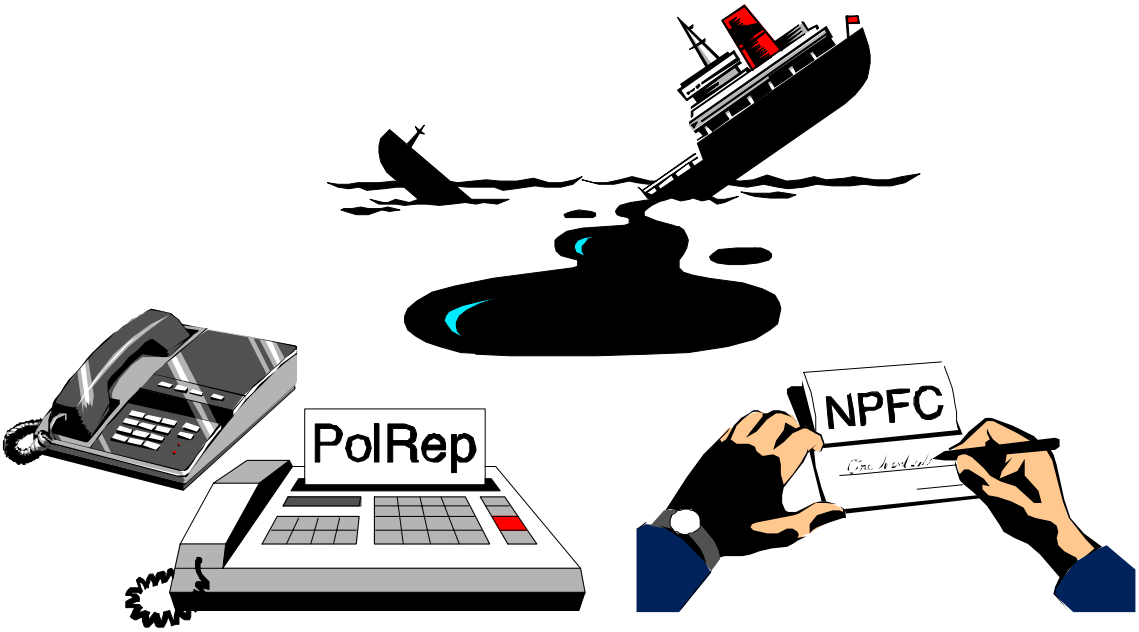
CHAPTER 2

Introduction to OPA and the NPFC



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The material in this chapter is designed to provide an overview of the background, mission, and organization of the National Pollution Funds Center. The material is divided into the following subchapters:

SUBCHAPTER	CONTAINS DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT
Overview of OPA and NPFC	• History of OPA and the OSLTF, NPFC roles and missions, Case Teams, and roles of organizations that use pollution funds.
NPFC Functional Contacts	• Points of contact, including Regional Managers and Senior Management and their phone numbers and areas of responsibility.
National Response System Overview	• Overview of the National Response System functions and components.
Acronyms	• Acronyms commonly used by the environmental response community.

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OVERVIEW OF OPA and NPFC

Origins

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) became law on 18 August 1990 in response to the need for legislation to govern the discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil into the navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, and "exclusive economic zone" of the United States. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) was designated by OPA as a funding source to carry out the Statute and its administration and management was delegated to the United States Coast Guard. In response to this fiduciary responsibility, the Commandant established the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) on 20 February 1991. The NPFC is an independent Coast Guard Headquarters Unit reporting directly to the Chief of Staff.

Roles and Missions

The NPFC is the fiduciary agent for the OSLTF and the portion of the Superfund used by the US Coast Guard for response to hazardous substance released in the coastal zone. In accordance with OPA, and other pertinent laws and regulations, the NPFC executes programs to accomplish the following principal objectives:

1. Provide funding to permit timely removal actions;
2. Provide funding for the initiation of natural resource damage assessments (NRDA) for oil spill incidents;
3. Compensate claimants who demonstrate certain types of damages caused by oil pollution;
4. Recover funds owed by parties responsible for oil pollution costs and damages; and
5. Certify the financial responsibility of vessel owners and operators;
6. Manage the US Coast Guard use of the Superfund for response to hazardous material releases.

Assisting the Coast Guard with the administration of the OSLTF is the Treasury Department which is the Trustee for the Fund, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which coordinates the cleanup of inland oil spills, and trustees who oversee the restoration of natural resource damages.

Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF)

The OSLTF consists of the Emergency Fund and the Principal Fund, which together may reach $1 billion. Annually,the Emergency Fund is provided with $50 million no-year money to fund removal actions by the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), initiation of NRDAs by federal trustees, and immediate removal actions by states. The Principal Fund, the remainder of the OSLTF, is comprised of monies from tax collections, recoveries, fines, penalties, and interest. It is used to pay claims and for Congressional appropriations to carry out other OPA requirements.

CERCLA/ Superfund

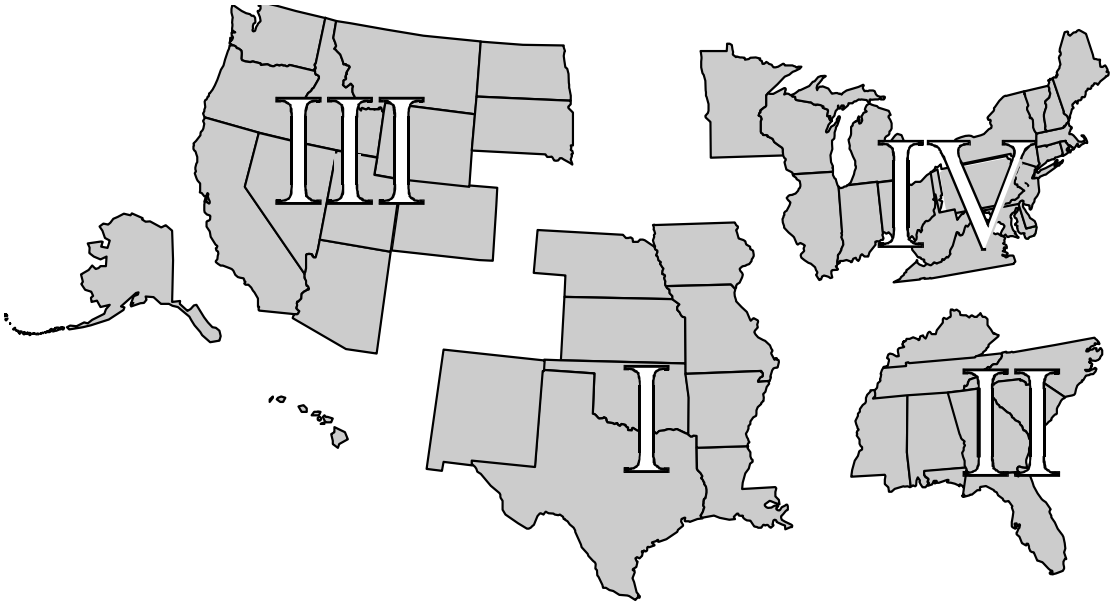
The NPFC also serves as the Coast Guard's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)/ Superfund manager for funds provided by EPA for hazardous substance incident response. CERCLA funding is used to provide Coast Guard FOSCs with the training and equipment to respond to hazardous substance incidents.

THE CASE TEAM CONCEPT

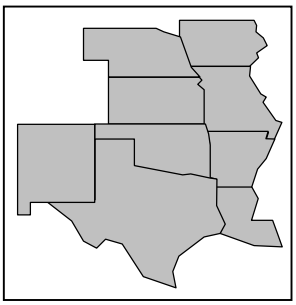
Case Officer/ Case Team Concept

The NPFC operates within a Case Team concept for incident-specific regional actions. There are four case teams assigned to the geographic areas of the United States, specifically: the Southeast, the Gulf Coast, the West Coast, and the Northeast. The Case Team includes legal, financial, and claims specialists. In any incident, the Case Team is responsible for carrying out NPFC missions, which include fund management, cost recovery, and OPA claims adjudication.

The NPFC Regional Manager and Case Team work directly with the FOSC to carry out NPFC responsibilities and to assist the FOSC. Case officers are available to provide advice and assistance 24 hours a day. Information relating to specific cases may be obtained from the Regional Manager.

