

RRT I Meeting
Co-Chairs/States Break-out Discussion Summary
April 26th 2006
EPA New England Regional Laboratory
North Chelmsford, Massachusetts

Participants

Arthur Johnson, EPA RRT Co-Chair	Marc DeCaprio, CTDEP
CAPT Mark Landry, USCG RRT Co-Chair	Michael Mulhare, RIDEM
Dave McIntyre, EPA	Rick Berry, NHDES
Albe Simenas, MassDEP	Carroll Brown, NHDES
Janine Commerford, MassDEP	Barbara Parker, MEDEP

Discussion Highlights

- Clarify role of state OSC in a National Response System(NRS)/Incident of National Significance (INS) response.

- States concerned that when they request federal support during an INS they will be supplanted by the Principal Federal Official (PFO) and other higher-level federal response entities.

- Suggestion to focus on basic oil-and-hazmat response state/federal coordination via tabletop exercises during the RRT meetings.

- Need to work on effective coordination between the RRT response mechanism and the PFO/Joint Field Office (JFO) coordination mechanisms.

- Suggestion to populate Unified Command general staff (e.g., Ops Section Chief and Deputy Ops Section Chief) with personnel from multiple agencies and organizations.

- What is the relationship between the RRT and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) during an emergency response?

- MEDEP stated that assigning a DEP responder will attend each Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) meeting worked well to improve coordination between the DEP and the LEPC.

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- Discussed tension between “top-down” FEMA/DHS approach towards emergency response and traditional “bottom-up” NCP oil and hazmat response protocols.

- Discussed tension between EPA/DEP’s need to characterize the “hot zone” and sample to document public safety concerns and the FBI/law enforcement’s focus on evidence collection.

- Recommend handing out RRT member list at meetings.

- Suggestion to incorporate tabletop exercises (oil/hazmat release, in-situ burn, chemical countermeasures, places of refuge)

- Suggestion to look at other RRTs' mission statements, yearly goals, etc.

- Suggestion to develop Regional MOU to facilitate sharing of equipment and personnel across the states to provide mutual aide during oil and hazmat responses. Mike Mulhare, RIDEM, provided an existing MOU and requested feedback.

Questions/Comments, contact:

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