

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	4	Calendar Year:	2017
EPA RRT Co-Chair:	James Webster	Email:	Webster.James@epa.gov
USCG RRT Co-Chair:	Forest Willis	Email:	Forest.A.Willis@uscg.mil
EPA RRT Coordinator:	Gary Andrew	Email:	Andrew.Gary@epa.gov
USCG RRT Coordinator:	James Davis	Email:	James.P.Davis3@uscg.mil

A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	March 20 - 22	Mobile, AL	132	https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=54
2.	October 16 - 18	Covington, KY	164	https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=54
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications

1.	Dates:	July 3 & 9	Event:	Port Canaveral Crude Oil Discharge	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	This was a Coast Guard led activation. Sector Jacksonville FOSC and Florida SOSC to brief on incident in Port Canaveral turning basin and propose clean up options to include surface washing agents.						
	Agencies Involved:	Environmental Protection Agency, United States Coast Guard, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Pollution Fund Center						
	Decisions Made:	Test area for efficacy of surface washing agent on pier structure. Concurrence reached on testing mechanical and chemical tools. On second call concurrence was reached on the use of surface washing agent to remove oil from piers.						
2.	Dates:	October 9	Event:	Hurricane Michael Pre-Landfall Coordination	ACT	<input type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Briefing from Coast Guard Districts 7 and 8, EPA R4 and potentially impacted states on current preparations for hurricane landfall.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG, , Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi						
	Decisions Made:	Future call set up.						
3.	Dates:	Oct 2-13	Event:	M/V SAN DIEGO Grounding, USCG Sector Key West	ACT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NOT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Issue / Concern:	Vessel grounded on a jetty within a designated marine sanctuary, the RRT was called to initiate an ESA Section VII emergency-informal consultation with NOAA, NMFS, DOI and FWC. Response strategies were discussed as they pertained to potential endangered species.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, USCG, FL, FWC, DOI, Sanctuary Manager						
	Decisions Made:	Oil and HAZMAT removal ops approved incl. fishing gear. 13OCT18, 90% nets removed, remaining 10% considered non-hazardous by FKNMS.						

C. RRT Exercises

1.	Dates:	August 2018	Event:	RRT 4 Data TTX
	Agencies Involved:	All RRT 4 state and federal agencies		
	Summary of exercise:	The objectives of the exercise:		

	<p>1. Assess the capability of response organizations to collect, evaluate and disseminate essential information and data during a multi-jurisdictional, multimedia response incident to support decision makers and how that information is shared with response partners.</p> <p>2. Improve understanding of federal, state and tribal response partners and use of a dynamic/unified team concept, identifying gaps or problems, and/or achieving improved readiness.</p> <p>This exercise was cut short before the second module could be delivered to all Region 4 States by the landfall of several storms. All RRT members were able to participate in module one of the exercise and most were able to participate or observe as module 2 was delivered to Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.</p>			
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) USCG District 7 ALT Co-Chair	LCDR Lori Loughran	LTJG James Davis
2) USDA Forest Service	Walter Sternke	Wallace Dillon
3) GSA	Stanley Copeland	Jermaine Brown
4) Alabama EMA	Earl Alexander	Pamela Cook
5) Georgia EMA	Stephen Clark	Ed Westbrook
6) Mississippi DEQ	Ernie Shirley	Cody Fisher
7) Mississippi EMA	Brian Maske	Andrew McMillin
8) North Carolina DEQ	Steve Lewis	Deborah Gore
9) South Carolina DHEC	Chris Staton	Anuradha Nair-Gimmi
10) Tennessee DEC	Brenda Apple	Barry Brawley

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

Understanding data collection and sharing process among the member agencies was identified as a need during the Spring 2018 meeting. A table top exercise (TTX) was designed to address this need. The TTX bore fruit within a month as we put to use the new relationships and increased understanding to enhance data exchange as member agencies responded to impacts from three tropical storm systems.

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

RRT 4 continued to dedicate meeting time to state and local concerns. Meetings in Alabama and Kentucky 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 RRT coordinated the delivery of training programs specific to the needs of state and local responders throughout the region to include Inland SCAT classes and oil spill response.

The Spring 2018 RRT IV meeting in Mobile devoted significant time to a Hot-wash for activities related to Hurricane Irma response. Tribal preparedness and response, presentation and discussion lead by April Sells of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. OSC Reports on an Anhydrous Ammonia barge fire, KC-130 response, planning topics included activities carried out by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and the Alabama Oil and Gas Board. A need for better coordination of data collection and sharing was identified.

The Fall 2018 RRT IV meeting was a joint meeting with RRT 5. The meeting was planning oriented with an emphasis on planning and response in the Ohio River area. We looked at the planning process of three sub-area plans. Presentations and discussions were led by local, state and federal personnel. Support of these efforts was demonstrated through the attendance of leadership from the Commonwealth of Kentucky to include the Lieutenant Governor and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

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)

Nothing Significant to Report