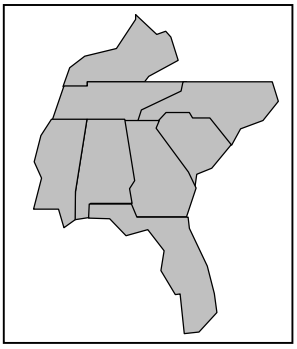


NPFC FUNCTIONAL CONTACTS



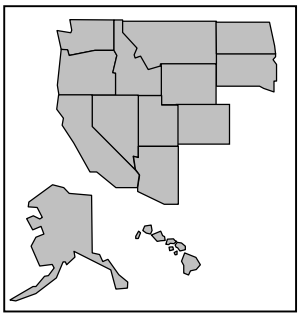
TEAM I **(202) 493-6723**

Responsible for most of CGD8 and EPA Regions VI and VII. Includes: Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and COTP Mobile zones. Does not include CGD8 Mobile, Memphis, Paducah, Louisville, Huntington, and Pittsburgh COTP zones. Includes COTP Mobile zones.



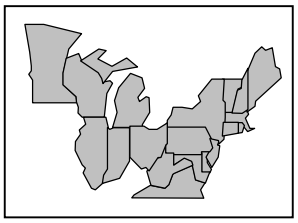
TEAM II **(202) 493-6726**

Responsible for CGD7, portions of CGD5 and CGD8; EPA Region II (Caribbean Section) and EPA Region IV. Includes CGD8 Mobile, Memphis, Paducah, Louisville, Huntington, and Pittsburgh COTP zones; CDG5 Hampton Roads and Wilmington COTP zones; Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia (COTP Hampton Roads zone only), and Pennsylvania (COTP Pittsburgh zone only).



TEAM III **(202) 493-6729**

Responsible for CGD11, CGD13, CDG14, CDG17, and EPA Regions VIII, IX, and X. Includes: Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa.



TEAM IV **(202) 493-6732**

Responsible for CGD1, CGD9, portions of CGD5, and EPA Regions I, II, III, and V. Includes CDG5 COTP Philadelphia and Baltimore zones; Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, Virginia (less COTP Hampton Roads zone), West Virginia, Pennsylvania (less COTP Pittsburgh zone), Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.

CERCLA Contacts

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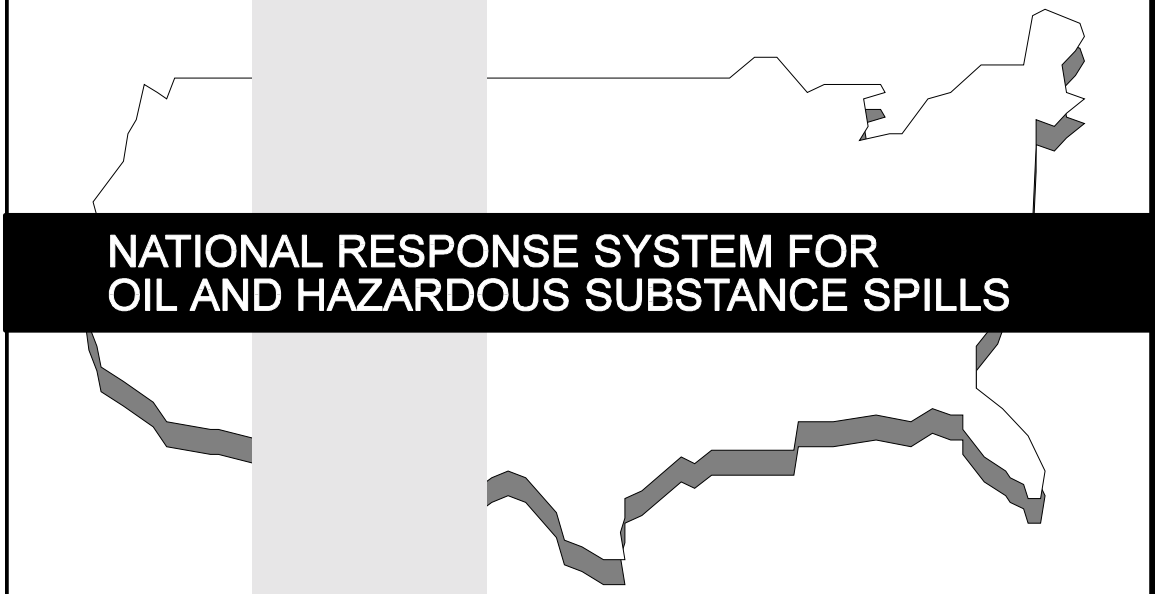
Jack Crawford	**(202) 493-6811**
CLAIMS and NRD Claims	**(800) 280-7118**
Case Management	**(800) 358-2897**
Command Duty Officer Pager	**(800) 759-7243**
	(PIN # 2073906)
Outreach Coordinator	**(202) 493-6999**

NPFC SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Director	Ms. Jan P. Lane (202) 493-6700
Deputy Director	Mr. William R. Grawe (202) 493-6700
Chief, Case Management	Mr. Timothy G. Eastman (202) 493-6721
Chief, Claims	Ms. Linda F. Burdette (202) 493-6831
Chief, Customer Service	Ms. Dana C. Compton (202) 493-6713
Chief, Financial Management	Mr. Darrell W. Neily (202) 493-6800
Chief, Information Technology	Mr. George A. Cognet (202) 493-6761
Chief, Legal	Mr. Derek A. Capizzi (202) 493-6751
Chief, Natural Resource Damage Claims (Acting)	Ms. Carolyn L. Boltin (202) 493-6864
Chief, Vessel Certification	Mr. Edmund C. Armstrong (202) 493-6782 COFR Inquiries (202) 493-6780 Vessel Certification FAX (202) 493-6781



NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

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FOREWORD

In March of 1967, the oil tanker Torrey Canyon ran aground off the southwestern coast of England, resulting in a spill of over 30 million gallons of oil that caused massive environmental and economic damage on the English and French shorelines. Following this incident, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the Departments of Interior and Transportation to study the capabilities of the United States to respond to an incident of this magnitude off our shores. This study, entitled *Oil Pollution: A Report to the President*, concluded that there was a need for public action. The Secretary of the Interior was directed to take the lead in an effort to complete a multi-agency contingency plan for responding to such incidents, and in September 1968, the *National Multi-agency Oil and Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan (NCP)* was completed and signed. This first NCP established a "National Response System" comprised of a hierarchy of organizations charged with coordinating response activities at the national and regional levels.

The resulting National Response System has developed over the years into a dynamic, constantly evolving example of coordinated effort by all levels of government. It is a simple, comprehensive, executable crisis management system capable of handling a wide range of spills or environmental crises. The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 brought about significant changes in the National Response System that have further increased the U.S.'s ability to prepare for and respond to oil and hazardous substance spills.

By its very nature, a response system has to be capable of being continually modified and improved. The success of the National Response System depends on the combined efforts of all agencies and organizations working together at the national, regional, state, and local levels. Every representative plays a vital role in both planning for and responding to an incident.

The purpose of this document is to describe the system in general terms, and to examine and explain the interrelationships between the components of that system.

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NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR OIL AND HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SPILLS

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I. OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

The National Response System (NRS), which has been in place for over 20 years, is a dynamic, constantly evolving example of coordinated efforts to manage environmental emergencies. It provides the national structure for a coordinated response to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases into all media — air, water, and soil. It is a simple, comprehensive, executable, crisis management system capable of expanding or contracting to accommodate the response effort required by the size or complexity of the discharge or release.

The NRS is designed and structured to foster coordination and cooperation with the numerous organizations involved both before and during a spill. Elements of the NRS also provide funding, equipment, manpower, and logistical and scientific support during a spill.

The protocols and guidance for the NRS are established in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which lays out the organizational framework of the Federal government and other state and local agencies during oil and hazardous substance spills. It specifies "who's in charge" and the responsibilities and authorities of the various actors operating under the NRS.

The NCP provides the key components and defines basic organizational relationships for the NRS. It establishes the National Response Team and Regional Response Team management functions. It designates two lead response agencies — the Environmental Protection Agency for inland incidents, and the U.S. Coast Guard for coastal incidents. The NCP uses existing standard Federal regions as the regional response framework, and establishes operational responsibilities and authorities for the On-Scene Coordinator.

The most critical component of the National Response System is the field commander, who is called the predesignated On-Scene Coordinator (OSC). This is the individual who puts it all together — local preparedness planning, contracts, and response personnel. The OSC is the operational decision maker.

The NCP describes the three levels of contingency planning under the NRS: National, Regional and Area, the latter being a new requirement under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The NCP also establishes "special forces" to assist the On-scene Coordinator:

- ***National Strike Force,*** has three strike teams of highly trained, experienced specialists in areas of spill response techniques and operations documentation; NSF Coordination Center**,** which provides "command" focus, logistics, and support services to its teams and On-Scene Coordinators; and Public Information Assist Team, which consists of experienced public affairs specialists assigned to the NSF, and coordinates the demands for information during major incidents.

- ***Environmental Response Team,*** provides expert advice on hazard evaluation, risk assessment, and material treatment technology.

