**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10/NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**0900 – 1700 Tuesday 15NOV11**

**Oregon Coast Aquarium, Newport, OR**

**The sign-in sheets can be viewed** [**here**](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/Public%20Session%20Sign-in%20Sheets.pdf)**.**

Action Items:

* Heather Parker: Add links to the RRT/NWAC website: Shorezone photo products ([www.coastalatlas.net/shorezone](http://www.coastalatlas.net/shorezone)), Marine Map ([www.Oregon.marinemap.org](http://www.Oregon.marinemap.org)), Shellfish and Estuary maps ([www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/index.asp)).

**Introduction**

Captain Bruce Jones of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Columbia River (SCR) welcomed everybody to the meeting. He reviewed the goals of the USCG, and stated that one common problem among everyone right now is budgets. To emphasize the need for having quick responses, Captain Jones reviewed a recent situation where the vessel EDFU’s engine overheated and the vessel lost propulsion.

Mike Zollitsch of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) also welcomed everybody to the meeting, and asked people to rekindle their professional relationships with others in the room.

Calvin Terada of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) introduced himself and thanked the state of Oregon, Newport and SCR for hosting the meeting. He also acknowledged the work of the Steering Committee (SC).

Captain Ferguson reviewed the two legs of what he calls the response “V”; effective response and information management.

**Brief from Lincoln County Emergency Services Coordinator - Jenny Demaris**

Ms. Demaris stated that several years ago, Lincoln County had gone through hard financial times and suffered cutbacks across their services. The County Emergency Manager (EM) was one position that was cut. The EM duties were taken on by the county sheriff. Recently, this position became a full time position once again, which is now filled by Ms. Demaris. Her job is to act as a liaison between various agencies, and to do public outreach. Ms. Demaris pointed out that Lincoln County is very spread out, and because of this, it is a real coordination effort to know who her partners are. She emphasized that Lincoln County’s fire districts and emergency operations people work very well together, and that their after-action report from the tsunami response last March showed that they did everything correctly and activated collectively.

**Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) Update Brief and Summit Results**

This is the first year in a new NWACP update cycle. There was an all day summit held this past September in Lacey, Washington. In the future, the summit will be held annually in January. At the summit, attendees presented a list of issues that they felt needed to be addressed then broke out into about six groups. After these groups met and had discussions, they came up with task forces (TFs) to address these issues in 2012 with a goal of having clear deliverables. All attendees then voted on the TFs that they thought should be implemented in 2012. Following this, there were many discussions between the SC and Executive Committee to narrow down the list of TFs. The final list of TFs includes:

* Cultural and Historic Preservation - led by USEPA
* Derelict Vessels - led by USCG SCR
* Community Outreach – led by USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS)
* Geographic Response Plan (GRP) Expansion on the Outer Coast – led by OR DEQ
* GRPs in Response
* Places of Refuge (POR) - led by both USCG Sectors SCR and SPS
* Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Teams (SCAT) - led by WA Department of Ecology (Ecology)
* Wildlife Plan Update - led by Washington Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Wildlife Service
* There may be a TF created for in-situ burn and dispersants.

There will be a post on the RRT/NWAC website with a point of contact for each of these TFs.

Dale Jensen of Ecology reminded everyone that these groups will have a clear goal and are only going to be a short term commitment. The TFs that were not chosen for this year will either be done by an agency that wants to still do the work anyway, unless it requires a lot of collaboration, in which case it will be revisited during the next summit.

**OSC Reports**

USEPA - Richard Franklin:Mr. Franklin gave a power point presentation.

USCG SCR - Kelly Thorkilson: Ms. Thorkilson gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/RRTBriefing%20NOV%202011.ppt), and reviewed the Area of Responsibility of SCR. There was a brief discussion on the M/V EDFU, and the various ways that it violated safety standards. Ms. Thorkilson noted that the M/V Arion SB is now on probation with the Department of Justice.

USCG SPS - Agneta Dahl:Ms. Dahl gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/2011%20RRT%20summary%20Nov11%20%5bAutosaved%5d.ppt). There was a discussion about the M/V Justin at Alki Beach. Ms. Dahl stated that through skimming and booming, they were able to pick up about half of the oil that was released, but this was a significant spill because of all of the media coverage. The volume of the spill was small, but the public concern was very large.

