



REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS (RRT) 101

RRT IV MAY 12-14, 2026

REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS 101

TOPICS COVERED TODAY:

WHAT IS AN RRT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

WHY DO RRT'S EXIST?

NATIONAL SYSTEM PLANS / REGION IV REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (RCP)

MEMBER AGENCIES / KEY PARTNERSHIPS

RRT FUNCTIONS

WHAT IS A RRT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

◆ **AN RRT IS A PLANNING AND COORDINATION BODY OF PROFESSIONALS COMPRISED OF STATE, TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTED TO EFFECTIVELY MINIMIZING ADVERSE EFFECTS OF:**

◆ ***OIL AND CHEMICAL INCIDENTS THAT AFFECT HUMAN SAFETY, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT***

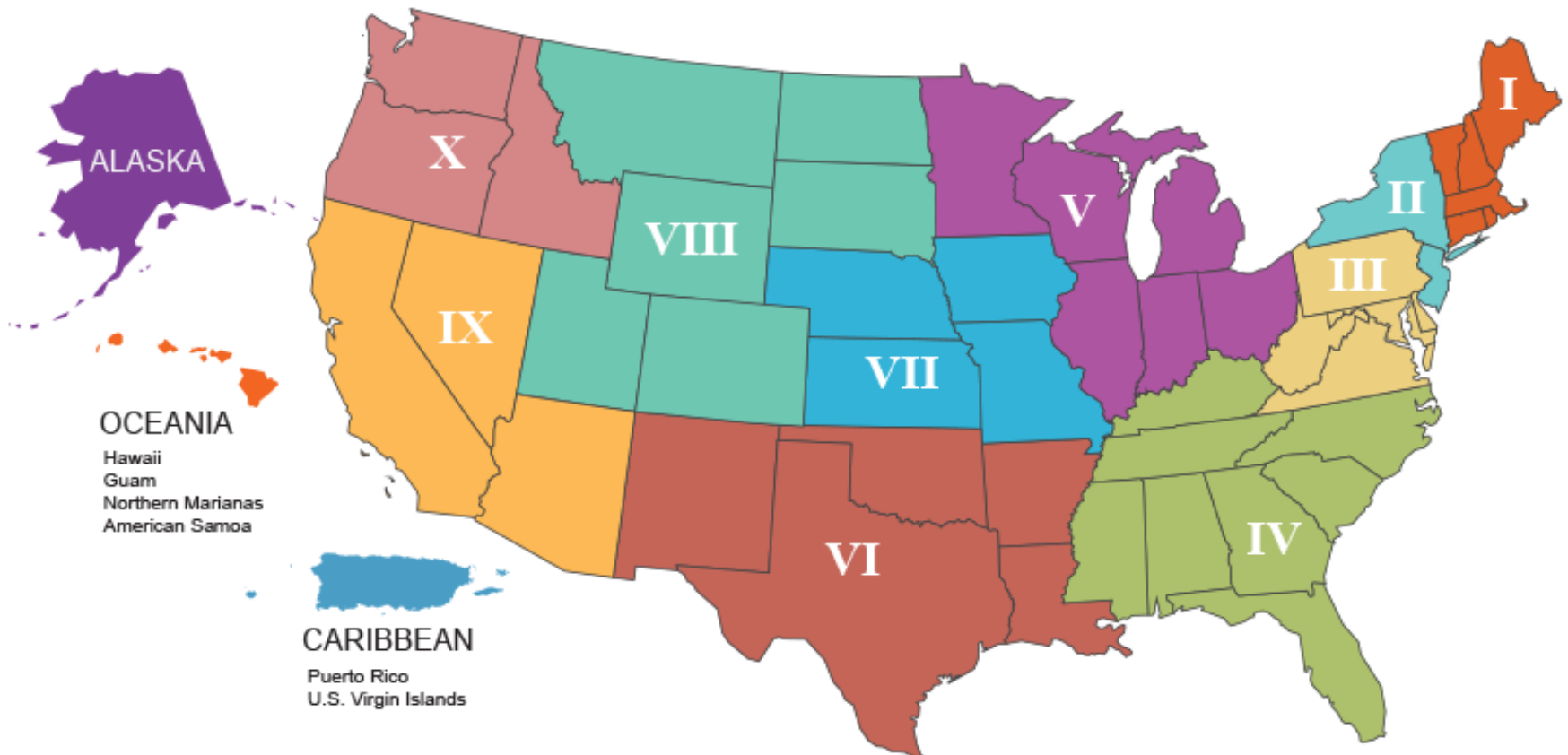
◆ **There are 13 RRTs, one for each of the FEMA regions, to include one for Alaska, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin.**