- ***Scientific Support Coordinators,*** provided through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and EPA, advise the OSC on fate and effects of spills, and coordinate input and concerns of the involved scientific community.

  - ***National Response Center,*** receives and relays reports of incidents to appropriate agencies 24 hours a day.

  - ***National Pollution Funds Center,*** administers the relevant portions of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), provides prompt funding to response organizations for removal of oil discharge and mitigation of substantial threats, administers certificates of responsibility; and recovers money from Responsible Parties.

  - ***District Response Groups (DRGs)***. Each DRG assists the OSC by providing technical assistance, personnel, and equipment, including pre-positioned equipment. The DRG includes a District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) consisting of several full-time spill professionals who can assist the OSC in the event a spill exceeds local response capabilities.

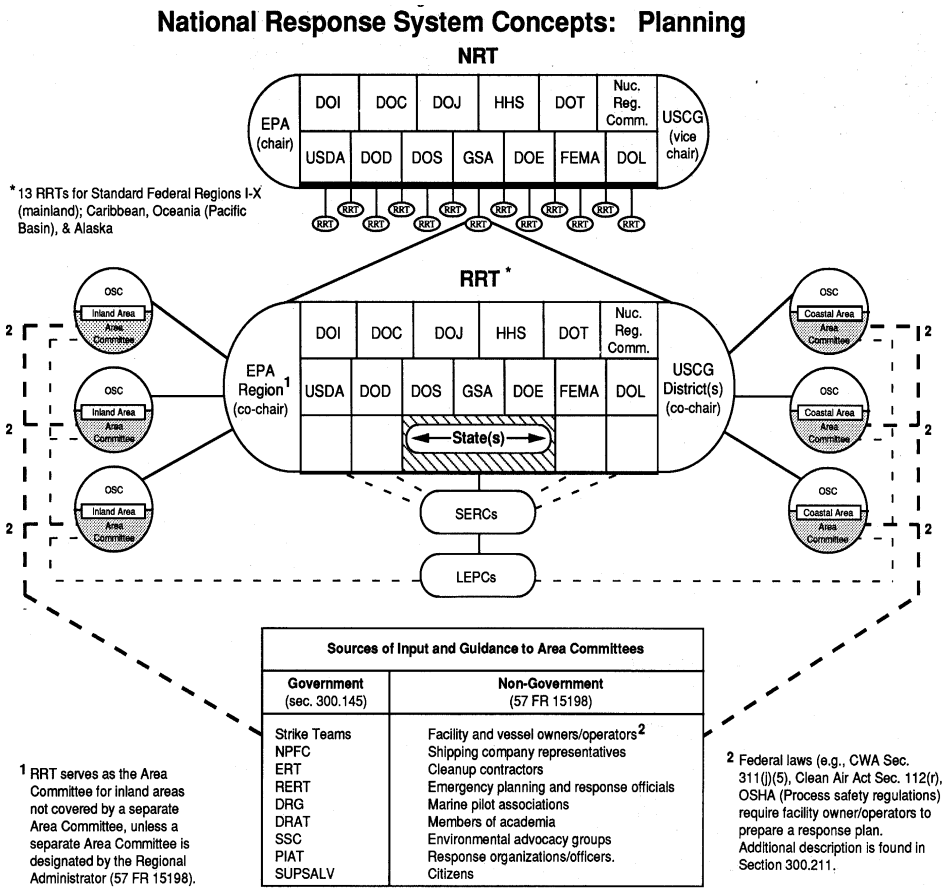
  - ***Radiological Emergency Response Teams (RERTs)***. RERTs provide response support for incidents involving radiological hazards through resources provided by the EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air Programs.

The key to making the NRS work is the extensive, ongoing interagency coordination conducted in Washington, DC, by the National Response Team (NRT), and the similar spirit of cooperation experienced on a regional level by Regional Response Teams (RRTs).

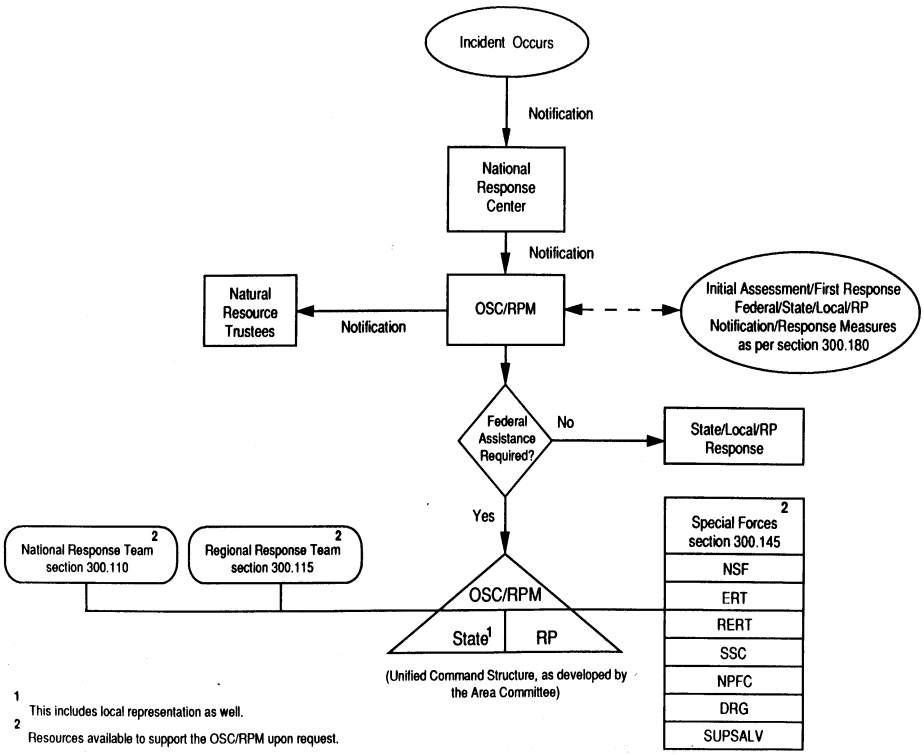
When a spill of oil or hazardous substances occurs, an effective, well organized and seasoned protocol exists, namely the National Response System. If the “crisis de jour” warrants the use of Federal resources, this National Response System infrastructure will be activated. It is effective because it is used every day, it has a strong legal foundation, and it has a source of funds to implement it.

II. NRS COMPONENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As structured under the NCP, the NRS is a three-tiered response and preparedness mechanism that supports an OSC during environmental emergencies by coordinating national, regional, and local government agencies, and by monitoring or directing the actions of the Responsible Party. The organizational concepts of the NRS are depicted in the following two figures.



National Response System Concepts: Response



NATIONAL LEVEL

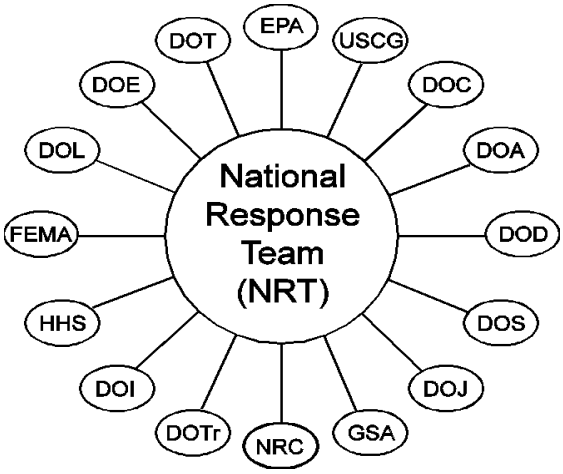
NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

National planning and coordination is accomplished through the National Response Team (NRT), which oversees the nation's ability to respond effectively and efficiently to oil and hazardous substance incidents. One key to making the NRS work is the extensive coordination among the 16 member Federal agencies:

- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG),
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),
- Department of Defense (DOD),
- Department of the Treasury (DOTr),
- Department of Energy (DOE),
- Department of Agriculture (DOA),
- Department of Commerce (DOC),
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS),
- Department of the Interior (DOI),
- Department of Justice (DOJ),

- Department of Labor (DOL),
- Department of Transportation (DOT),
- Department of State (DOS),
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and
- General Services Administration (GSA).

Each agency designates a member with oil or hazardous materials response expertise to the team with sufficient alternatives to ensure representation.



The NRT functions as the Federal "Board of Directors" for spill response. It has two primary roles which are interrelated but distinct. The first is to operate in a planning and coordinating role prior to spills and to take lessons learned from spills and incorporate necessary changes and revisions to the NCP. The second is to be available and active during an incident to provide advice, special expertise, and logistical support as necessary. These complementary roles require continued cooperation and contact by agencies; the NRT holds monthly meetings to assist in this process.

