

RRT I Meeting Summary
October 27th, 2005
Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Barbara Parker, Maine DEP:** Delivered an overview of the Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee's Oil Spill Seminar, which occurred the previous two days and focused on the oil transportation system from a risk management perspective. Slides were shown detailing Maine's oil transportation statistics, including barrels delivered, numbers of spills and vessel transits. David Sait recently retired from the Maine DEP. [PowerPoint](#)
- **Arthur Johnson, EPA RRT Co-Chair:** Discussed the agenda for the day's meeting. The June meeting had a focus on the RRT's role in terrorism and WMD; this meeting would take a closer look at our role in natural disaster. EPA was only able to send a few members to the RRT meeting due to the agency's on-going hurricane response efforts.
- **CAPT Mary Landry:** The ME/NH Area Seminar was valuable for responders as well as industry representatives. CAPT Steve Garrity, Commander of Sector Northern New England, recently represented the USCG at David Sait's retirement ceremony. He presented Mr. Sait with the Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award on behalf of Admiral Pekoske, Commander, First Coast Guard District.

OSC Reports

- **Arthur Johnson:** Replaced the scheduled speakers (Mia Pasquerella, Janis Tsang, and Ted Bazenas) who were deployed to field assignments.
 - **Nantucket Landfill Fire on August 13-16:** On Saturday, August 13, 2005 at 1700 hours, EPA responded to an on-going landfill fire on Nantucket Island to provide air monitoring support at the request of the local fire department and MADEP. USCG Sector Providence was notified of the situation and worked with EPA to have the Agency respond as the FOSC. EPA integrated into the Unified Command and conducted air monitoring and sampling for total particulates, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide, volatile organic compounds, lead, and asbestos. Air monitoring results were reviewed by Unified Command, which included EPA, MADEP, the fire department, the PRP (Town of Nantucket), ATSDR, and the local Board of Health.

Approximately 45 homes located within a ten-mile radius of the landfill were impacted by the plume. Residents complained of respiratory difficulty and a decrease in air quality. The local hospital reported that 2 people had reported respiratory irritation, however, hospital officials were not certain that these cases were directly related to the fire.

EPA's presence on-site helped to accelerate the pace of the PRP's response, and the air monitoring data collected demonstrated that it was safe for the fire department to continue with their activities and that no evacuations or shelter-in-place actions were required. Following agreement among Unified Command that firefighting efforts at

the landfill were effective and the plume greatly reduced, EPA collected one additional set of air sampling data on August 16, 2005, ceasing on-site operations that day.

- **US Postal Service Exercise, Springfield, MA:** On August 23, USPS conducted an exercise to test the notification and monitoring system for Anthrax in their Springfield facility. EPA was originally notified about the exercise from the City of Springfield, who requested EPA's presence. The exercise was a success and identified some key concerns for future planning, including sample transportation, mass-decon and notification. During the exercise, EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Ted Bazenas was staged and awaiting notification to respond, however, he was never actually notified. The notification system was determined to have not worked properly because of the exercise artificialities, i.e., Postal Service Headquarters did not pass the exercise notification to the NRC as they were not actively playing in the exercise.
- **CAPT Mary Landry:** Discussed the USCG District reorganization. The USCG is in the process of merging the two traditional functions of Marine Safety and Operations into the new model of Preparedness, Response and Planning. The reorg is a ground-up plan, beginning with our field units, followed by Districts/Areas and ending with our Headquarters. Our pollution response function at the field units has been located throughout the new organizational structure, but we hope that is transparent to the response community. When the USCG District reorganizes on December 1, 2005, CAPT Mark Landry, the Chief of the Response Division, will become the Co-Chair for RRT 1, 2 and the Joint Response Team with the Canadian Coast Guard.

Agency Reports

USCG Sector Northern New England: CAPT Steve Garrity spoke about the upcoming Ardent Sentry 06 NORTHCOM exercise that will take place in Maine in May of 2006. Sector NNE recently held a terrorism/mass rescue operations drill called Invincible Ghost. It identified a worklist of issues for the Area Committees to tackle.

USCG MSO Providence: CAPT Roy Nash explained that the MSO and Group Woods Hole will merge into Sector Southern New England on December 19, 2006. The Gov't-Led PREP exercise scheduled for September 2005 has been postponed to February 13-17, 2006 due to Hurricane Katrina response operations.