◆ **RRTs are co-chaired by the EPA and the USCG.**

◆ **States that make up RRT IV: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee**

RRT REGIONS

RRT Areas



WHAT IS A RRT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

- **RRTs MEET TO:**
 - **REVIEW AND COMMENT ON RECENT RESPONSE ACTIONS OR OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE PREPARATION, IMPLEMENTATION, OR EXERCISE OF REGIONAL AND/OR LOCAL PLANS;**
 - **TO CONDUCT ADVANCE PLANNING FOR USE OF DISPERSANTS OR OTHER CHEMICAL AGENTS IN RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS;**
 - **TO CONDUCT OR PARTICIPATE IN TRAINING AND EXERCISES AS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES OF THE RESPONSE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE REGION.**

WHY DO RRT'S EXIST?

- **NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK:** A GUIDE THAT DETAILS HOW THE NATION CONDUCTS ALL-HAZARDS RESPONSE— FROM THE SMALLEST INCIDENT TO THE LARGEST CATASTROPHE. THIS DOCUMENT ESTABLISHES A COMPREHENSIVE, NATIONAL, ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH TO DOMESTIC INCIDENT RESPONSE.
- **THE FRAMEWORK IDENTIFIES THE KEY RESPONSE PRINCIPLES, AS WELL AS THE ROLES AND STRUCTURES THAT ORGANIZE NATIONAL RESPONSE.**
 - IT DESCRIBES HOW COMMUNITIES, STATES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE-SECTOR AND NGO PARTNERS APPLY THESE PRINCIPLES FOR A COORDINATED, EFFECTIVE NATIONAL RESPONSE.
- IT DESCRIBES SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXERCISES A LARGER ROLE, INCLUDING INCIDENTS WHERE FEDERAL INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED AND CATASTROPHIC INCIDENTS WHERE A STATE WOULD REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT.
 - IT LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, DECISIONMAKERS AND SUPPORTING ENTITIES TO PROVIDE A UNIFIED NATIONAL RESPONSE.

WHY DO RRT'S EXIST?

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF FWPCA OF 1972, AS AMENDED BY THE CWA OF 1977, AND SECTION 105 OF THE CERCLA OF 1980, THE NCP WAS DEVELOPED BY THE EPA.

NATIONAL OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE NCP, 40 CFR 300.

40 CFR 300.115 (RRT's):

- ◆ ESTABLISHES REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS (RRTs) TO **ENHANCE COORDINATED RESPONSES** TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RELEASES. THESE TEAMS BRING TOGETHER FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO **PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, INTEGRATE DIVERSE RESOURCES, AND STREAMLINE DECISION-MAKING DURING EMERGENCIES.**

- ◆ BY FOSTERING INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION, THE RRTs ENSURE:
 - ◆ *RAPID, INFORMED ACTIONS* TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

 - ◆ OFFERING *GUIDANCE* ON REMEDIATION STRATEGIES AND EFFICIENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

 - ◆ THIS STRUCTURE NOT ONLY STRENGTHENS PREPAREDNESS BUT ALSO PROMOTES *CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND A UNIFIED APPROACH* TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES.

WHY DO RRT'S EXIST?