Direct planning and preparedness responsibilities of the NRT include:

- Maintaining national preparedness to respond to a major discharge of oil or release of a hazardous substance that is beyond regional capabilities;

- Monitoring incoming reports from all RRTs and activating for a response action, when necessary;

- Coordinating a national program to assist member agencies in preparedness planning and response, and enhancing coordination of member agency preparedness programs;

- Developing procedures, in coordination with the NSFCC, as appropriate, to ensure the coordination of Federal, state, and local governments, and private response to oil discharges and releases of hazardous substances;

- Monitoring response-related research and development, testing, and evaluation activities of NRT agencies to enhance coordination, avoid duplication of effort, and facilitate research in support of response activities;

- Developing recommendations for response training and for enhancing the coordination of available resources among agencies with training responsibilities under the NCP;

- Reviewing regional responses to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases, including an evaluation of equipment readiness and coordination among responsible public agencies and private organizations; and

- Assisting in developing a national exercise program, in coordination with the NSFCC, to ensure preparedness and coordination nationwide.

The NRT should be activated as an emergency response team when an oil discharge or hazardous substance release exceeds the response capability of the region in which it occurs, transacts regional boundaries, or involves a substantial threat to the public health or welfare or the environment, substantial amounts of property, or substantial threats to natural resources.

The NRT also should be activated if requested by any NRT member. When activated, the NRT may:

- Monitor and evaluate reports and recommend actions to combat the discharge or release;

- Request other Federal, state and local governments, or private agencies, to provide resources under their existing authorities to combat a discharge, or to monitor response operations; and

- Coordinate the supply of equipment, personnel, or technical advice to the affected region from other regions or districts.

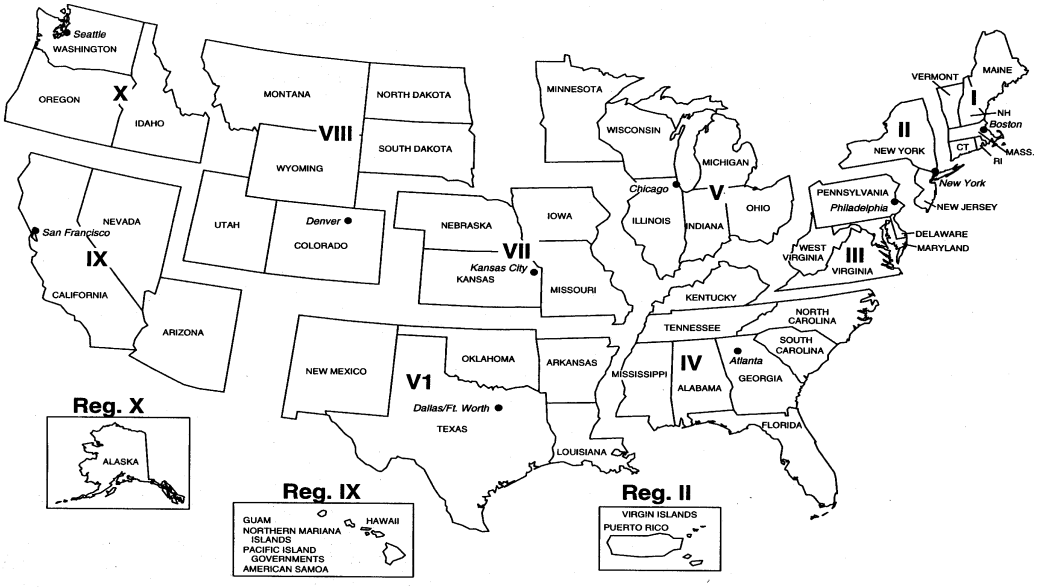
NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER

If an incident involves a spill of more than the legally specified quantities of oil or hazardous substances, the Responsible Party is required by law to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC). The NRC is located at USCG Headquarters, in Washington, DC. It is continuously manned for handling activities related to response actions. It acts as the single point of contact for all pollution incident reporting. Notice of discharges must be made through a 24-hour toll free phone number (1-800-424-8802). The NRC receives and immediately relays telephone notices of discharges or releases to the appropriate predesignated OSC.

The telephone report is distributed to all interested NRT member agencies or Federal entities that have established a written agreement or understanding with the NRC. The Center is funded by DOT and EPA, and is staffed by Coast Guard officers and Marine Science technicians trained to collect specific information.

The National Strike Force is a unique, highly trained group of Coast Guard professionals who maintain and rapidly deploy specialized equipment to support OSCs as they prepare for and respond to oil and hazardous substance incidents. The NSF is composed of four units: three 35-member strike teams (Atlantic Strike Team, Fort Dix, NJ; Gulf Strike Team, Mobile, AL; Pacific Strike Team, Novato, CA); and the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) (Elizabeth City, NC), which manages other units.

Figure 2 -- Standard Regional Boundaries for Ten Regions



The NSF plays an important role by assisting the OSCs with such expertise as:

- Operating spill response equipment (barriers, skimmers, pumps, temporary storage containers, etc.);
- Supervising and monitoring of personnel at spill sites;
- Implementing site safety requirements at hazardous material/spill sites;
- Preparing cost documentation and reports; and
- Supplying command, control, and communications support.

The strike team equipment includes such things as containment barriers and other spill equipment, mobile command posts and communications equipment, personnel protective gear, and photographic supplies.

The NSFCC is located in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and may assist the OSC by providing information on available spill removal resources, personnel, and equipment. The NSFCC will:

- Compile and maintain a comprehensive list of spill removal resources, personnel, and equipment that is available worldwide and within the areas served by the Area Committees;

- Provide technical assistance, equipment, and other resources as requested by the OSC;
- Coordinate use of private and public personnel and equipment to remove a worst case discharge and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such discharge from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near an area served by an Area Committee;
- Provide technical assistance in the preparation of Area Contingency Plans (ACPs);
- Administer Coast Guard strike teams;
- Maintain all Area Contingency Plans approved by the Federal government; and
- Review each of those plans that affects its responsibilities.

The NSFCC provides support and standardization guidance to the three strike teams. It is the home to the Public Information Assist Team (PIAT), and the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP).

PUBLIC INFORMATION ASSIST TEAM

The PIAT consists of public affairs specialists who are familiar with response procedures. The primary function of the PIAT is to meet the demands for public information during a response or exercise. PIAT staff also are available to teach crisis media relations techniques and to help OSCs develop pollution response exercises and drills. PIAT uses state-of-the-art video equipment set up at the NSFCC, and provides a full range of photo, video and graphics services to support NSF activities. For example, PIAT provides video and still photos taken at responses or training exercises, which can be used by the news media, the strike teams, and throughout the Coast Guard.

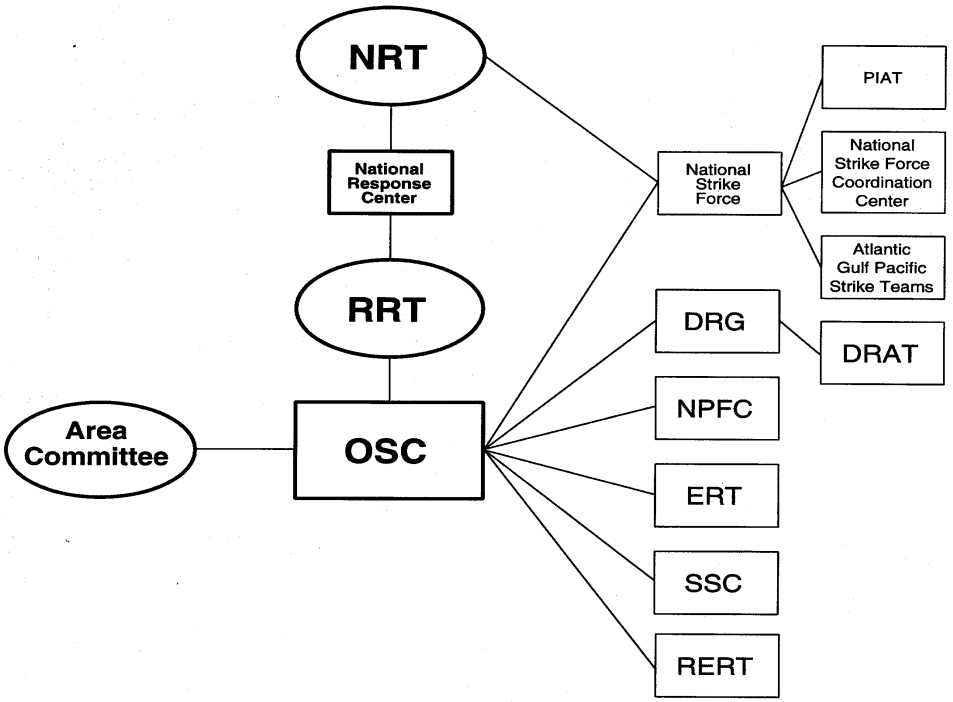
DIRECT RESPONSE GROUPS

DRGs assist the OSC by providing technical assistance, personnel and equipment. Each DRG consists of all Coast Guard personnel and equipment, including marine firefighting equipment, in its district, additional pre-positioned equipment and a DRAT that is available to provide support to the OSC in the event that a spill exceeds local response capabilities.

