

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	4	Calendar Year:	2020
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USCG RRT Co-Chair:	Forest Willis	Email:	Forest.A.Willis@uscg.mil
EPA RRT Coordinator:	Gary Andrew	Email:	Andrew.Gary@epa.gov
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A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	February 8-10	Franklin, TN	125	Not available at this time
2.	August 19	Virtual	80+	Not available at this time
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	Dates:	02/09/20	Event:	Golden Ray Incident Specific Call	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:							
	Agencies Involved:	USCG, EPA, GA DNR, NOAA, OSHA, DOI						
	Decisions Made:							
2.	Dates:	05/28/20	Event:	Hurricane Season 2020 Coordination Call	ACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Ensuring correct contacts and identifying any federal or state agency concerns. Confirm comms platform for activations.						
	Agencies Involved:	All members						
	Decisions Made:							
3.	Dates:	06/05/20	Event:	Tropical Storm Cristobal Coordination Call	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Ensuring preparations for the impending weekend landfall of the storm.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG D7 & D8, Sector Mobile, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida						
	Decisions Made:	Identified specific personnel for coordination of response efforts for this event and reviewed state of readiness of each agency.						
4.	Dates:	June 5, 8, 9, 2020	Event:	Blount Island Ship Fire	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Fire aboard M/V Joegh Xiamen carrying 2,400 automobiles and approximately 500,000 gallons of fuel. FOSC determine significant threat to environment as ship is docked at Blount Island on the St. Johns River.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG D7, NPS, USFWS, NOAA, OSHA, FDEP, FDEM, USCG Sector Jacksonville (SECJAC), NWS						

	Decisions Made:	Initial actions taken to ensure that releases to the environment could be contained, but no firefighting inside the vessel due to safety concerns. Subsequent calls focused on the requested use of a specific firefighting foam recommended by the vessel owner's response contractor. After review of the product by the RRT support for use of the product could not be given.			
5.	Dates:	August 21-25, 2020	Event:	FSV Phoung Mai	ACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT <input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Sunken vessel with a 100 gallon potential diesel discharge. Movement of vessel with tide could impact the channel.			
	Agencies Involved:	USCG, EPA, GA DNR, US Navy, USACE, NOAA, OSHA, DOI, NPFC			
	Decisions Made:	NPFC will fund OSRO removing fuel and vessel to dockside. USACE to pick up from there.			
6.	Dates:	September 14, 21	Event:	Tropical Storm Sally Coordination Calls	ACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT <input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Ensure comms and readiness for landfall			
	Agencies Involved:	EPA R4, R6, USCG D7 and D8, Potentially impacted states			
	Decisions Made:				
7.	Dates:	October 27	Event:	Hurricane Zeta Coordination Call	ACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT <input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Ensure comms and readiness for landfall of Hurricane			
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG, States			
	Decisions Made:				
8.	Dates:	November 24	Event:	CFV Jimmy and Charlie	ACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT <input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Fishing vessel with potential fuel discharge			
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG D7, MSU Savannah GA DNR, NOAA, OSHA, DOI			
	Decisions Made:	Coordinated effort to remove fuel by OSRO, potential disposal of vessel as reef materials.			
9.	Dates:	December 17	Event:	Golden Ray ISRRT	ACT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT <input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Preparing for transport of first cut section			
	Agencies Involved:	USCG, EPA, NOAA, GA DNR, NMFS, DOI, OSHA			
	Decisions Made:				

C. RRT Exercises					
1.	Dates:		Event:		
	Agencies Involved:				
	Summary of exercise:				
2.	Dates:		Event:		

	Agencies Involved:	
	Summary of exercise:	
3.	Dates:	Event:
	Agencies Involved:	
	Summary of exercise:	

D. Changes in RRT Leadership

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) Department of Agriculture	Wallace Dillon	Andrew Christensen
2) Federal Emergency Management Agency	Glen Sachtleben	Jerry Haney
3)		

E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)

Selecting a common virtual meeting standard for use during activations for incidents and all other RRT activities to include semi-annual meetings has been a challenge. Agencies differ on the platforms they will allow to be accessed on agency computers and connectivity from remote work sites is inconsistent. The use of activation exercises to test out the selected communications platforms and ensure all members are able to connect prior to the day of a meeting helps ensure a smooth start to meetings that are often running on tight time constraints.

F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts

The Inland Area Committee has been focused on the development of the Kentuckiana Sub Area Contingency Plan. Sharpening the geographic focus of the plan to 23 counties on the Kentucky-Indiana border along the Ohio River has helped refine the planning committee membership. Strong cross regional relationships are being developed. A viewer to support the planning effort is up and operational.

The RRT and its Regional Contingency Plan have a new website, that became public in the late fall of 2020.

EPA R4 begins initial work on inland ESI mapping project.

EPA, OSHA and DHS utilize RRT structure to address state SERC representatives and develop joint presentation for delivery to SERCs. The intention is to describe training, resources and other support that can be brought to state and local planners, responders and inspectors.

Sector Miami Area Committee progressed with its ACP update.

G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)