

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM/NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 21, 2004  
MINUTES**

**LOCATION:** Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

**PARTICIPANTS:** Attendance list was not provided.

**JANUARY 21, 2004, MORNING MEETING (Agenda Item 1)**

Beth Sheldrake (EPA) called the Regional Response Team and Northwest Area Committee (RRT/NWAC) meeting to order at 1254 hours and conducted general introductions.

Welcome by host Mary Halverson, Acting Director, Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials.

**PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS, AND RESPONSE IN THE NORTHWEST  
(Agenda Item 2)**

Beth Sheldrake provided a brief overview of the RRT/NW Area Committee's role in planning, preparedness, and response in the northwest. The topics discussed included:

- Response authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Clean Water Act (CWA), HSPD-5, and the Stafford Act;
  - <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/action/law/cercla.htm>
  - <http://www.epa.gov/r5water/cwa.htm>
  - <http://www.fema.gov/library/stafact.shtm>
- Preparedness of Emergency Management;
- Role of ICS;
- Role of the NW Area Committee;
- NW Area Committee Workgroups;
- How the RRT functions under the National Contingency Plan (NCP);
- National Response System;
  - Organized Elements.
  - Concept of operation and exercises.
- Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) - roles and responsibilities;
- Geographic Response Plans (GRP) – What they are and how they are used; and
- Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee (RRT) website: [www.rtt10nwac.com](http://www.rtt10nwac.com).

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**OVERVIEW OF IDAHO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CONTINGENCY PLAN AND THE IDAHO STATE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (Agenda Item 3)**

Mary Halverson and Michelle Carreras (Idaho State Communication Center) discussed the State of Idaho's Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan and State Communication System. Mary Halverson discussed the State's command and response support plan and how it incorporates the State Communications System. Michelle Carreras discussed Idaho's response process from notification through the emergency phase and how the State Communication System's Bridge Call is utilized.

State Communications System: 1-800-632-8000 (in state only) or (208) 846-7512.

Earl Liverman (EPA OSC, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho) discussed how the system was utilized during a recent mercury response in Riggins, Idaho. The discussion generated questions related to communications in remote areas, cost recovery, radiation response requirements, and the State's roles during a response.

**FACILITATED DISCUSSION (Agenda item 4)**

Earl Liverman, Beth Sheldrake, and Mary Halverson led a facilitated discussion to explore roles and responsibilities in a multiple agency response in the state of Idaho. Participants included local, state, and federal response and support agencies. The facilitated discussion was centered on a railroad derailment over the Sand Creek Trestle, on Lake Pend Oreille, Sandpoint, Idaho. The following topics were discussed.

- General discussion identified the Incident Commander, required resources, initial objectives, and strategies, and how the Idaho State Plan was activated and followed;
- Local responders identified resources of information (consist, hazmat carried, affects on the public);
- For any rail response – the rail company can be reached with one phone number (1-800-832-5452);
- Identified resources that the RRT could provide (weather, response modeling, air monitoring, site over flights, vessels);
- General notification procedures;
- Evacuation vs. shelter in place;
- Idaho State Communication's Bridge Call procedures;
- Resources that could be provided;
- The transition procedures during the emergency response vs. remedial phase of the response;
- Authorities to close a roadway – Idaho Transportation Department (ITD);
- Cost recovery procedures;
- Federal responsibilities to applicable stakeholders; and
- Volunteer procedures – (pros and cons).

Earl Liverman closed the facilitated discussion by thanking everyone for their participation, commenting on the importance of local communities' knowledge, and

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noting the respect and interest that responders have for their communities.

**MEETING ADJOURNED (Agenda Item 5)**

At 1620 hours the meeting adjourned. Meeting was scheduled to reconvene on January 22 at 0800 hours.

**JANUARY 22, 2004 MORNING SESSION**

Beth Sheldrake called the meeting to order at 0809 hours and led general introductions.

**NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN OVERVIEW (Agenda Item 6)**

Beth Sheldrake provided an update on the National Response Plan (NRP) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Beth Sheldrake discussed the following:

- HSPD-5 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030228-9.html>;
- HSPD-8 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/12/20031217-6.html>;
- - National preparedness Goal:
- NRP - [http://www.nemaweb.org/docs/national\\_response\\_plan.pdf](http://www.nemaweb.org/docs/national_response_plan.pdf);
- National Response System:  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/er/nrs/>;
- FRP - <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/frp/>;
- Affects, updates, and changes to NWACP in the event the Department of Homeland Security was involved in an incident;
- NIMS vs. NIIMS;
- NCP - <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/ncpover.htm>;
- Emergency Support Function - ESF concept and roles:  
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/frp/frpesf.htm>;
- NRP Draft Schedule;
- Training Tool – TOPOFF-3; and
- Spills of National Significance (SONS) – San Diego, CA – April 2004.