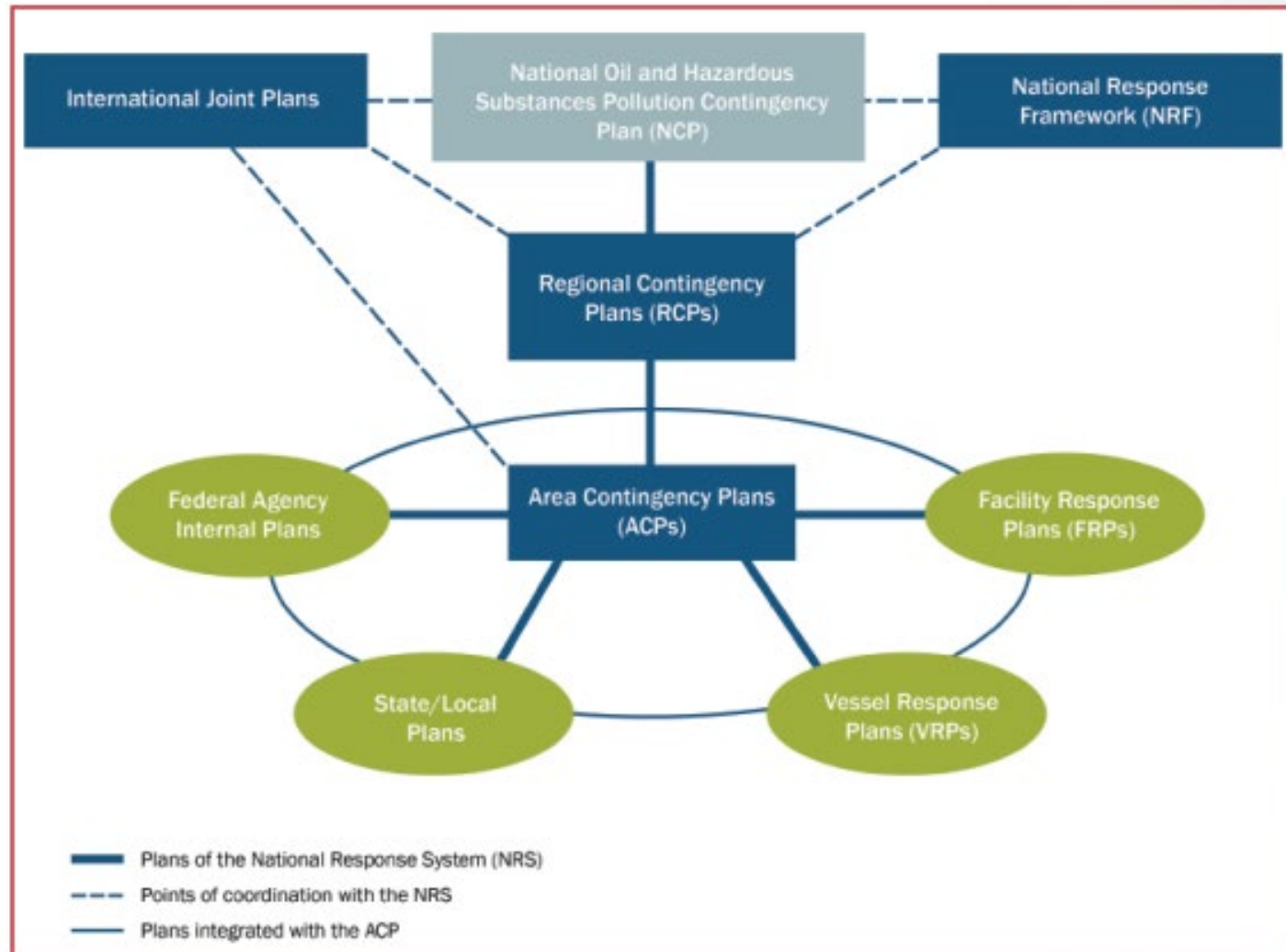
- **THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) IS A COMPANION DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES STANDARD COMMAND AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES THAT APPLY TO RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.**
- **THIS SYSTEM PROVIDES A CONSISTENT, NATIONWIDE TEMPLATE TO ENABLE FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND NGOs TO WORK TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR, PREVENT, RESPOND TO, RECOVER FROM, AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF INCIDENTS REGARDLESS OF CAUSE, SIZE, LOCATION, OR COMPLEXITY.**
- **THIS CONSISTENCY PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR UTILIZATION OF THE NIMS FOR ALL INCIDENTS, RANGING FROM DAILY OCCURRENCES TO INCIDENTS REQUIRING A COORDINATED FEDERAL RESPONSE.**

NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM PLANS

◆ 40 CFR 300.210 OF THE NCP STATES:

- ◆ A REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN SHALL BE PREPARED FOR EACH STANDARD FEDERAL REGION.
- ◆ EACH RRT DEVELOPS A REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENSURE ROLES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES DURING AN ACTUAL INCIDENT ARE CLEAR.
- ◆ THE NCP SETS STANDARDS FOR REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS (RCPS) AND AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS (ACPs) AND PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THOSE PLANS, AND THE ACTIVITIES THAT THEY DESCRIBE, CAN BE ORGANIZED.
- ◆ THE THREE LEVELS OF CONTINGENCY PLANS UNDER THE NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM INTERACT IN A HIERARCHICAL FASHION.

Relationship of Plans



There are three levels of contingency plans under the national response system: National Contingency Plan, Regional Contingency Plans, and Area Contingency Plans. The relationships between these plans and other planning mechanisms are described above.

REGION IV RCP

- ◆ **DEFINES GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES (TAKEN FROM THE MOA BETWEEN EPA REGION 4, USCG- EAST DISTRICT, SOUTHEAST DISTRICT AND HOMELAND DISTRICT).**
 - ◆ **INLAND ZONE – EPA**
 - ◆ **COASTAL ZONE – USCG**
- ◆ **APPLICABLE TO DISCHARGES OF OIL INTO OR ON THE NAVIGABLE WATERS AND ADJOINING SHORELINES OF THE US.**
- ◆ **APPLICABLE TO RELEASES INTO THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE INLAND ZONE, OF HAZSUB, AND POLLUTANTS OR CONTAMINANTS WHICH MAY PRESENT AN IMMINENT AND SUBSTANTIAL DANGER TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE.**