OR DEQ - Ray Hoy:Mr. Hoy gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/Ethanol_NWAC_2011.pptx), noting that Oregon DEQ is a rather small spill response agency.

Ecology - David Byers:Mr. Byers gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/RRT%20SOSC%20Nov%202011a.pptx). He noted that Ecology has a 24-hour response that covers both the coast and inland. They are also assigned the cleanup of drug labs.

**Oregon Marine Monitoring Programs - Dave Fox of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Mr. Fox gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/D%20Fox%20ODFW%20NW%20area%20committee%2011-15-11.pptx). Ms. Heather Parker noted that she would like to add several links from his presentation to the RRT/NWAC website. These websites are the Shorezone photo products ([www.coastalatlas.net/shorezone](http://www.coastalatlas.net/shorezone)) the Marine Map ([www.Oregon.marinemap.org](http://www.Oregon.marinemap.org)) and the shellfish and estuary maps ([www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/index.asp)).

**M/V New Carissa Restoration Project - Allison O’Brien, Department of the Interior (DOI)**

Ms. O’Brien gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/newcarissarestoration.pptx) on the Bandon Marsh Restoration that was made possible with money from the New Carissa incident, which had a large impact on birds. Natural Resources Trustees developed a restoration plan to take 400 acres of marshland and identify the historic channels in the marsh. The land had been used for agriculture, so they filled in the straight lines and tried to create more of a natural meandering. In addition, they raised a nearby road and buried a transmission line that went through the area. During the restoration, archaeological sites were found, so they brought archaeologists on site.

**POR Update - Allison O’Brien, DOI and Tim Lupher, USCG D13**

Mr. Lupher gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/POR%20Presentation.ppt) on the development of a POR matrix, and identifying new POR. Once this is finished, they will be posted somewhere so that they are available to everybody, similar to the GRPs, which are kept online.

**Emergency Responders Round Table – Discussion of current issues by Local, State, Federal and Industry response managers**

Mr. Calvin Terada began this segment with an introduction. He stated that this is an opportunity to discuss a variety issues.

The topic of Japan Tsunami debris was raised. Ms. Ruth Yender of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) stated that the NOAA Debris program has been tracking it, but that the media has generated more concern than is warranted. The program is currently putting together a strategy for keeping people informed on the status of this concern. Mr. Terada added that the University of Hawaii has a model for the travel of the debris, and that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 is also looking into it and coordinating with federal partners.

Captain Ferguson stated that he worries about the possibility of a large spill from a tanker or ship that is uncontained in a highly sensitive area. He worries about the ability of everybody to respond effectively while managing the political piece and interest groups, and stated that we will fail in a response if we can’t bring our national and local leadership in to support us in a response. He suggested a preventative campaign.

Stu Blanchette of USCG SCR suggested that the best way to involve these people is exercises and drills. He stated that if we invite them, they will come.

Mr. Terada added that a key piece of being a liaison is making connections to county emergency management organizations so that they can help provide outreach.

Melissa Ferris of the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) suggested that one way to make connections with local emergency managers is to inform them of all spills, big or small, to emphasize the importance of their role. This will build a relationship for larger incidents.

Ms. Jenny Demaris stated that she received training on what the state expects her to do during an initial damage assessment. She is now training all of her people. She said that if you put together something that is useful, the training can be passed down from managers to others. She suggested this as a way to get your message out to more people.

Mark Dietrich of Idaho DEQ stated that he has noticed that with the larger incidents, they are drawn up to federal headquarter level and communication breaks down. Instead of being regionally driven, they become federally driven and the states end up being treated like the public; getting the same information at the same time as the public. He emphasized his hopes that this is not a trend. Captain Ferguson stated that he thinks we can get ahead of this by working preventatively.

Mr. Terada went on to say that the key component to work on is utilizing local emergency manager such as Ms. Demaris, and her counterparts throughout the state.

