury Spill

At approximately 1700 hundred hours on October 25, 2013 the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) requested assistance with a release of mercury in a private residence located on Pate Hill Road, Cordova, Walker County, Alabama. At approximately 2000 hours OSC Negron arrived at the residence and after obtaining access conducted the first screening. Mercury vapor concentrations in excess of 25,000 nanograms per cubic meter where

detected throughout the residence during the initial screening. EPA then mobilized START and ERRS contractors to conduct clean-up activities. The accidental release of the mercury by the homeowner occurred in the basement where a plastic bottle containing the material had been stored. The release occurred onto concrete in the unfinished basement of the residence. An estimated 20 pounds of mercury was spilled. Removal activities included use of a mercury vacuum, the application of chemicals to enhance recovery and heating and ventilation cycles. Negative air machines were installed to assist with air exchange and removal of mercury vapors present. EPA and START personnel conducted air sampling and cleared the home for occupancy after a week of work. OSC Jose Negron, 404-562-8754, Negron.Jose@epa.gov

Mobile Barge Fire

Firefighters extinguished a huge blaze that erupted when two fuel barges exploded in Mobile, Ala., leaving three people with critical burns and forcing the evacuation of crew from a nearby cruise ship. The cause of the fire, which started Wednesday night April 24th, was likely started from a spark during a cleaning of a barge. Firefighters from Mobile and Coast Guard officials responded after 8:30 p.m. CDT Wednesday to a pair of explosions involving the gas barges in the Mobile River east of downtown. Additional explosions followed over the next few hours. The initial blast took place in a ship channel near the George C. Wallace Tunnel -- which carries traffic from Interstate 10 under the Mobile River, Vega said. The river runs south past Mobile and into Mobile Bay, which in turn flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The barges were owned by Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine. Company spokesman Greg Beuerman said the barges were empty and being cleaned at the Oil Recovery Co. facility when the incident began. The barges had been carrying a liquid called natural gasoline -- which he said was neither liquefied natural gas nor natural gas. A small amount of sheening was observed from the fire. The majority of product in the barges was consumed by fire. USCG Sector Mobile led the investigation.

Nature's Way Endeavor Bridge Allision

This incident occurred on January 27, 2013 near Vicksburg, MS on the Mississippi River. Approximately 7,181 gallons of oil was released to the river when the barge impacted the railroad bridge. The USCG Sector Lower Mississippi River supervised clean-up, offloading of remaining product from damaged barge, and inspection of repairs. Major lesson learned from the incident -- Unlikely agencies can have jurisdiction when responding to pollution spills. Lead Coordinator Contact Information: SLMR; MST1 Foster Robinson

B. RRT MEETINGS

February 12 – 14, 2013 Myrtle Beach, SC

During this meeting we recognized the outgoing EPA Co-Chair Shane Hitchcock. Co-Chairs requested the development of a fact sheet to compare the RRT IV and RRT VI plans for response in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Highlights included an OSC presentation on the REEF Environmental site and a discussion on the future of E-Plan.

August 27 – 29 RTP, NC

Met with RRT VI and coordinated on Dispersant Use Plan (DUP) and In-Situ Burn (ISB) plans. Meeting included Science and Technology committee members and RRT Co-Chairs from both regions and representatives from various service agencies. A path forward on the coordination of the DUP, ISB and Vessel decon plans in the GOM were discussed. The general meeting saw presentations on the capabilities of the EPA Homeland Security Research Program and the Paulsboro, NJ train derailment and discussions on earthquake preparedness. There was further discussion on the usefulness of E-Plan to fulfill requirements in EO 13650.

November 11, 2013, Incident Specific RRT Activation,
Aliceville, AL Train Derailment.

OSC Garrard briefed the RRT members and requested permission to conduct an In-Situ Burn. Coordination of information required for consideration of the burn took a couple of days. Permission was granted, but the window of opportunity had passed. A discussion of the actions and outcomes of this activation will be held during the winter 2014 meeting. Lessons learned will be applied to RRT's draft In-Situ Burn policy.