USCG Sector Long Island Sound: CAPT Peter Boynton discussed a recent response to a 9000 gallon diesel spill in New Haven. The emergency response phase went well, with most of the oil contained. The USCG is receiving support from EPA because most of the diesel is in the soil, which is not the USCG's area of expertise. The Sector was involved in the investigation of intentional sewage discharge from the Fishers Island Ferry. On September 30, the operations manager for the ferry plead guilty to two counts against the Refuse Act. The Area Committee will meet on Long Island to discuss changes to the ACP. The TOPOFF 3 after-action report should be released soon. A recent draft version was surprisingly candid in its review of the

response exercise. The point of the exercise was to stress the capabilities of the response community and the report does a good job capturing those cracks.

USCG Sector Boston: CAPT James McDonald outlined the Sector's on-going work with the LNG deepwater port terminals. The deepwater ports have pros and cons for mitigating risk. While having the LNG off-shore reduces the risk to the community, the ships must ride a single point mooring 12-13 miles offshore of Cape Ann for up to 7 days, greatly increasing the risk to the ship. The proposals are moving ahead quickly, as they have a strict 356 day limit on the permitting process that must be met. A new proposal from AES to build a facility on Brewster Island has been submitted. On September 20, Sector Boston participated in the PortStep exercise, an advanced table-top terrorism exercise that involved more than 100 participants from 30 agencies. Sector Boston wanted to focus the exercise on the Critical Incident Management Phase of a response, but the large numbers of participants would have made it too difficult to effectively manage. The exercise identified many issues that the Area Maritime Security Committee will address. Sector Boston has participated in the investigation of environmental crimes involving an entire line of carriers. Because the investigation is on-going, CAPT McDonald couldn't elaborate.

EPA- Arthur Johnson: The CANUSEAST Plan has been completed. Radiation training has been rescheduled for the spring of 2006 due to staff deployment to the Hurricane Katrina Response. The radiation training will focus on safety and equipment usage. More information concerning recent EPA activities may be found in the presentation summaries.

RI DEM- Michael Mulhare: RI DEM will host a fast-water booming course designed to educate contractors on fast-water booming strategies and techniques. All response agencies are encouraged to take advantage of DHS-sponsored courses. These courses are free and valuable training opportunities. During the recent flood season, DEM responded to a 20,000 gallon underground oil spill. Recently, the DEM responded to a cross-border tanker spill in conjunction with Massachusetts. The 3,500 gallon spill occurred on I-195 in Seekonk. The DEM responder on duty just happened to be near the fax machine when the notification arrived. Since RI DEM was in a much better location to respond than MA DEP, RI DEM crossed the border and took action while MA DEP was enroute. This response highlights the need for person-to-person communications and not relying solely on electronic communications for notifications.

CT DEP- Mark DeCaprio: CT DEP has worked closely with Sector LIS on updates to the ACP, including identifying sensitive areas and equipment staging areas. The CT DEMHS is developing a state-wide database for responders to share information. CT is conducting a transportation survey in New Haven to identify vessel/rail/vehicle/air traffic trends and patterns. The information collected will be valuable for prevention, response and planning efforts in the area.

NH DES- Rick Berry: NH has recently experienced catastrophic flooding in the south western region of the state, most heavily near Keene and Alstead. There was one instance of a 20ft wave from a dam failure that destroyed 45 homes and damaged many others. DES worked to get underground storage tanks pumped out to avoid spills. NH DOT has taken the lead for debris removal. Five counties in NH are eligible for federal disaster relief funding.

ME DEP- Barbara Parker: ME DEP recently responded to a spill of 4,000 – 5,000 gallons into the Aroostook River. The spill occurred during the start-up of a plant on the river. Very high river flow resulted in odor impacts rather than sheens and slicks. A portion of the released oil impacted Canadian waters. Fortunately, good cross-border relationships were already in place from the recent CANUSLANT exercise. An MOA is being developed with ME EMA for WMD incidents. Under the MOA, the DEP would serve as technical assistants for WMD.

DOI- Andrew Raddant: The NRP review should be completed shortly; hopefully, TOPOFF 3 lessons-learned will be used to improve the document. DOI has been active in the response to Hurricane Katrina. Although Dept of Agriculture has the lead for ESF #11, DOI has been heavily involved in both ESF #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) and ESF #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources) functions. DOI remains involved in ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) coordinating debris removal with the USACE. DOI has been reviewing proposals for LNG terminals on Brewster Island and Passamaquoddy land. The LNG proposal on Brewster Island is of interest because Brewster is part of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

OSHA- Bob Hooper: OSHA has been engaged in the various command structures throughout the Gulf Coast for response and recovery operations following the hurricanes. A presentation on OSHA's Special Teams will be given by Fred Malaby.