Each DRG provides available assistance, equipment, and resources when requested by an OSC through the Coast Guard representative to the RRT. It ensures maintenance of all response equipment in its district, and may provide technical assistance in the preparation of the ACP and review each of those plans that affect its area of geographic responsibility.

In deciding where to locate personnel and equipment, the Coast Guard gives priority emphasis to the availability of facilities for loading and unloading equipment by barge, the proximity to an airport capable of supporting large military transport aircraft, the flight time to provide response to spills in all areas of the district with the potential for marine casualties, the availability of trained local personnel, and areas where large quantities of petroleum products are transported.

National Response System Organization



DISTRICT RESPONSE ADVISORY TEAMS

The District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) is a component of the Coast Guard District (m) staff. The primary function of the DRAT is to coordinate the planning for and deployment of District Response Group resources to support the OSC during incident responses. DRATs are responsible for coordinating delivery of field unit training. They also must maintain and deploy equipment. To support these functions, the DRATs must identify and acquire resources needed on scene. DRATs also work with other district staff elements to assure that standard operating procedures (SOPs) are developed, consistent with existing SOPs for other emergencies within the district. This would include ensuring that district resources are trained, exercised, and available to respond when needed.

NATURAL RESOURCES TRUSTEES

A Trustee is an official of a Federal natural resources management agency or a designated state official or Indian tribe or, (in the case of discharge covered by the OPA) a foreign government official, who may pursue claims for damages under Section 1006 of the OPA and Section 107(f) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Where there are multiple trustees because of contiguous or concurrent natural resources or jurisdictions, they should coordinate and cooperate in carrying out their responsibilities.

Upon notification or discovery of injury, threat, loss, or destruction of natural resources, trustees may take the following actions, pursuant to section 107(f) of CERCLA or Section 311(f)(5) of the CWA:

- Conduct a preliminary survey of the area to determine resources that are or may be affected;

- Cooperate with the OSC in coordinating assessments, investigations, and planning;

- Carry out damage assessments; or

- Devise and carry out a plan for restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of equivalent natural resources.

Upon notification or discovery of damages resulting from a discharge of oil occurring after August 18, 1990, the trustees, pursuant to section 1006 of the OPA, are to take the following actions:

- Determine the need for assessment, collect necessary data, and assess natural resource damages; and

- As appropriate, develop and implement a plan for the restoration, rehabilitation, replacement, or acquisition of the equivalent of the natural resources under their trusteeship.

The trustees will provide advice on actions concerning resources that are potentially affected by a discharge of oil; this may include providing assistance to the OSC with response techniques, and predesignating shoreline types and areas in ACPs.

When possible, the OSC shares the use of federal response resources (including aircraft, vessels, and booms to contain and remove discharged oil) with the trustees. The lead administrative trustee is responsible for efficient communications with the OSC and for applying to the OSC for non-monetary resources on behalf of all trustees. The lead administrative trustee is also responsible for applying to the NPFC for funding for damage assessment on natural resources.

Actions which may be taken by any trustee include, but are not limited to the following:

- Requesting that an authorized agency issue an administrative order or injunction against the parties responsible for the discharge or release; or

- Requesting that the lead agency remove or arrange for the removal of any oil or hazardous substances from a contaminated medium.

NATIONAL POLLUTION FUNDS CENTER

The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) is responsible for implementing those portions of Title I of the Oil Pollution Act 90 (OPA 90) that have been delegated to the Secretary of Transportation. The NPFC funds most Federal responses to discharges and threats of discharges affecting the waters of the U.S. The NPFC:

- Issues Certificates of Financial Responsibility to owners and operators of vessels who demonstrate their ability to pay for costs and damages that are incurred by their vessels as a result of oil discharges;
- Provides funding to various response organizations for timely removal actions related to oil discharges;

- Provides compensation to claimants for removal costs and damages caused by oil discharges when the Responsible Party fails to do so;
- Recovers money from persons liable for costs and damages resulting from oil discharges; and
- Provides funds to initiate natural resources damage assessments.

As the fiduciary agency for the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF), and the portion of Superfund available to the Coast Guard, the NPFC manages liability and compensation regimes pertaining to pollution from oil or hazardous substance spills. The NPFC has established a system that provides funds 24 hours a day to OSCs who need immediate funding for removal actions at an incident, to monitor Responsible Party actions, or to initiate an assessment of damages to natural resources.

OSLTF Access. There are four primary ways to access the OSLTF for compensation of response activities.

1. OSC. In the role of first responder and primary coordinator at responses, the OSC has responsibility to manage the response. The OSC determines whether Federal funds are required. The OSC also may hire contractors and mobilize response equipment, resources, and personnel to contain, remove, and dispose of spilled material.

2. State Access. A state may access the OSLTF in one of three ways:

- Upon request of a state governor or pursuant to an agreement with a state, the NPFC may obligate the OSLTF for payment in an amount not to exceed $250,000 per incident for removal costs consistent with the NCP. These funds may be used only for the immediate removal of a discharge, or the mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge (see 33 CFR Part 133).
- The state may submit a claim to the OSLTF for removal costs or damages.
- The state may be hired as a contractor by the OSC.

3. Claims. Claims may be presented to the OSLTF for certain uncompensated removal costs or uncompensated damages resulting from the discharge of oil from a vessel or facility into navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or the exclusive economic zone of the United States (see 33 CFR Parts 135, 136, and 137).

4. Natural Resource Damage Assessments and Restorations. The OSLTF can be used for initiating the assessment of natural resource damages, and for developing and implementing plans for restoration by Federal, state, and Indian tribal Trustees. OPA 90 provides for immediate funding to initiate assessment of natural resource damages. All requests to the NPFC for payment of such damages must be made through the lead Administrative Trustee designated at the time of the incident (see 33 CFR Part 136).

Documentation and Cost Recovery. It is important for all users of the OSLTF to promptly establish record keeping for all resources used and costs incurred. This documentation, used for cost recovery purposes as well as for overall fund management, must identify the source and circumstances of the incident, the Responsible Party or Parties, and present and potential impacts on public health and welfare, and to the environment. When appropriate, documentation also will be collected for

scientific understanding of the environment and for research and development of improved response methods and techniques.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Environmental Response Team (ERT) is established by EPA in accordance with its disaster and emergency response responsibilities. The ERT has expertise in treatment technology, biology, chemistry, hydrology, geology, and engineering. It can provide access to special decontamination equipment, and provide advice to the OSC in hazard evaluation, risk assessment, multimedia sampling and analysis, on-site safety, including development and implementation plans, cleanup techniques and priorities, water supply decontamination and protection, application of dispersants, environmental assessment, degree of cleanup required, and disposal of contaminated material. The ERT also provides both introductory and intermediate-level training courses to prepare response personnel.

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT COORDINATORS

The Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) are technical personnel provided to the Coast Guard by NOAA. (EPA provides SSCs in the inland zones.) They advise the OSC on the fate and effects of the spill. They also serve as a clearinghouse to coordinate the input and consider the concerns of the scientific community involved in the incident response.

RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

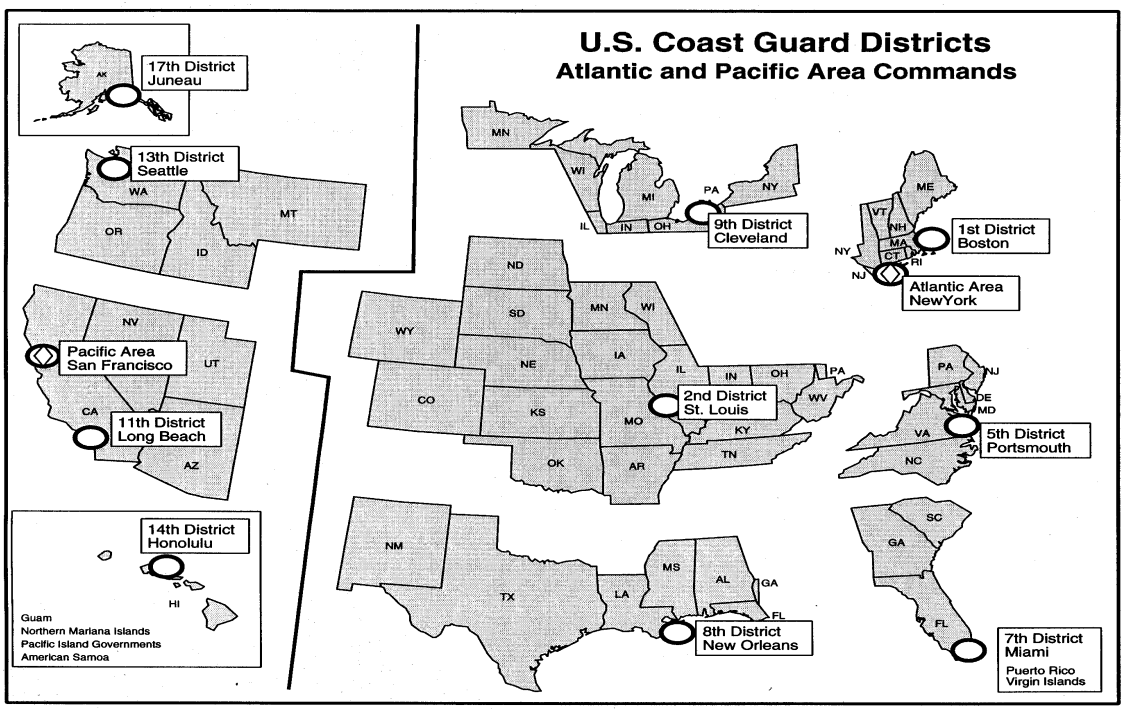
Radiological Emergency Response Teams (RERTs) have been established by EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air Programs to provide response and support for incidents or sites containing radiological hazards. Expertise is available in radiation monitoring, radionuclide analysis, radiation health physics, and risk assessment. RERTs can provide on-site support, including mobile monitoring laboratories for field analyses of samples and fixed laboratories for radiochemical sampling and analyses.

Requests for support may be made 24 hours a day via the NRC or directly to the Radiological Response Coordinator in the EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air Programs. Assistance is also available from the Department of Energy and other Federal agencies.

REGIONAL LEVEL

REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS

Regional planning and coordination of preparedness and response actions is accomplished through the Regional Response Team (RRT). In the case of a discharge of oil, preparedness activities will be carried out in conjunction with Area Committees, as appropriate. The RRT agency membership parallels that of the NRT, but also includes state and local representation. The RRT provides: (1) the appropriate regional mechanism for development and coordination of preparedness activities before a response action is taken, (2) coordination of assistance and advice to the OSC during such response actions; and (3) guidance to Area Committees to ensure inter-area consistency of individual ACPs with the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and the NCP.



The two principal components of the RRT mechanism are a standing team, which consists of designated representatives from each participating Federal agency, state governments, and local governments (as agreed upon by the states); and incident-specific teams formed from the standing team when the RRT is activated for a response. On incident-specific teams, participation by RRT member agencies will be determined by the nature of the incident and its geographic location.

The standing team's jurisdiction corresponds to the 10 standard Federal regions, except for Alaska, Oceania in the Pacific, and the Caribbean area, each of which has a separate standing RRT. The roles of the standing RRTs include communications systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region-wide basis. It also involves facilitating coordination of Area Committees for these functions in areas within their respective regions, as appropriate.

Representatives of the EPA and the USCG act as co-chairs of the RRTs, except when the RRT is activated. When the RRT is activated for response actions, the chair is the member agency providing the OSC.

Each participating agency designates one member and at least one alternate member to the RRT. Agencies whose regional subdivisions do not correspond to the standard Federal regions may designate additional representatives to the standing RRT to ensure appropriate coverage of the standard Federal region. Participating states also may designate one member and at least one alternate member to the RRT. Indian tribal governments may arrange with the RRT for representation appropriate to their geographical location. All agencies and states may also provide additional representatives as observers to meetings of the RRT.

The state's RRT representative should keep the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) apprised of RRT activities, and coordinate RRT activities with the SERC. Local governments are invited to participate in activities on the appropriate RRT as provided by state law or as arranged by the state's representative. Indian tribes also are invited to participate in such activities.

The RRT should review and comment, to the extent practicable, on local emergency response plans or other issues related to the preparation, implementation, or exercise of such plans upon request of a local emergency planning committee. In addition, the RRT should:

- Evaluate regional and local responses to discharges or releases on a continuing basis (and recommend improvements), considering available legal remedies, equipment readiness, and coordination among responsible public agencies and private organizations;
- Recommend revisions of the NCP to the NRT, based on observations of response operations;
- Review OSC actions to ensure that RCPs and ACPs are effective;
- Encourage the state and local response community to improve its preparedness for response;
- In coordination with Area Committees, conduct advance planning for the use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, burning agents, bioremediation agents, or other chemical agents;
- Be prepared to provide response resources to major discharges or releases outside the region;
- Conduct or participate in training and exercises as necessary to encourage preparedness activities of the response community within the region; and
- Ensure maximum participation in the national program for announced and unannounced exercises.

The RRT may be activated by the chair as an incident-specific response team when a discharge or release: (1) exceeds the response capability available to the OSC in the place where it occurs; (2) transacts state boundaries; (3) may pose a substantial threat to the public health or welfare or the environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property; or (4) is a worst case discharge.

The role of the incident-specific team is determined by the operational requirements of the response to a specific discharge or release. Appropriate levels of activation and/or notification of the incident-specific RRT, including participation by state and local governments, will be determined by the designated RRT chair for the incident, based on the RCP. The incident-specific RRT supports the designated OSC. The designated OSC manages response efforts and coordinates all other efforts at the scene of a discharge.

RRTs, when activated for a discharge or release, may request other Federal, State, or local governments, or private agencies to provide resources under their existing authorities to respond to a discharge or release or to monitor response operations. The RRT also may help the OSC prepare information releases for the public and for communication with the NRT.

AREA LEVEL

FEDERAL ON-SCENE COORDINATOR

The OSC is the predesignated Federal official responsible for ensuring proper response. The USCG designates OSCs for the U.S. coastal zones, while the EPA designates OSCs for the U.S. inland zones. In all oil discharge- or hazardous substance release-related incidents within the geographical zone (either inland or coastal), the OSC will be the lead official in directing or monitoring the response on scene.

The OSC plans and coordinates the response strategy on-scene, in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP), using the support of the NRT, RRTs, Area Committees, and Responsible Parties. Through these resources, the OSC obtains trained personnel, equipment, and scientific support needed to conduct an immediate and effective response to any oil discharge or hazardous substance release. The OSC provides for unified coordination of actions by Federal, state, and local governments, industry, civic groups, natural resource trustees, and other response participants.

While the Federal government is either removing or directing or monitoring the removal of an oil discharge, the designated OSC will have the final decision on all actions by other Federal, state, and local responders. Once the OSC determines (in consultation with the governors of the affected states) that the cleanup has been completed in a manner consistent with the NCP, state or local government coordinators may continue any specific cleanup within their own jurisdictions by using their own authority and funds.

The following describes the four key functions and responsibilities of On-Scene Coordinators:

1. Assessments. OSC evaluates extent of incident, potential hazards, types of resources needed, and ability of Responsible Party to handle incident.

2. Monitoring. When RP or locals respond, OSC may monitor the response and may provide technical advice to ensure that the steps taken are appropriate and effective.

3. Response Action. OSC decides whether Federal funds are necessary to handle the incident. Using either the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (for oil discharges) or Superfund (for hazardous substance releases), the OSC may secure contractors and mobilize response equipment, resources, and personnel to contain, remove, and dispose of the spilled material.

4. Reports. The OSC files pollution reports during incidents; as requested by the NRT or RRT, at the end of a response action, OSCs file reports to summarize the actions taken, the resources committed, and the problems encountered.

AREA COMMITTEES

The Area Committees, made up of Federal, state and local government representatives, support the OSC at the area level. Area Committees, which are primarily preparedness and planning committees, are responsible for: (1) preparing an ACP for their areas; (2) working with Federal, state and local officials to enhance the contingency planning of those officials, and to assure pre-planning of joint response efforts, including appropriate procedures for mechanical recovery, dispersal, shoreline

cleanup, protection of sensitive environmental areas, and protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife; and (3) working with Federal, state and local officials to expedite decisions for the use of dispersants and other mitigating substances and devices.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The special teams, which have been described in previous sections, are Federally funded, and may provide resources locally to the OSC. These teams may provide the following: scientific information, manpower, equipment, support information systems, training, cleanup expertise, and public information coordination assistance. Special teams include: NOAA/EPA Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs); EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT); and USCG National Strike Force (NSF), District Response Groups (DRGs), and the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) (see Section II).