REGION IV RCP

- ◆ **CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO FEDERAL OSC FROM RRT MEMBER AGENCIES DURING RESPONSE ACTIONS.**

- ◆ **CONTAINS SECTIONS FOR POLICY, RESPONSIBILITY, CONCEPTS AND ORGANIZATION OF INCIDENT RESPONSE:**
 - ◆ **COMMAND**
 - ◆ **OPERATIONS**
 - ◆ **PLANNING**
 - ◆ **LOGISTICS**
 - ◆ **FINANCE**

- ◆ **THE REGION IV RCP CAN BE FOUND AT:**
 - ◆ **[REGION 4 REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM](https://r4data.response.epa.gov/r4rrt/)**
[HTTPS://R4DATA.RESPONSE.EPA.GOV/R4RRT/](https://r4data.response.epa.gov/r4rrt/)

MEMBER AGENCIES / KEY PARTNERSHIPS

- ◆ RRT IV IS COMPRISED OF THE SEVEN SOUTHEASTERN STATES (ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TENNESSEE), ONE COMMONWEALTH (KENTUCKY), AND SIX FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.
- ◆ EPA, USCG, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DOD, FEMA, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, USDA, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, GSA, DOJ, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Working together to protect against threats to our land, air and water



RRT FUNCTIONS

RESPONSE - PLANNING - TRAINING - COORDINATION

- ◆ **THE RRT PROVIDES SUPPORT, ADVICE, AND ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERAL ON-SCENE COORDINATORS (OSCs).**
- ◆ **THE RRT IS ACTIVATED AT THE REQUEST OF THE OSC OR ANY MEMBER AGENCY. ANY STATE OR TRIBE CAN REQUEST THE RRT BE ACTIVATED THROUGH THEIR RRT REPRESENTATIVES.**
- ◆ **ONCE ACTIVATED, THE RRT OFTEN CONSULTS VIA TELECONFERENCE CALL. THIS KEEPS THE AGENCIES FROM BURDENING THE RESPONSE SCENE AND ALLOWS THEM TO BE CLOSE TO THEIR SUPPORT NETWORKS, STAFF AND RESOURCES.**
- ◆ **REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS IS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE RRT**

RRT FUNCTIONS

- **RESPONSE:**
 - **RRTs PROVIDE A FORUM FOR FEDERAL AGENCY FIELD OFFICES AND STATE AGENCIES TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR ABILITIES TO RESPOND TO ON-SCENE COORDINATOR'S (OSC'S) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.**
 - **RRT MEMBERS DO NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO RELEASES OR SPILLS, BUT MAY BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ADVICE, EQUIPMENT, OR MANPOWER TO ASSIST WITH A RESPONSE.**

RRT FUNCTIONS

- **PLANNING:**

- **EACH RRT DEVELOPS A REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (RCP) TO ENSURE THAT THE ROLES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES DURING AN ACTUAL INCIDENT ARE CLEAR.**
- **FOLLOWING AN INCIDENT, THE RRT REVIEWS THE OSC'S REPORTS TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS WITH THE REGION'S RESPONSE TO THE INCIDENT AND IMPROVES THE PLAN AS NECESSARY.**
- **ACCOMPLISHED BY RRT COORDINATOR EFFORTS TO CAPTURE LESSONS LEARNED (EXERCISE / REAL WORLD EVENTS) AND COORDINATE PLAN IMPROVEMENT WORKGROUPS AS NECESSARY.**

RRT FUNCTIONS

- **TRAINING:**
 - **RRTs PROVIDE SIMULATION EXERCISES OF THE RCP OR AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN (ACP) THAT EACH RRT MAINTAINS.**
 - **TEST THE ABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO COORDINATE THEIR EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES.**
 - **ANY MAJOR PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED AS A RESULT OF THESE EXERCISES MAY BE ADDRESSED AND CHANGED IN THE RCP.**

RRT FUNCTIONS

- **COORDINATION:**

- **THE RRTS IDENTIFY AVAILABLE RESOURCES FROM EACH FEDERAL AGENCY AND STATE WITHIN THEIR REGIONS. SUCH RESOURCES INCLUDE:**
 - **EQUIPMENT**
 - **GUIDANCE**
 - **TRAINING**
 - **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE**
- **WHEN THERE ARE TOO FEW RESOURCES IN A REGION, THE RRT CAN REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT RESOURCES WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING AN INCIDENT.**
- **THIS COORDINATION BY THE RRTS ASSURES THAT RESOURCES ARE USED AS WISELY AS POSSIBLE, AND THAT NO REGION IS LACKING WHAT IT NEEDS TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**





QUESTIONS