**OVERVIEW OF IDAHO NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Agenda Item 7)**

Paul Flatt presented the Idaho National Weather Service's MOA with the State of Idaho's Bureau of Hazardous Materials. The presentation further discussed the following:

- National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office locations and website:
  - <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boise/index.shtml>;
  - Five office locations;
  - Contact via Idaho State Communications Center, (208) 334-9860;
- Availability and capability of NWS;

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- Reimbursement fire vs. hazmat response.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT NOAA FISHERIES BIOLOGICAL OPINION  
(Agenda Item 8)**

Mike Devany (NOAA) introduced Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries) who presented an overview of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Biological Opinion (BO). Russ Strach discussed the following:

- Programmatic Biological Assessment (NOV 2003);
- February 5, 2004 - Training on the process;
- Overview: “Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act directs all Federal agencies to use their existing authorities to conserve threatened and endangered species and, in consultation with the Service, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Section 7 applies to management of Federal lands as well as other Federal actions that may affect listed species, such as Federal approval of private activities through the issuance of Federal permits, licenses, or other actions.”
  - <http://endangered.fws.gov/consultations/>;
- Consultation for Oil Response Activities under the NWACP:
  - [http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1publcat/bo/2003/200201959\\_oil\\_spill\\_11-06-2003.pdf](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1publcat/bo/2003/200201959_oil_spill_11-06-2003.pdf);
- Affects of BO on an emergency response;
- There were 18 different terms and conditions sections in the BO that were prepared for each type of response activities. These would be used as a handbook in the event of a spill response;
- Feedback and monitoring requirements;
- Best Management Practices (BMP) – Chapter 9000 NWACP;

**NWACP - GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLANS (Agenda Item 9)**

Beth Sheldrake led a discussion on Geographic Response Plans (GRP). The following were discussed:

- Definition: Geographic Response Plans or “GRPs” identify and rank oil spill protection strategies for sensitive natural resources in a geographical area. The strategies typically provide instructions for deployment of a protective boom (a floating barrier to the oil). GRPs prioritize public natural resources to be protected and allow for immediate and proper action.
- OR, WA and Mid-Columbia River GRP’s:
  - [http://www.rtt10nwac.com/geo\\_plans.htm](http://www.rtt10nwac.com/geo_plans.htm);
- Washington State Department of Ecology’s GRPs:
  - [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/GRP/GRP%](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/GRP/GRP%20)

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[20web%20page%20intro.htm](#);

- GRP development, limitations, and what they look like;
- Chapter 6 – Sensitive resources;
- How GRPs are maintained;
- RRT/NWAC Geographic Response Plan Workgroup;
- New GRP initiatives – Deschutes River and McKenzie River, Oregon.
  - Deschutes River GRP workshop in the Dalles, Oregon – January 28-29.

**LOCHSA RIVER OIL SPILL (Agenda Item 10)**

Earl Liverman presented information on the Lochsa River Oil Spill, which occurred on November 13, 2003. A fuel tanker overturned on State Highway 12, near mile marker 108.5, approximately 30 miles northwest of Kooskis, Idaho. The fuel trailer ruptured causing the release of approximately 6,300 gallons of red-dyed diesel to the upslope roadside ditch of the highway.

Spilled diesel seeped into the roadside ditch and traveled beneath the highway for approximately 40 feet toward the Lochsa River. The Lochsa River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, contains federally designated threatened and endangered species such as bull trout and steelhead and other non-listed species such as Chinook salmon and west slope cutthroat trout.

Fuel seeped through the highway embankment and entered the Lochsa River at the edge of the slope of the embankment with the river. Seeps were evident along approximately 350 linear feet of riverbank.

Earl Liverman discussed the following:

- Initial response activities;
- Spill response actions;
- Notification procedures – State Communication – Bridge Call process; and
- Incident Command Structure during the response.

**WORKGROUP REPORTS (Agenda Item 11)**

**Communications:**

Vic Yoshino (COE), representing Mike Hammond (FEMA), discussed the final draft of the RRT Communication Plan and urged Idaho representatives to view the contact information.

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**GRP:**

Jack Wylie, representing co-chair Dick Logan and the GRP Workgroup members, discussed the on-going efforts of the GRP Workgroup. The following were discussed:

- Completed transfer of Mid-Columbia River GRP to EPA;
- The Washington outer coast logistics workshop that was conducted in the fall of 2003;
- Creation of Washington Pipeline GRPs – County Wide GRPs;
- Initiation of Archeological Coordination; and
- 2004 Action Items.