Seminar Overview/Boundary Workgroup Update- Melanie Morash, EPA: The ME/NH Oil Spill Seminar focused on the oil transportation system from a risk management perspective. A draft MOU concerning transfer of FOSC responsibility between USCG and EPA for pollution response is in review. The workgroup has also reviewed the Region I inland/coastal zone boundaries and proposes no changes.

An overview of the response to a tank failure at the Murphy Oil Refinery in Saint Bernard Parish, Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina was presented by Ms. Morash. [PowerPoint](#) The spill occurred in the USCG FOSC zone, but was closely coordinated with EPA because of the impact to homes, soil and air quality. EPA has been involved primarily in the cleanup of oil-impacted public and private inland areas. Approximately 25K bbls. of Arabian crude was spilled into the community affecting up to 1700 homes from a 250K bbl tank displaced during the storm. Clean up efforts are ongoing.

CANUSLANT- Scott Lundgren, USCG (alternate USCG RRT1 Co-Chair): The CANUSLANT biennial cross-border response exercise was held June 13-16, 2005 at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, ME. The topic of the exercise was “places of refuge” for ships with problems that could cause more damage if they are kept off shore, rather than being brought into port. The exercise maintained a pollution focus, although some aspects of places of refuge for security reasons were discussed. The exercise consisted of four distinct phases: Education, Issue Group, Table Top, and Equipment Demonstration. [PowerPoint.](#)

OSHA Special Response Teams (SRT)- Fred Malaby, OSHA: The purpose of the presentation was to educate the response community about OSHA's special response teams, as

well as to dispel any misconceptions about their purpose and capabilities. OSHA's National Emergency Response Plan (NEMP) was written to coordinate the agency's assistance to responders and outlined the creation of Specialized Response Teams (SRTs) for use during specific incidents. Each region maintains a region-specific Regional Emergency Response Plan (REMP). These plans are only activated during nationally significant incidents, usually in conjunction with NRP activation. When OSHA activates the REMP, it no longer acts in an enforcement role, but rather in a support/technical specialist role for the responders. There are four special response teams available for activation: chemical, biological, radiation, and structural. During an incident, OSHA's special teams integrate into the Operations Section of the command structure. Members are selected for the teams based on education, experience, and training. It is important to note that OSHA SRTs are not first responders. Rather, they are employed during the recovery phase. During the emergency phase they provide technical assistance to the response. For more information regarding team make-up, training, roles, equipment and capabilities, [PowerPoint](#) or visit www.osha.gov.

ESF #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) Implementation Procedures- Arthur Johnson, EPA: Although many Region 1 responders have gained valuable experience in TOPOFF 3 and the Hurricane Katrina response, the New England response community does not yet have much real-world experience in the implementation of ESF #10 procedures in Region 1 under FEMA. The potential for a natural disaster to affect multiple New England states is large, specifically an event requiring multiple states to coordinate ESF #10 responses with their own individual Joint Field Office (JFO). Currently, there is an SOP for ESF #10 coordination in draft form, but still needs much work to make it a useful document. It is important for Region 1 to pre-plan for those easily-identifiable issues that we will face if we activate ESF #10, such as funding/cost-share issues. Further, prescribed Mission Assignments can be developed to aide the process. Sometimes, FEMA and states are only given a small window of time following a response where the federal government will fund 100% of mission assignment costs, after which the state will have to pay up to 25% of the total cost. As in the Katrina response, if Louisiana must pay even a small amount of the Mission Assignments, it will be difficult to get any new MAs signed. Responding under our traditional funding sources could lead to a further depletion of our ever-dwindling Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) funds. A policy agreement has been worked out delineating what costs must be taken from the OSLTF/CERCLA vs. Stafford Act under a declared response. For RRT members: although many of our agency representatives are activated under ESFs other than #10 during a Stafford Act response, it is still important to recognize the value of tapping into the RRT coordination channels. RRT relationships and capabilities can add greatly to the success of a response.