C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Science and Technology Committee

The committee completed draft versions of the Dispersant Use Plan, In-Situ Burn Plan, and Vessel Decon Plan. They were submitted to OEM for comment. The Committee is now coordinating with RRTVI for Gulf wide planning purposes. Their immediate task is a joint comparison of the above regional plans.

Consultation Work Group

This work group was organized late in the year to address the RRT's needs relative to completing biological assessments and obtaining the needed consultation for pre-authorization plans. The intent of this meeting will be to discuss and establish a path forward in the development of appropriate biological assessments (BAs) and to update, where required, past consultations conducted within our respective AOR's. As we are now completing major rewrites and digitalization of the ACPs in RRT IV and the CRRT, we need to decide, as the core group of the RRT's, the most efficient way to bring our plans and agreements up to date and in regulatory compliance. A few of our goals will be to establish consensus and specific guidance and job aids for updating the existing BAs and consultations to ensure that the preauthorization of several response methodologies is possible. Current RRT agreements and elements of the existing ACPs that require BAs and consultation include: Dispersant Use, In-Situ Burning, Vessel Decontamination, and Solidifier Use. We will be identifying key personnel from specific agencies in both Region IV and the Caribbean to participate in this work group. An initial organizational conference call was held with a face to face meeting scheduled for 25-27th of February 2014 in St. Petersburg Florida.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING

Sector Charleston: In conjunction with CGC OAK and D7 staff, completed a VOSS/SORS deployment drill as well as HAZWOPER training. D7 certified a Sector Charleston MER member as the Sector HAZWOPER trainer. HAZWOPER & Pollution Responder refresher training was conducted for all stations personnel. MER participated in three Industry Led Oil Spill Exercises. Sector Charleston has qualified two FOSCRs as well as five Pollution Responders in 2013.

MSU Savannah: April 15 – 19, 2013 MSU Savannah hosted an ICS 381L leadership course for critical partners within our zone. The class provided an opportunity to place key members of our response community into a simulated and at times stressful environment with role players and events that steered the participants toward the development of a team construct and management system necessary to manage a multifaceted response event. Internally, we continue to hone our

response skills with internal training, six personnel attending pollution incident response C schools, and one member attending HAZMAT Incident Response C School.

Sector Jacksonville: Jacksonville has sent personnel to Sector St. Petersburg's ERMA training, conducted webinar training w/ MSL on oil samples, completed Chlorine Emergency Response training, attending Clean Gulf, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Fireboat training, site visits to OSROs: SWS and Jacksonville Pollution Control, RRT IV meeting held in Raleigh, NC, and the upcoming meeting in Mobile, AL.

Sector Miami: Sector Miami, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 5-2, FL DEP, and Towboat US, Port of Palm Beach Prep Equipment Deployment Drill. An eight hour HAZWOPER training class was held also at Sector Miami (AD, RES, and AUX). The following ICS classes 300a and 341 were also held during 2013.

Sector St. Petersburg: Led efforts to conduct FOSCR/Pollution Responder qualification training as well as Pollution Incident Response Training resulting in the qualification of five Pollution Responders, three Federal On-Scene Coordinators and two Auxiliary Initial Pollution Responders under the Neptune Trident Shield Program. Training events included joint agency SCAT (CG, DEP and FWC) and Gulf Strike Team trailer familiarization. Training was also conducted for Vessel Response Plans and Salvage and Marine Firefighting to increase knowledge of SSP members. Utilized several state sponsored ICS courses (ICS 300, 346, 400 and 449) to provide no-cost training for SSP members.

Sector Key West: Sector Key West conducted an annual boom deployment with Station Key West, using pre-staged boom to deploy portions of the SFL-5 Geographic Response Plan (GRP). Additionally, a Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) exercise was conducted aboard the CGC HUDSON in conjunction with Sector Miami personnel. Sector Key West hosted ICS 300a Intermediate ICS and ICS 320 Intermediate Incident Management Team for Coast Guard and Area Committee members. The Coast Guard Auxiliary continued to support the ACP's Volunteer Management Program by qualifying nine additional Auxiliary Pollution Responders (totaling 24) and 240 Florida Keys residents in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) First Responder Awareness, for a total of 550 trained volunteers.