III. RESPONSE OPERATIONS

The NCP identifies four phases of response operations for oil discharges: (1) discovery or notification, (2) preliminary assessment and initiation of action, (3) containment, countermeasures, cleanup, and disposal, and (4) documentation and cost recovery.

1 DISCOVERY OR NOTIFICATION

A discharge of oil may be discovered through a report submitted by the person in charge of a vessel or facility (in accordance with statutory requirements); deliberate search by patrols; random or incidental observation by government agencies or the public; or other sources. Any person in charge of a vessel or a facility shall immediately notify the NRC (at its toll free telephone number, 800-424-8802, or 202-267-2675), as soon as he or she has knowledge of any discharge from such vessel or facility in violation of the reporting requirements under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act. Reports may be made to the Coast Guard or EPA predesignated OSC for the geographical area where the discharge occurs, if immediate reporting to the NRC is not practicable.

2 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND INITIATION OF ACTION

The OSC is responsible for promptly initiating a preliminary assessment, which will be conducted using available information, supplemented where necessary and possible by on-scene inspection. The OSC will evaluate the magnitude and severity of the discharge or threat to public health or welfare or the environment; assess the feasibility of removal; and, to the extent practicable, identify Responsible Parties and assess their initial response actions. The OSC may allow the Responsible Party to voluntarily and promptly perform removal actions, except when the OSC is required to direct the response to a discharge that may pose a substantial threat to the public health or welfare.

If the Responsible Party does conduct the removal action, the OSC must ensure adequate surveillance over the initiated actions. If effective actions are not taken to eliminate the threat, or if removal is not being properly done, the OSC should so advise the Responsible Party.

When the OSC receives a report of a discharge, the OSC's actions normally follow this sequence:

- Investigate the report to determine pertinent information, such as the threat posed to the public health or welfare, and the type, quantity, and source of the discharge.

- Officially classify the size (minor, medium, major) and type (substantial threat, worst case discharge), and determine the course of action to be followed.

- Determine whether the Responsible Party or other person is properly carrying out the removal, if the OSC has determined that effective and immediate removal, mitigation, or prevention can be achieved by private party efforts. (A Responsible Party’s removal efforts will not be considered improper unless specifically determined by the OSC.)

- Notify the Responsible Party of the potential liability for Federal response costs incurred by the OSC, if the Responsible Party does not respond properly.

- When the Responsible Party is not known, unwilling, or unable to respond, or if the incident exceeds the capabilities of the initial responders, remove or arrange the removal of the discharge using available resources.

- When appropriate, determine whether a state has the ability to carry out any or all removal actions.

- Ensure prompt notification of the Trustees of affected natural resources.

3 CONTAINMENT, COUNTERMEASURES, CLEANUP, AND DISPOSAL

Removal is considered complete when so determined by the OSC, in consultation with the Governor(s) of the affected state(s).

Oil recovered in cleanup operations will be disposed of in accordance with the RCP, ACP, and any applicable requirements. RRT and Area Committee guidelines may identify the available disposal options and should address: the sampling, testing, and classifying of recovered oil and oiled debris; the segregation and stockpiling of recovered oil and oiled debris; prior state disposal approvals and permits; the routes, methods, and sites for the proper disposal of collected oil, oiled debris, and animal carcasses; and procedures for obtaining waivers, exemptions, or authorizations associated with handling or transporting waste materials.

4 DOCUMENTATION AND COST RECOVERY

All users of the OSLTF must maintain detailed records for all resources and costs incurred in responding to a spill incident. Documentation will identify the impact on the waters of the U.S., the source and circumstances of the incident, the responsible party or parties, and impacts and potential impacts to public health and welfare and the environment. Failure to submit timely and complete documentation can result in delays in reimbursement for removal costs and payments to contractors. When appropriate, documentation also will be collected for scientific understanding of the environment and for research and development of improved response methods and technology. The OCS will make the documentation available to natural resource trustees to help them determine the actual or potential natural resource injuries.

IV. CONTINGENCY PLANNING

This section summarizes emergency planning and coordinating activities relating to discharges of oil and hazardous substances, and describes the three levels of contingency planning under the National Response System.

NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN

The National Contingency Plan (NCP)--the Federal government's blueprint for responding to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases--was developed to provide the organizational structure and procedures to guide the actions of government personnel, Responsible Parties, and other spill response participants. One of the original purposes of the NCP was to ensure that the resources and expertise of the Federal government would be immediately available for those relatively rare, but very serious, oil or hazardous substance incidents that require a national or regional response. The NCP established a hierarchy of mechanisms and organizations that together form the National Response System. OPA 90 required that the NCP be revised to further strengthen the ability of the NRS to address major incidents, such as the *Exxon Valdez* spill.

The NCP provides for efficient, coordinated, and effective response to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances. It provides for:

- A national response organization that may be activated in response actions, specifying responsibilities among the Federal, state, and local governments and describes resources that are available for response;
- Establishment of requirements for Federal, Regional, and Area Contingency Plans;
- Procedures for undertaking removal actions;
- Procedures for involving state governments in the initiation, development, selection, and implementation of response actions;
- Designation of Federal trustees for natural resources (for purposes of the CWA);
- Procedures for the participation of other persons in response actions; and
- National procedures for the use of dispersants and other chemicals in removals under the CWA.

REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS

Working with the States, the RRTs are required to develop RCPs for each standard Federal region, Alaska, Oceania in the Pacific, and the Caribbean to coordinate timely, effective response by various Federal agencies and other organizations to discharges of oil. RCPs shall include information on all useful facilities and resources in the region, from government, commercial, academic, and other sources. To the greatest extent possible, RCPs shall follow the format of the NCP, and be coordinated with ACPs, as well as with the state emergency response plans, and local emergency response plans required by the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right-To-Know Act.

AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS

Under the direction of an OSC, each Area Committee is required to develop an Area Contingency Plan (ACP) for its area. This plan, when implemented in conjunction with other provisions of the NCP, must be adequate to remove a worst case discharge and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge, from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near the area.

ACPs must include the following information:

- A description of the area covered by the plan, including the areas of special economic or environmental importance that might be impacted by a discharge;

- A detailed description of the responsibilities of an owner or operator and of Federal, state, and local agencies in removing a discharge, and in mitigating or preventing a substantial threat of a discharge;

The NRS has been revised to include several new organizations, such as Area Committees and DRGs, the NSFCC, and organizational elements to respond to substantial threat discharges, worst case discharges, and SONS (discussed in Section V).

- A list of equipment (including firefighting equipment), dispersants, or other mitigating substances and devices, and available personnel to ensure an effective and immediate removal of a discharge;

- A description of procedures to be followed for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants;

- A detailed description of how the plan is integrated into other ACPs and tank vessel, offshore facility, and onshore facility response plans, and into operating procedures of the NSFCC; and

- A Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan, as an annex to the ACP.

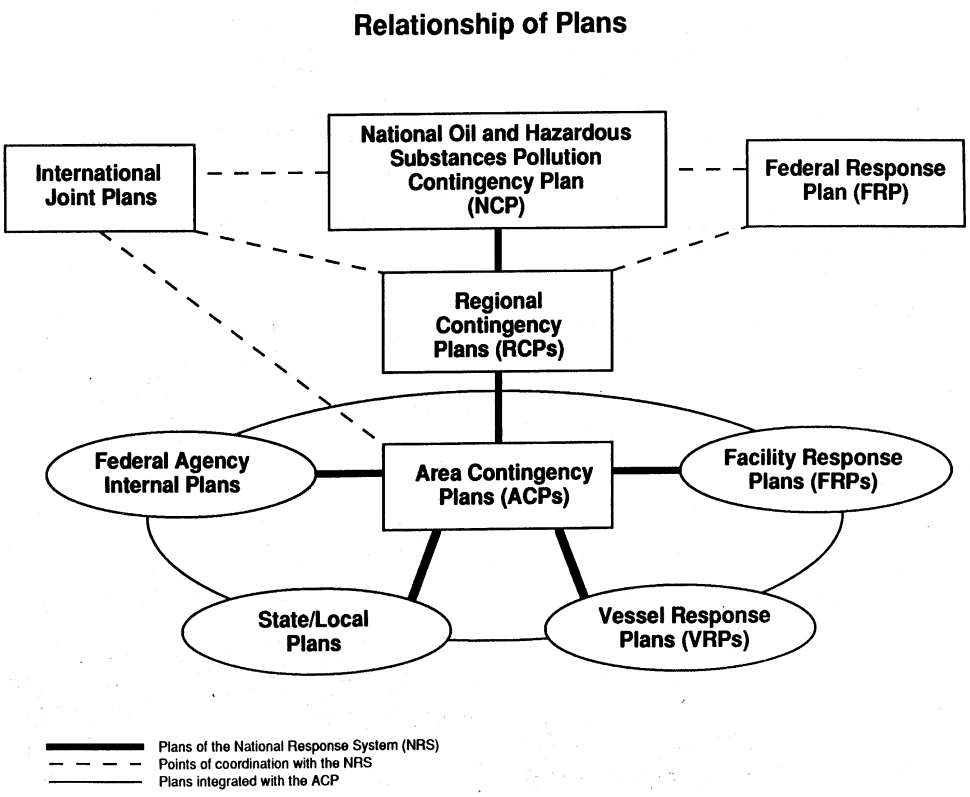
Pre-Approved Authorization. RRTs and Area Committees will address, as part of their planning activities, the desirability of using appropriate dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents listed on the NCP Product Schedule.