Someone posed the question: As a result of Deep Water Horizon, have Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) seen shifts in how we are we dealing with responsible parties (RP) in unified spills? Mr. Terada stated that on the USEPA side, they have been told to take the oversight role. He added that he does not know if the Incident Command System (ICS) was truly designed to deal with an RP response in a unified fashion. The fire service created ICS, and fires have no RP.

Greg Buie of the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) said that there has been a paradigm shift between the government and industry. From the NPFC’s point of view, this shift is causing spills to be a lot more expensive. Unified Command (UC) with industry results in cheaper spills, and Industry has motivators to respond quickly and efficiently to get the job done. The Government doesn’t have these same motivators. This community should work to maintain what has worked well in the past, which is UC and area planning. The Government doesn’t have expertise in some areas, so it is best to work together with those that do. There was some discussion on whether Industry is “suspicious” of the ICS structure.

Ms. Heather Parker stated that she doesn’t think that the RP has a suspicion of ICS, because they parallel the key positions. Captain Jones asked the group not to use DWH as a model for how to respond to an incident. In that case, the White House was giving direction. He added that from the USCG’s perspective, it was natural for them to talk about British Petroleum (BP) as being a partner, but the rest of the world was viewing them as the “bad guy”. The public doesn’t know about these underlying things that we take for granted, such as knowing what an RP is.

Mr. Greg Buie urged everybody to influence the people that they see the most. Bring these issues back to your own organization to try and educate them a little better.

**Geographic Assessment of Risk from Hazardous Materials Study – Don Pettit**

Mr. Pettit gave a power point presentation on a study that was completed six months ago on risks that the state of Oregon faces from transport and hazardous materials in the state.

**Davy Crockett – Danny LeBlanc, USCG Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Portland**

Captain Danny LeBlanc worked on the Davy Crockett, which is still an ongoing issue. There will be another week of on-scene work, further demobilization, and then documentation of lessons learned. He showed a video that was provided by Ballard Diving and Salvage on the Davy Crockett on the process of removing the vessel.

Captain LeBlanc and MSU Portland thanked their partner agencies for their collaboration with the Davy Crockett. Plaques were presented to Ecology and DEQ.

**Tsunami Scenario Set Up – Kelly Thorkilson, USCG SCR**

Ms. Thorkilson gave a [power point presentation](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/files/Tsunami%20Response%20Discussion_NWAC%20Meeting%2015%20Nov.pptx) on the tsunami response in March, 2011.

Ms. Althea Rizzo of Oregon’s Office of Emergency Management (OEM) gave a presentation on tsunamis. She stated that Oregon gets quite a few of them, but they’re typically not very big. They are however, unpredictable. They can be modeled and mapped, but until they start hitting tide gauges, there is no way to tell how impactful they will be. There is a very large lead time with distant tsunamis.

**Tsunami Response Walk Through & Discussion – Calvin Terada, USEPA**

For the purpose of discussion, the group was asked to consider the scenario of an Alaskan earthquake and tsunami.

Ms. Thorkilson stated that Mr. Terada would facilitate a discussion that would start with local response, and then they would build on this.

Ms. Jenny Demaris stated that during the March event, she was called upon to attend a briefing/teleconference in the middle of the night. She immediately saw law enforcement personnel group together for a planning session, and fire districts start sharing personnel in order to start the evacuation process. One thing that she noted was the OR EM had a briefing which conflicted with local briefings. A UC was established, and North Lincoln County said they needed a certain amount of time to evacuate. One problem that came up was that nobody had reviewed anybody else’s plan on how much time people would need for evacuations. Another problem was that their reverse-911 program didn’t work. Lincoln County has since replaced this as part of their after-action report. An additional lesson learned (LL) was that there was no second shift ready to go for law enforcement. Everybody started working as soon as the emergency began, so there was nobody available to relieve these people. Internal counties need to be on standby to relieve Lincoln County after the first shift, but all of the day to day operations still needed to be done. Ms. Demaris emphasized that in the event of a distant tsunami, the inland people will need to support all of the coastal counties. She added that in an incident, the fire districts takes leadership over their district, but there could be multiple command posts up and down the coast.

Mr. Terada called on Robert Murphy of Newport Fire, and asked him: What was your capacity for the tsunami response, and how would you bring in additional reinforcements?