Sector Lower Mississippi River: Several Sector personnel have attended various pollution response/prevention trainings throughout the year. FOSCR, Pollution Incident Responder, TAD for additional pollution experience, ICS 320 training provided to CG (AD, RES, Aux) members, local emergency responders and local industry partners.

Sector Mobile: Training has included NOAA instruction on Oil Spill Aerial Observer Training, ERMA training, NWS training on weather services and topics, ICS 300a, FOSCR training. Shipment of Hazardous Materials Training, District funded Oil Spill Response Training. Sector Mobile provided HAZWOPER refresher for Sector personnel, IMD provided monthly training for over 8 months to qualify 05 Auxiliarists as Pollution Responders.

USCG/EPA MOA

In late October the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Coast Guard's Districts five, seven, and eight along with Region 4 EPA was signed. The MOA outlined response boundaries for oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents and federal on-scene coordinator responsibilities. EPA has committed to providing digitalized maps in the next couple of months.

District 8 and District 7 Boundary Changes

Coast Guard District Seven and Coast Guard District Eight along with Florida State and County representatives have been planning and discussing the potential change to the boundary line between Coast Guard Districts. Background: On February 4, 2011, Taylor County Florida expressed concerns regarding the current boundary line dividing Coast Guard Districts Seven and Eight which runs through Taylor County. These concerns came to light as a result of coordinated response efforts following the Deepwater Horizon Incident of National Significance. In response to these concerns, Taylor County requested aligning the District boundary with Taylor County's boundary to simplify future response activities. Proposed, Sector St. Petersburg will extend coverage to all of Taylor County as Sector Mobiles AOR will geographically align with Taylor County's boundaries. This request requires no significant shift in resources, but does require an amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations. Drafted changes have been submitted for review. We are currently looking at another boundary change within D7. The boundary between Sector Miami and Sector Jacksonville has been looked at as well. The proposed boundary change would realign with the southern Brevard County line as opposed to splitting the county between Sectors. The work on this has only been a proposed idea.

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

Sector Charleston: Sector Charleston: Conduct PREP notification drills on a quarterly basis. Participated in Industry-Led Full Scale PREP Exercise to test facility procedures and OSRO's response procedures as outlined in the Facility Response Plan (FRP). Unified Command was established and participants included: AC members, Defense Fuel Depot Management personnel, CG, state, county & local response personnel.

MSU Savannah: MSU Savannah conducted four qualified individual notification drills, one Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE), and one functional exercise (FE) in conjunction with the Savannah Spill Response Corporation. Sponsorship for Industry Lead Full Scale Exercises continues to be a challenge. Documentation of the collected body of work, exercises and real world responses over sometimes extended periods of time is required to complete all objectives within the PREP program.

Sector Jacksonville: Conduct PREP notification drills on a quarterly basis. Conducted a Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise at Blanchard Terminal. Participated in several Industry exercises; including Marathon Petroleum, Volusia CO TTX, Crowley Maritime, JAXPORT's Recovery and Restoration of Trade TTX, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Marine Response TTX.

Sector St. Petersburg: The Facilities, Incident Management and CPFR Divisions participated in numerous PREP Exercises: TECO Energy, Tampa International Airport, Collier, Lee and Charlotte Counties. Used real-world pollution response efforts conducted during the CFV SKYE MARIE incident to receive credit for our 2013 PREP Exercise. Facilitated annual boom deployment exercises and training with Auxiliarists and crews from Stations (Yankeetown, Cortez, St. Petersburg and Fort Myers Beach). Conducted four interagency Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises with the EPA to ensure timely arrival and deployment of response equipment/ assets.