Ardent Sentry 06- Jane Ridky, Maine EMA: NORTHCOM's Ardent Sentry exercise series is an annual exercise designed to test the Defense Support to Civil Authorities during a terrorism response. AS-06 will take place in five US border states, including the State of Maine in Region 1. New Brunswick, Canada, will be fully engaged in exercise play. The exercise will have a Command Post and Field Training component over two weeks of play 8-19 May 2006. Maine is using the exercise as an opportunity to introduce the National Incident Management System (NIMS) concept and National Response Plan (NRP) to county and local governments, with training sessions planned over the next few months. The cross-border Maine scenario will

include a pandemic flu component as well as other radiological and chemical incidents. Recently, the President directed Department of Homeland Security (SEC DHS) to participate in AS-06. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is scheduled to stand up a full JFO, though much of the planning still requires coordination. For more information, please call/email Jane Ridky at 207-624-4436 or jane.ridky@maine.gov . [PowerPoint](#)

Hurricane Katrina Response Update

Scott Lundgren/LCDR Claudia Gelzer, USCG gave an overview of USCG and other agency staffing deployed to the affected region. The numbers don't reflect the full involvement of the agencies because not all personnel on-scene were captured and more are still being deployed. Mr. Lundgren was deployed to the JFO in ESF #10, but handled a broad range of USCG Mission Assignments in a USCG support cell. The JFO was set up at a vacant Dillard's department store, which served very well as a JFO facility, with the large square footage and ample parking. The USCG MA's included Search and Rescue, Security for emergency responders and facilities, Debris and Wreck Recovery, and Oil/HAZMAT removal. The EPA was the chair of ESF #10 and USCG was the vice-chair because the oil/HAZMAT incidents affected both agencies' FOSC zones. There were multiple area commands under the JFO that were responding to environmental impacts. Details of each of the major spills at Bass North, Bass South Cox, Murphy and Chevron Empire were presented in [PowerPoint](#). Observations from the response were presented for the RRT. Positives included: smooth effective ESF #10 response, strong interagency partnerships and JFO logistical support. Challenges included: (for USCG) raised expectations for the USCG under NRP responses, using chain of command for resource requests before turning to the JFO, and having appropriate JFO staffing from local area; (for NRS community) addressing Stafford vs. OSLTF/CERCLA funded response with FEMA, address mechanisms for federal support to FOSCs; (for NRP community) make federal support process (Mission Assignment process) more proactive and nimble, and continuing education in NRP, NIMS, ICS, and Mission Assignment processes.

LCDR Gelzer spoke about the JFO in Mississippi, which had less of a national focus than Louisiana. MS had the many of the same MAs as LA, but had less funding to accomplish them. The MS JFO was set up in an old MCI corporate building. ESF #3 debris removal responsibilities between the USACOE and the USCG were very much unclear to the USCG. The USCG tried to push the state of MS to make requests to FEMA, so the state's would not miss the window for federal relief funds and be stuck with the full clean-up costs. The state indicated that they were waiting for the locals to make the requests.

Arthur Johnson, EPA: The magnitude of the disaster is difficult to comprehend through photographs. The JFO in Louisiana operated more like the old Disaster Field Office than the new NRP outline. A new organization of coordination was developed on scene called an Area Field Office, each covering a few parishes. EPA is heavily involved in coordinating the HAZMAT mission of reconnaissance and recovery. Problem areas are still being identified as the EPA mission areas continue to grow. However, the environmental assessment mission is steadily decreasing. EPA has been providing floodwater, sediment, and air sampling data for local decision-makers. Figuring out who will make the call on the potential demolition of structures is still being debated, with numbers of affected homes potentially in the hundreds of

thousands. EPA will be conducting monitoring and sampling at the various burn sites. ICS is being by EPA to manage its operations. Challenges have been encountered because EPA has a limited supply of ICS-trained personnel, particularly in the area of logistics. Health and safety concerns have been paramount throughout the response, with areas of concern ranging from inoculations, indigenous predators, fatigue, to slips/trips/falls. EPA continues to cycle its employees to and from the region daily, while maintaining daily operations. A video of a regional overflight was shown to illustrate the extent of destruction.

Questions/Comments, contact:

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Items Of Interest From The October 2005 Meeting:

- Upcoming Gov't-Led PREP exercise: Providence Feb 13- 17
- USCG Providence Area Security Exercise MAR 14- 16
- Long Island Sound Area Committee Meeting DEC 1st
- TOPOFF After-Action Report to be released
- CANUSEAST Plan signed and to be released
- EPA's Radiation Training rescheduled for Spring 2006
- State of CT working on state-wide response directory database
- National Response Plan 1-year review coming up
- DOI has completed draft "Fish, Wildlife, Sensitive Area" Annex for Long Island Sound Area
- CANUSLANT After Action Report to be finalized and distributed to JRT in 2006
- 2005-2006 OSHA Exercises in PowerPoint
- SOPs for NRP-ESF 10 Activation soon to be available in draft form