Mr. Murphy stated that this is hard to judge when you don’t know the size of the tsunami, but they would look at areas here hazardous materials are greatest and would work to move those people out of harm’s way, while first allowing them to shut down their facilities. If they didn’t have that notification, then it becomes more of a traditional hazmat response, and they would bring in the regional team. As far as search and rescue goes, this would fall primarily under police with fire and sheriffs assisting. Depending on the scope and severity they could also bring in others. They would map out the area for response, divide it up, gather personnel and then make assignments. In the past, they first went to areas with large populations and made notifications there. One problem is that they are unable to keep “curiosity-seekers” out of the danger zone. In the past, they have put up tape to try and keep people off of the beach. One other measure that they have taken is that they color coded the lamp posts in town with tape to tell people if they are below fifty feet, or above fifty feet.

Mr. Terada directed the next questions to USCG SCR. Given the information for the scenario, he asked them if this was this something that they would pre-deploy for, or if they would wait for Oregon OEM. He asked what their process would be.

Captain Bruce Jones stated that their first priority would be to get their three helicopters airborne or tow them to high ground. Additionally, they would get their boats underway, out to sea or up the Columbia River. They would deploy immediately, but they need to consider where they would be able to operate, and what the conditions of the fuel sources are. Search and rescue would begin right away and then they would look at oil pollution response in coordination with other agencies, to see if there is significant damage. If there was a lot, they would ask for other USCG personnel from other areas like the marine transportation recovery unit, and will try to get navigational channels clear. He added that they would look for C-130 support right away, and would have vessels staged near Seattle where an outer-coast tsunami might not have much impact, so they would be ready to go for response.

Mr. Terada asked Oregon OEM what they would be doing as part of this process.

Ms. Althea Rizzo stated that they would stand up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and talk to the County Emergency Managers. Once the event was over, then they could start doing damage assessments. Their FEMA counterparts would be put in touch with the County Emergency Managers to they can tell them what was lost, what was insured, and what they will need.

Mike Zollitsch stated the early on, Oregon DEQ would send somebody down to the EOC and stand up their own EM response at their headquarters. He pointed out that at their agency, they are not first responders. Once the life safety responders are done, they will determine if it’s Stafford Act or Oil Pollution Fund Center issue. They will separate hazardous materials (HAZMAT) and oil to be dealt with separately. USCG and EPA would directly contact their duty officer to see if they have any need for DEQ. Mr. Zollitsch added that with local and county EMs, their priorities are higher in other areas than oil and HAZMAT. If they receive reports on oil or hazmat, they should pass these on so that USEPA and USCG can be notified. There are a lot of life safety issues and basic human needs that would come first.

Ms. Althea Rizzo pointed out that when the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake happens, there is a good chance that the coastal zones will be on their own for a while. They are in process of developing the Cascadia Response plan and there were workshops in Salem, British Columbia and Seattle. When Lincoln County showed up to this workshop, they felt very positive but after it was over, they realized that they had to completely re-think how to handle the resources that they have to move a large amount of people for an extended amount of time. Ms. Rizzo added that she has been hosting a work group for distant tsunamis, which meets every two weeks.

Robert Murphy pointed out the various local HAZMAT facilities on a map. He stated that the greatest local concern would be anhydrous ammonia. With the given scenario, they would need to contact the processing plants and have them shut their plants down and figure out how much release is still possible. They would need to consider the weather conditions and direction of the wind. Mr. Murphy stated that the local LNG tank is staffed 24-hours a day, has shut-down procedures and that local emergency responders have a good relationship with them. He added that with five hours of notice, he predicts that about 50% of the commercial vessels in their harbor might be able to get to a safe area, but none of the pleasure crafts would, because many of the people who own them don’t live here.

Mr. Terada recapped the segment and stated that many agencies doing their own things. He asked the group to consider the role of the RRT in this type of situation, and how the RRT would be coordinated into all of the activities. Mr. Chris Field of the USEPA stated that the RRT’s job is to support the FOSCs.

**Closeout Comments from the Chairs**

Mr. Mike Zollitsch thanked the local people for hosting the meeting.

An announcement was made that the American Red Cross now has fliers on what to do during an oil spill.