Sector Miami: Ten exercises or drills were conducted during the CY 2013 including Emergency Notification, GIUES, and PREP Equipment Deployment. Miami Dade County EM and Florida Power and Light lead the Nuclear Power Plant Plume Exercise. The Nuclear Power Plant exercise was evaluated by FEMA. This Exercise reviewed and tested section 9000 of Sector Miami's ACP.

Sector Key West: The Florida Keys Area Committee conducted four notification drills, an industry-led, full-scale exercise for PREP; an equipment deployment exercise with Station Key West, and a Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) exercise with the CGC HUDSON in conjunction with Sector Miami

Sector Lower Mississippi River: Conduct PREP notification drills on a quarterly basis. Participated in Valero's Full Scale Oil Spill Exercise to test facility procedures and OSRO's response procedures as outlined in the Facility Response Plan (FRP). Unified Command was established and participants included: Valero personnel, local fire & police departments, and Sector LMR personnel. SLMR held unit level FOSCR exercise targeting Prevention Dept. personnel.

Sector Mobile: Recently completed TTX with Chevron to test Worst Case Discharge scenario of crude pipeline blow out. Held TTX in April 2013 with Shell and EPA tested OSRO response capabilities and facility response plan. Sector Mobile submitted all quarterly PREP drills/notifications for CY 2013.

RRT IV also planned/supported/participated in the following:

- Ardent Sentry 2013
- Florida Hurrex 2013
- RRT IV Dispersant Use Plan TTX

C. FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION EFFORTS

AREA COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:

Sector Charleston: Sector Charleston: Currently hold two meetings annually and are well attended (50-60mbrs). Key focus this year was on bulk Hazmat & Aviation fuel transported & stored at MTF AOR. This years' Industry-Led Full Scale PREP exercise was conducted by Charleston Defense Fuel Depot. Exercise scenario involved worst-case discharge of aviation fuel store on facility. Sector is currently evaluating the digitalized ACPs for volume and appropriateness of information. Area Committee approved the reduction of OPA 90 First Aid Response trailers from four to one from the current four in inventory. Sector Charleston is coordinating with Coast Guard District Seven to relocate or dispose of the trailers that have been identified for reduction. In Utilizing one of the OPA 90 First Aid Response trailers, CG personnel deployed 450 ft of the unit's 18" boom in Georgetown, SC in response to a fire that occurred on the waterfront on 25 Sep 13.

MSU Savannah: MSU Savannah Area Committee convenes quarterly - twice in Savannah and twice in Brunswick. ACP updates commenced in 2013 and are continuing with a focus on GRP validation and a SCAT segment design and definition project that is scheduled to conclude by July 2014. This project is being conducted in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute with support from the Area Committee partners, city and county government EMA/GIS assistance, Georgia State DNR, EPA and USCG contributions. We have synchronized our meeting schedule with Chatham and Glynn county LEPC meeting cycles to leverage common objectives and reduce meeting fatigue on our limited partner resources. Our efforts continue to focus on coastal port counties based on risk but we are seeking to expand Area Committee participation into the interior counties.

Sector Jacksonville: Area Committee meets on a quarterly basis. Participation has greatly increased due to moving the meeting to one central location (Volusia County EOC, Daytona Beach) for both Port Canaveral and Jacksonville members. The fourth quarter meeting conducted Aug 14, 2013, included a RULET overview provided by Mr. Forest Willis (D7), Mr. Brad Benggio and Mrs. Lisa Symons from NOAA, and Mr. Doug Campbell (Sector Jacksonville) displayed an ACCESS web tool that could be used in risk analysis of abandoned vessels or other potential sunken pollution sources not covered by RULET. The first quarter meeting conducted Jan 9, 2014, included a brief from Mr. Richard Knudsen (Florida Fish & Wildlife Research Institute) who provided a brief via adobe connect on the Florida Oil Spill Commission Report & Lessons Learned from DWH for the State of Florida. There are two local LEPCs in the AOR but little to no involvement with the AC, still looking to increase interface with LEPCs.

