

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	4	Calendar Year:	2017
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A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	March 7 - 9	Columbia, SC	105	https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=54
2.	August 22 - 24	Asheville, NC	115	https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=54

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	Dates:	May 24	Event:	M/V Tutahaco	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville requested a limited activation of the Regional Response Team in anticipation of the transport of the M/V Tutahaco from its mooring in Ormond Beach, FL on the Halifax River to Brownsville, TX . The World War II era vessel contained significant amounts of oil, PCB's, lead and asbestos and was going to be placed on a barge for transport. Specific concerns during the call centered on safely navigating under a local bridge.						
	Agencies Involved:	Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Pollution Fund Center						
	Decisions Made:	It was determined that the maintenance of fendering under a local bridge under which the barge had to pass, was the responsibility of the county. Coordination for safe passage of the barge under the bridge was confirmed.						
2.	Dates:	August 02	Event:	Mississippi Phosphates Corporation	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Tropical Storm Nate tracked westward and was forecasted to make landfall along coastal Mississippi. Forecasts indicated a potential rainfall of 3-5 inches for the Pascagoula area. Based on the uncertainty of the final landfall and potential increase of rainfall and storm surge, a partial treatment by-pass would need to be conducted at MPC in accordance with the Site Contingency and Emergency By-Pass Plan. The facility needed to by-pass approximately 40 million gallons of water to ensure adequate storage on-site for additional rainfall and reduce risks of uncontrolled releases.						
	Agencies Involved:	Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,						
	Decisions Made:	FOSC Jordan Garrard discussed site conditions and storage and treatment capacities. A recent emergency bypass event at the site had taken place and there was a need to conduct additional bypasses in the due to an impending tropical storm. There was discussion of the sampling and monitoring of conditions in Bayou Cassotte.						

C. RRT Exercises			
	Dates:	August 22 -23	Event: Table Top at the RRT
	Agencies Involved:	All RRT 4 state and federal agencies	
1.	Summary of exercise:	The RRT4 Training and Education Committee conducted a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional Tabletop Exercise (TTX) with representatives from RRT4. The 1.5-day training event focused on emergency preparedness and response to a significant oil and chemical transportation incident. The TTX provided a forum to facilitate discussion and document roles, responsibilities, processes, protocols, and systems used to support an effective response to emerging all-hazards threats and incidents impacting human health and the environment. A facilitated "hotwash" was held immediately following the TTX discussion to collect comments from the players. The exercise was designed to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the response capabilities of RRT4 and identify strengths, weaknesses, and future training needs of the program. The exercise succeeded in addressing the stated objectives as it provided examples of good to excellent participant knowledge, teamwork, communication and use of plans and procedures while pointing out areas in need of improvement and clarification.	

D. Changes in RRT Leadership		
Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) Department of Justice	Terry Alverson	David Fields
2) Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality	Ernie Shirley	Cody Fisher
3) Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation	Yatasha Moore, Brenda Apple	Barry Brawley

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

RRT 4 continues to provide training to the state and local responders where the RRT meetings is held. This provides for increased training opportunities for the community served and the development of relationships between the local response community and their federal partners. Rotation of RRT meeting host states for each meeting allows for easier access and broader interaction between the federal, state, tribal and local preparedness and response personnel.

RRT 4 was not formally activated in response to Hurricane Irma. However, the strength of relationships developed through the RRT meetings, trainings, etc. proved to be extremely valuable as federal, state and tribal members across the southeast worked together, under stressful conditions, to provide the essential services required for a hurricane response. Coordination was not just with the RRT member agencies as we worked to fulfill Emergency Support Function (ESF) 10 mission assignments, but included support for missions under ESFs 3 and 8 as well.

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

RRT 4 continues to dedicate meeting time to state and local concerns. Meetings in South Carolina and North Carolina highlighted planning and coordination efforts involving our host communities. Local industry and response organizations actively participated in these meetings, sharing their knowledge, demonstrating their resources and developing relationships with the RRT 4 community. The RRT continued to provide concurrent training for state, tribal and local responders.

The State and Tribal Emergency Response Commission Representatives utilize meeting time on the first day. This has become an opportunity for training and relationship building. State Agencies have had an opportunity to learn from one another and develop stronger relationships with EPA EPCRA personnel.

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

None identified.