RELATION TO OTHER PLANS

These planning activities must also coordinate with planning activities involving Federal Response Plans for natural disaster response, as well as tank vessel and facility response plans.

Federal Response Plans. In the event of a declaration of a major disaster by the President, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may activate the Federal Response Plan (FRP). A Federal Coordinating Officer, designated by the President, may implement the FRP and coordinate and direct emergency assistance and disaster relief of impacted individuals, businesses, and public services. Delivery of Federal assistance is facilitated through 12 functional annexes to the FRP

known as Emergency Support Functions. EPA coordinates activities under ESF #10 – Hazardous Materials, which addresses preparedness and response to hazardous materials and oil incidents caused by a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. In such cases, the ESF #10 Chair coordinates response activities with the Federal OSC in accordance with the NCP.



Tank Vessel and Facility Response Plans. Under OPA 90, tank vessels, offshore facilities, and certain onshore facilities are required to prepare and submit response plans for review and approval for the carriage, storage, and transportation of oil and hazardous substances. Separate regulations published by the appropriate Federal agencies provide requirements for response plan development and approval. These plans are developed to coordinate Responsible Party actions with the OSC and the ACP response strategies, for response to oil discharges within the inland and coastal zones of the United States.

V. PREPAREDNESS

NPREP

The National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) is a "table top exercise program" which brings the OSC and associated staff together with members of the local response community to respond to a simulated oil spill or hazardous substance release. The table top nature of these exercises allows for extensive interaction, but does not require the participants to actually move equipment. The OSC will periodically conduct these drills under relevant tank vessel and facility response plans. Some will be conducted without prior notice. Six such exercises are conducted annually. Each is designed to be performed by a team of representatives from the Coast Guard, EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and other related Federal, state, and local agencies. They incorporate the use of an Incident Command System, and also include a system to evaluate preparedness around the country.

The NSFCC coordinates this program, serving as a clearinghouse for exercises and participating in the development, execution, and evaluation to the fullest extent practicable. The EPA Administrator and the Secretary of Transportation may publish annual reports on these drills, including an assessment of the effectiveness of the plans and a list of amendments made to improve plans. The NSFCC may, in conjunction with the program managers of the USCG and EPA, impose unannounced area or multi-area exercises.

SPILLS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Efforts to respond to the *Exxon Valdez* spill showed that responders had to be better prepared. A response management system had to be developed to provide more efficient and effective response to particularly severe spills, or Spills of National Significance (SONS).

A SONS means a spill that, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on the public health and welfare or the environment, or the necessary response effort, is so complex that it requires extraordinary coordination of Federal, state, local, and Responsible Party resources to contain and clean up. A discharge may be classified as a SONS by the EPA Administrator for the inland zone and by the Coast Guard Commandant for the coastal zone.

For a SONS in the inland zone, EPA may name a senior EPA official to assist the OSC in communicating with affected parties and the public, and in coordinating Federal, state, local, and international resources at the national level. The strategic coordination will involve, as appropriate, the NRT, RRTs, Governors of affected states, and the mayors or other chief executives of local governments.

For a SONS in the coastal zone, the Coast Guard may name a National Incident Commander who will assume the role of OSC in communicating with affected parties and the public, and in coordinating Federal, state, local, and international resources at the national level. This strategic coordination will involve, as appropriate, the NRT, RRTs, Governors of affected states, and the mayors or other chief executives of local governments.

ACRONYMNS

(A) Department and Agency Title Abbreviations:

DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
DOTr	Department of the Treasury
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GSA	General Services Administration
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
USCG	United States Coast Guard

(B) Operational Abbreviations:

ACP	Area Contingency Plan
DRAT	District Response Advisory Team
DRG	District Response Group
ERT	Environmental Response Team
ESF	Emergency Support Functions
FPN	Federal Project Number
FRP	Federal Response Plan
NCP	National Contingency
NPFC	National Pollution Funds Center
NRC	National Response Center
NRS	National Response System
NRT	National Response Team
NSF	National Strike Force
NSFCC	National Strike Force Coordination Center
OPA or OPA 90	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
OSLTF	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
PIAT	Public Information Assist team
RCP	Regional contingency Plan
RERT	Radiological Emergency Response Team
RP	Responsible Party
RRT	Regional Response Team
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
SONS	Spill of National Significance

ACRONYMS

AIRSTA	USCG Air Station
ACP	Area Contingency Plan
AOR	Area of Responsibility
AST	USCG Atlantic Strike Team - Ft. Dix, New Jersey
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
BOA	Basic Ordering Agreement
CANAPS	Ceiling and Number Assignment Processing System
CAMEO	Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CGAP	Coast Guard Acquisition Procedures
CHRIS	Chemical Hazards Response Information System
COFR	Certificate of Financial Responsibility
COIL	USCG Central Oil Identification Laboratory (see MSL)
COTP	USCG Captain of the Port
CRISTAL	Contract Regarding Interim Supplement to Tanker Liability (for oil pollution)
CWA	Clean Water Act
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DOSC	Deputy On-Scene Coordinator
DOT	Department of Transportation
DRFA	Disaster Response Field Office
DRG	Disaster Response Group
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERC	Emergency Response Coordinator, U.S. Public Health Service
ERT	Environmental Response Team

FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFARM	FOSC Finance and Resource Management
FINCEN	Coast Guard Finance Center
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FOSC/R	Federal On-Scene Coordinator/Representative
FPN	Federal Project Number
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
FY	Fiscal Year
GRU	USCG Group
GST	USCG Gulf Strike Team - Mobile, Alabama
HACS	Hazard Assessment Computer System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IAG	Interagency Agreement
ICS	Incident Command System
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
INTERTANKO	International Association of Independent Tanker Owners
IOPCF	International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund
JRC	Joint Response Center
LCP	Local Contingency Plan
MARAD	Maritime Administration
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MIO	Marine Inspection Office
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MISLE	Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement
MLC	USCG Maintenance and Logistics Command
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRL	Minimum Response Levels
MRO	Marine Response Division, Coast Guard Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection

MSL	Marine Safety Lab (see COIL)
MSO	USCG Marine Safety Office
NAVSUPSALV	U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage
NCP	National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300)
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFC	National Pollution Funds Center
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
NPS	National Park Service
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRT	National Response Team
NSF	USCG National Strike Force
NSFCC	National Strike Force Coordination Center
OPA/OPA 90	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
OSC/RPM	OSC Remedial Project Manager, position held by assigned Emergency Response Coordinator when operating under subsection 300.180(a) of the NAP (40 CRT 300)
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSLTF	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
OSRO	Oil Spill Response Organization
P&I	Protection and Indemnity (Association/Club)
PAWMIS	Port and Waterways Management Information System
PHS	Public Health Service
PIAT	USCG Public Information Assistance Team
PIO	Public Information Officer
POLREP	USCG Pollution Report Message
PRFA	Pollution Removal Funding Authorization
PRP	Potential Responsible Party
PRIA	Preliminary Regulatory Impact Analysis
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RP	Responsible Party

RRC	Regional Response Center
RRT	Regional Response Team
SAR	Search and Rescue
SAR STA	USCG Search and Rescue Small Boat Station
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SITREP	Situation Report Message
SMC	Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator
SONS	Spill of National Significance
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure or Practices
SOSC	State On-Scene Coordinator
SRG	State Response Group
SSC	Scientific Support Coordinator
TAT	Technical Assistance Team
TEAP	Transportation Emergency Action Plan
TOPs	Technical Operating Procedures
TOVALOP	Tanker Owners' Voluntary Agreement (concerning) Liability (for) Oil Pollution (damage)
USA	U.S. Army
USACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USCG/NRC	USCG National Response Center
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USMC	U.S. Marine Corps
USN	U.S. Navy
USPHS	U.S. Public Health Service
VOSS	Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System
VTS	Vessel Traffic Service