Sector St. Petersburg: Area Committee Meetings are held quarterly in Tampa, FL, typically in conjunction with the Tampa Bay Spill Committee Meetings. All meetings are well attended, but funding constraints for Panhandle Counties occasionally limit their attendance at Area Committee Meetings. In addition to Area Committee Meetings, we actively partner with multiple LEPCs in the AOR on joint projects. We continue to work to resolve the boundary line issue between SSP and Sector Mobile (D7 and D8). The proposed boundary line will modify SSP's AOR to include all of Taylor County and Jefferson County. Once the boundary line issue is resolved, SSP's CPFR Division will hold meetings with the Emergency Managers of Taylor County and Jefferson County.

Sector Miami: Miami held four Area Committee meeting in 2013 in the Broward County area, with one of the meetings at the Broward EOC. There are currently 178 listed members on the Area Committee (last year's member list 158 members). There were four workgroups this year that were specifically involved in areas to help improve implementation of the ACP. The four workgroups; Volunteer Management, Marine Fire Fighting, OSRO, and Marine Mammals. The Marine Firefighting workgroup conducted an annual review/update of Section 8000 – Marine Firefighting Plan. The Marine Mammal workgroup conduct a review/update of Section 3000 (Operations) and Section 4000 (Planning). FL Dept of Environmental Protection Coral Reef Conservation initiatives provided an update on coral reefs, with a total of 140 coral reef projects 127 of them have been completed.

Sector Key West: The Florida Keys Area Committee held four quarterly meetings in 2013. Two meetings were held at Sector Key West, one at NOAA's Eco Discovery Center, and an end of the year wrap-up teleconference. The teleconference was a cost and time efficient way to supplement in person meetings. It garnered widespread support from committee members and was identified as a best practice to counteract the effects of budgetary constraints. There were no major plan updates this year as a full review and update of the ACP was completed in 2012.

Sector Lower Mississippi River: Currently hold multiple meetings per year with Area Maritime Security Committees (AMSC) from Memphis, Western Mississippi, Ouachita/Red River, Arkansas and Oklahoma. Meetings with Memphis AMSC are held monthly, with quarterly teleconferences held for the other four AMSCs. Memphis AMSC members participated in Mass Rescue Operation (MRO) table top exercise, attended by private and public sector committee members. Increased partnerships by holding joint LE training with AMSC partner's drug/bomb dogs.

Sector Mobile: Coordinated four Area Committee Meetings in CY2013. 2 in FL, 1 in MS, and 1 in AL. Digital ACP completed in 12/09. Subcommittees currently being formed in FL, MS, AL to evaluate and update the ACP data viewer. GRP Workgroup established and also active in

updating GRP data. AC meetings are well attended with numbers ranging from 30-60 depending on location. LEPC meetings are attended monthly and quarterly. There are over 10 LEPC's in the Sector Mobile AOR.

D. MAJOR BEST PRACTICES FROM RESPONSES, TRAININGS, EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS AND OTHER RRT ACTIVITIES


None to report

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

- Shane Hitchcock retired as EPA Co-Chair. He was succeeded by James Webster, Ph.D.
 - Darrel Wieland came aboard as the USCG RRT IV Coordinator.
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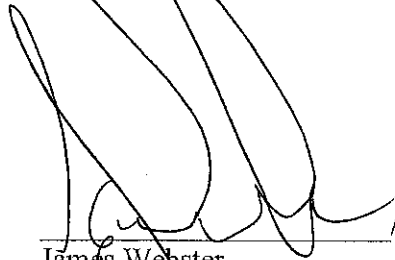
IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING RRT ATTENTION

- Transportation and response issues related to Bakken crude and tar sand oils.
- The subpart J update is important to the completion of our plan updates.



Forest A Willis
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair
Seventh Coast Guard District

1/20/14
(Date)



James Webster
EPA Co-Chair
US EPA, Region 4

1/03/24/2014
(Date)