



Section 9101

Region 10 Response Team and Northwest Area Committee Charter

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Region 10 Response Team and Northwest Area Committee Charter

Oil and hazardous material spill response is a unique regulatory field where public trust demands a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response action by federal, state, and responsible parties.

In Region 10, we are committed to:

- Zero missed internal notifications.
- A bias towards a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response when spills or incidents occur.
- Joint decision making through Unified Command.
- Maintaining our organization’s expertise on the area plan and serving as full participants in the planning process.
- Ensure that organized transitions occur when Regional Response Team (RRT)/Northwest Area Committee (NWAC) agencies experience turn-over of key people.

RRT and Area Committee Function

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) is the rule book for implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act and Oil Pollution Act of 1990. All response actions by the federal agencies must be consistent with the NCP. Since inception, the NCP has required federal agencies to develop and maintain Regional Contingency Plans. After the enactment of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (prompted by lessons learned from the Exxon Valdez oil spill), the NCP was updated to require Area Contingency Plans and Area Committees across the United States.

Region 10 is the only region to develop a “unified plan” whereby the United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all states in the region sign on to one plan that meets the requirements for both a Regional Contingency Plan and an Area Contingency Plan. Region 10 does not have subarea contingency plans. Previous state and federal Regional Contingency Plans were shelved for an area-wide focus on one Unified Plan. Then Region 10 combined the RRT meetings with the Area Committee meetings.

1 The resulting RRT/Area Committee Strategic Plan is written to apply to both
2 organizations jointly.
3
4 The Region 10 Executive Committee is a combination of the Region 10 Regional
5 Response Team (RRT 10), and the NWAC, which includes three individual areas
6 of responsibility (Sector Columbia River, Sector Puget Sound, and Inland). Part of
7 the rationale for holding joint meetings is the fact that there is significant overlap
8 in the respective memberships, including federal, state, tribal representatives.
9
10 The combined RRT and Area Committee meetings have a long history of success
11 and reflect the inherent business culture and spirit of partnership in the Northwest.
12 With the large geographic area of responsibility managed by RRT 10 and the
13 Area Committee, the combined meeting approach was found to be the most
14 efficient and effective method to ensure response and planning coordination, as
15 well as sharing of ideas.
16
17 The decision to form the joint Executive Committee and hold joint meetings was
18 made around 2002. There are three meetings per year, each a day and a half long.
19 The meetings are moved around the region in an attempt to maintain a presence
20 and outreach to as many local responders as possible. The Area Committee Co-
21 Chairs and Vice-Chairs are welcome to hold additional meetings in their Sectors
22 or subareas to supplement the three annual combined meetings. See a brief
23 overview of the two-day combined meeting agendas below:
24
25 **Day 1:** Half day session with RRT 10/NWAC Executive Committee. The
26 Executive Committee meeting is open to the NCP-designated RRT members,
27 Area Committee Co-Chairs, and any other agency representatives invited by
28 them. At the end of the half-day meeting, there is the option of a closed door
29 session for NCP-designated RRT members only, where sensitive issues may be
30 discussed. Any NCP-designated RRT member may raise issues for discussion
31 during the closed door session. All RRT member agencies should have a
32 representative at these half day Executive Committee and closed door RRT
33 sessions.
34
35 **Day 2:** Full day Area Committee meeting, hosted by EPA, USCG Captain of the
36 Port, and States. The objective is to engage with local officials and responders
37 from the local area where the meeting is held. This provides an opportunity for
38 the EPA, Captain of the Port, and State that are hosting the meeting to create a
39 meeting agenda that will be interesting and worthwhile for their local community.
40 This meeting is open to everyone.
41
42 **Relationship of RRT to NWAC:**
43 The RRT has two roles specified in the NCP:
44 1. Support the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) during incident-
45 specific activations.
46 2. Ensure effective regional planning and preparedness.
47

1 If the Area Committee is fully functional and effective at multi-agency joint
2 planning and preparedness, then the RRT’s primary focus is limited to preparing
3 for incident-specific activations and planning for support of the FOSCs. RRT Co-
4 Chairs and all RRT members are encouraged to observe the full-day Area
5 Committee meeting on Day Two, in order to support and maintain familiarity
6 with FOSC and State On-Scene Coordinator issues and concerns.

7
8 **RRT/NWAC Organizational Groups:**

- 9 ▪ **Workgroups:** Work in subject areas that require ongoing attention to
10 improve both the NWACP and the function of the RRT/NWAC. Area
11 planning developments should be memorialized in the NWACP if
12 appropriate. The workgroups report to the Steering Committee.
- 13 ▪ **Task Forces:** Work on specific issues that have a limited scope and a clear
14 end point. The task forces report to the Steering Committee.
- 15 ▪ **Steering Committee:** Guides the preparedness work of the Area
16 Committee and the RRT task of preparing to support the FOSCs. Ensures
17 that workgroup and task force efforts are meeting the needs of the
18 Executive Committee. Frames decision points for the Executive
19 Committee. Manages the annual update to the NWACP.
- 20 ▪ **RRT Coordinators:** Designated to coordinate the work of the RRT, which
21 includes preparedness and planning responsibilities. In R10, the RRT
22 Coordinators from EPA and USCG District 13 also serve as the Co-Chairs
23 of the Steering Committee.
- 24 ▪ **Area Committee Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs:** Acts as representatives for
25 their agency and approve RRT/NWAC policy and procedures. Ensures
26 that the steering committee, workgroups, and task forces are enhancing
27 their ability to respond. Ensures that responses are conducted in
28 accordance with the NWACP.
- 29 ▪ **RRT Co-Chairs:** Ensures that the RRT is ready to fulfill its NCP
30 obligations. Ensure that adequate area planning is conducted.
- 31 ▪ **Executive Committee Members:** Ensures that NWACP policies and
32 procedures appropriately incorporate the expertise and capabilities each
33 agency provides.

34

35 <u>NCP-Designated RRT Members:</u>	48 United States Department of Energy
36 United States Environmental Protection	49 United States Department of Health and
37 Agency	50 Human Services (Agency for Toxic
38 United States Coast Guard District 13	51 Substances and Disease Registry)
39 United States Department of Agriculture	52 United States Department of the Interior
40 (United States Forest Service)	53 United States Department of Justice
41 United States Department of Commerce	54 United States Department of Labor
42 (National Oceanic and Atmospheric	55 (Occupational Safety and Health
43 Administration)	56 Administration)
44 United States Department of Defense	57 United States Department of
45 (United States Army Corps of	58 Transportation (Federal Aviation
46 Engineers)	59 Administration)

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Northwest Area Contingency Plan

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- 1 Federal Emergency Management
- 2 Agency
- 3 General Services Administration
- 4 Idaho Office of Emergency Management
- 5 Oregon Department of Environmental
- 6 Quality
- 7 Washington State Department of
- 8 Ecology
- 9 Makah Tribe
- 10 Yakama Nation
- 11
- 12 **Executive Committee Members:**
- 13 All NCP-designated RRT members
- 14 Sector Columbia River
- 15 Sector Puget Sound
- 16 Washington State Department of Health
- 17 Washington State Emergency
- 18 Management Division
- 19 Oregon Public Health Division
- 20 Oregon State Fire Marshall
- 21 Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
- 22 United States Navy
- 23
- 24 **Area Committee Members:**
- 25 All members of the Executive
- 26 Committee
- 27 Industry representatives
- 28 County/city agencies
- 29 Nonprofit representatives
- 30 All tribes