**Response Technology:**

Elin Storey (WDOE) and Ruth Yender (NOAA) discussed the Response Technology's current status and planned 2004 action plan. Projects for 2004 include:

- ERA – applications to the NWACP;
- New Coast Guard Rule – Dispersants language;
- Revised Area Plan – dispersant checklist updates;
- SMART monitoring;
- Continue inland GRP work;
- Initiate archeological coordination; and
- Shoreline database updates.

**Public Affairs:**

Elin Storey requested further outreach to establish interest in the Public Affairs workgroup. Action Items for 2004 included a review of the JIC manual and updates to the NWACP.

**Steering Committee:**

Matt Bernard discussed that the NWACP has been updated and is close to being published on the RRT website. Matt Bernard further discussed work that was done on an outreach program and the application of performance measurement standards to the NWACP and Steering Committee.

**Marine Fire Fighting:**

**Portland:** Ashley Aclin (MSO Puget Sound, USCG) presented an overview of the Marine Firefighting workgroup and reported on the 2004 action items. These items include the rebuild of workgroup membership and objectives and priorities of the workgroup.

**MSO Puget Sound:**

Marty Teachout reported on the status of the Marine Firefighters Commission and plans for 2004. The Workgroup plans to identify the needs of marine firefighting in the Pacific Northwest with an increase in the cruise industry.

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**Hazardous Substances Workgroup:**

Beth Sheldrake reported on changes to the NWACP Chapter 7000 to include WMD response language. Beth Sheldrake requested state specific response resource information by Mid-March 2004.

**AGENCY UPDATES (Agenda Item 12):**

Beth Sheldrake began meeting agency roundtable. The following are points of interest:

- Ron Tsunehara (OSHA) reported that OSHA continues to increase training in the area of WMD and Emergency Response;
- Richard Deir (FEMA) reported on FEMA's training agenda and NRP update;
- Mike Devany (NOAA) reported on upcoming hazmat workshops Olympic Coast Contingency planning;
- Randy Clark (MSO Portland, USCG) reported on the topics of MTSA, Case Studies, and the NWACP booming policy;
- David Summer (USFS) reported on experience, interagency coordination, leadership, and wisdom and what they bring to a response;
- Jack Wylie (ODEQ) reported on ODEQ's homeland security activities, review of NRP and NIMS, Oregon Terrorism Plan, and the relationship of ODEQ and Public Health;
- Randy Clark (MSO Portland, USCG) reported on the topics of WMD exercise, boarder control, support teams, and outreach;
- Beth Sheldrake (EPA) reported on recent case studies, EPA IMAT teams, and the Las Vegas ERT;
- Mark Dix (MSO Puget Sound, USCG) reported on recent case studies, Coast Guard reorganization, and MTSA;
- Linda Pilkey Jarvis (WDOE) reported on WDOE case studies, Ecology/USCG MOA, place of refuge, and updates to the Oil Spill Contingency Plan;
- Matt Bernard reported on USCG agency reorganization and the upcoming SONS exercise;
- Brian Brass (EPA-ERT) presented on capabilities of EPA ERT;  
- <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/partners/oerr/eohmts.htm> and
- Dolf Diemont (USDOT) reported on DOTs reorganization.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX (ESI) MAPPING  
(Agenda Item 13)**

Ruth Yender (NOAA) presented on updates to lower Columbia River environmental sensitivity maps. For more Information visit:

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/esi/pdfs/esi.pdf>

Tammy Brown (US Navy) commented that the Navy has posed a project this past year to

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consolidate Navy spill response program northwest equipment listing into one system for Navy personnel to use. In scoping out this project it was identified that GIS mapping updates would have to be done for the Puget Sound. This information was scheduled for delivery to NOAA by the end of the fiscal year 2004.

**POINT WELLS OIL SPILL CASE STUDY (Agenda Item 14)**

Jim Peschel (NRC) reported on the Point Wells oil spill. The spill occurred on December 30, 2003 at approximately 12:05 am. Approximately 4,800 gallons of oil entered the water, and another 1,075 gallons were recovered from the barge deck. The cause is still under investigation. For more information please visit:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/incidents/fosspointwells/fosspointwellsbase.htm>

**MSO PORTLAND OCEAN SHORES PREP EXERCISE (Agenda Item 15)**

Randy Clark presented on the September 18-19, 2003 PREP exercise in Ocean Shores, WA. The scenario was a 7,000 barrels spill that occurred when a Sause Brothers Barge collided with a vessel carrying wood chips. The beach was quickly impacted with both wood chips and oil. Lessons learned from this PREP were the ability to package resources. During ICS resource deployment, ordering, and receiving – more clarification was needed. Standard packaging of resources was a suggestion that arose from this PREP.

Preston Sleeper (DOI) commented on conflicts in Unified Command on issues of Ports of Refuge.

For more information on PREP exercises, visit:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/response/prepques.htm>

Next RRT Meeting will be determined.  
Meeting Adjourned at 1420 hours.