

More Than 30,000
Environmental Emergencies
Occur Each Year

Are You Ready?

National Response Team



Working together to protect against threats to our land, air, and water



The National Response Team

The National Response Team (NRT) is comprised of representatives of 15 federal agencies, each with responsibilities and expertise in various aspects of emergency response to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents. The NRT has nationwide responsibilities for interagency planning, policy, and coordination for pollution incidents of all sizes and kinds. The NRT meets regularly and provides policy guidance and assistance. The NRT may be activated during an incident, if needed, to provide national-level advice and assistance, as well as access to member agency resources that could not be provided at the Regional Response Team (RRT) level. The NRT also engages the private sector in prevention, preparedness, and response efforts. The NRT encourages innovation and collaboration to increase the effectiveness of industry compliance with planning and response regulations. The NRT does not receive direct appropriations for its activities.



With nationwide responsibilities for interagency planning, policy, and coordination, the NRT ensures that the most valuable tool in an emergency — readiness — is available for pollution incidents of all sizes and types.

The NRT is established under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP). (40 CFR part 300)

Key Components of the National Response Team

15 Federal Member Agencies

- Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Department of the Interior (DOI)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Department of State (DOS)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- General Services Administration (GSA)
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

NRT Chair

The NRT Chair presides over meetings, maintains focus on NRT priorities consistent with its mission, and serves as a representative of the NRT to member and non-member agencies. EPA serves as Chair of the NRT on a standing basis. During an incident, the Chair of the NRT is the agency providing the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC).

NRT Vice-Chair

The NRT Vice-Chair assists the NRT Chair and acts as the Chair in the event the Chair is not present. The USCG serves as Vice-Chair of the NRT.

Executive Director

The Executive Director provides policy coordination and management direction of the NRT, ensures NRT communication and coordination with RRTs, and coordinates issues with national and regional level offices of EPA and the NRT member federal agencies. The EPA provides the Executive Director.

NRT Members and Alternate Members

The NRT consists of representatives from 15 federal agencies. Each agency designates a member to the team and sufficient alternates to ensure representation, as agency resources permit. The NRT Member serves as the communication mechanism between the NRT and the member agency.

NRT Organization

The NRT organization is comprised of NRT Member Agency Representatives, the Executive Secretariat, committees, and subcommittees. A member agency may choose to participate in any committee, subcommittee, or workgroup for which it has a particular interest or expertise.

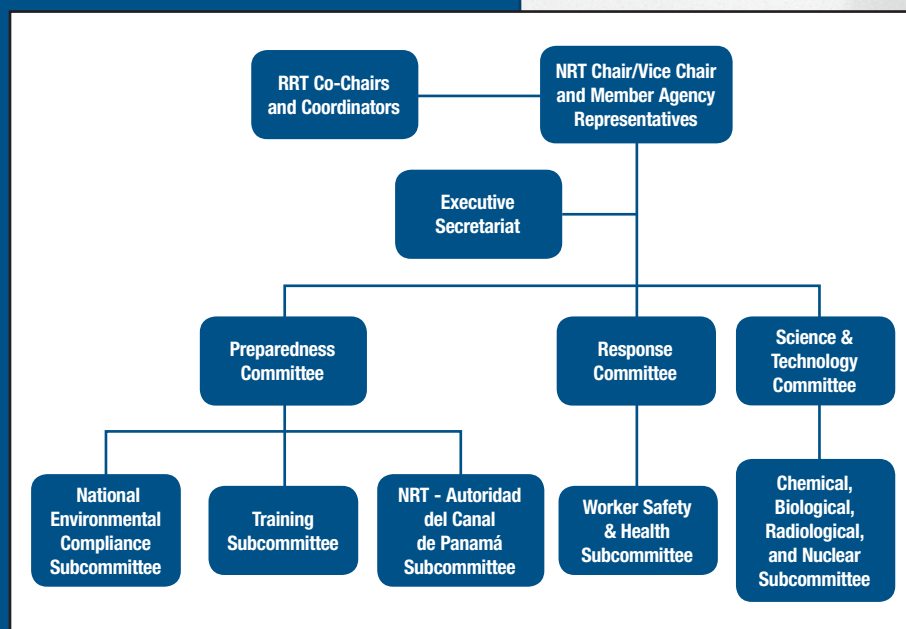
Executive Secretariat – is composed of the Executive Director, NRT Committee Chairs, and a Natural Resource Trustee agency representative. It helps the Chair and Vice-Chair manage the NRT; identifies and frames issues for the NRT and coordinates assignment of issues to the appropriate committees for resolution; and serves as an advocate for and works to strengthen the National Response System (NRS).



NRT Committees and Subcommittees

– address NRT, RRT, and FOSC national-level preparedness and response concerns and needs, assist in supporting the mission of the NRT, and provide expertise in specific topics. The committees and subcommittees are chaired by a representative(s) from NRT member agencies.

NRT Organization



The NRT and RRTs can access key assets and capabilities of the 15 member agencies of the NRS to support federal agencies, states, and local responders in their efforts to mitigate the danger to public health and the environment from a hazardous release.

Preparedness Committee – provides support to the FOSCs, RRTs, and NRT with the purpose of improving response system preparedness for both oil and hazardous substance incidents.

- **National Environmental Compliance (NEC) Subcommittee** – improves federal agencies' capability to meet the environmental and historic preservation compliance requirements of federal statutes as they apply to oil and hazardous substances response and preparedness activities.
- **Training Subcommittee** – promotes oil and hazardous material spill training at the federal, state, and local levels.
- **NRT – Autoridad del Canal de Panama (ACP) Subcommittee** – provides support to the ACP to address oil and hazardous material spill preparedness and response in the Panama Canal operating area.

Response Committee – provides a forum to assess the effectiveness of oil spill and hazardous substances incident reporting and response mechanisms established by the NCP; provides support to the FOSCs, the NRT, and RRTs; and makes recommendations regarding improvements to the response system.

- **Worker Safety & Health (WS&H) Subcommittee** – provides support for all WS&H related topics and assists with the implementation of the National Response Framework (NRF) Worker Safety and Health Support Annex.

Science & Technology Committee – provides technical support to the FOSCs and RRTs on issues relating to oil and hazardous substances releases; ongoing, past and proposed research; developments in technology; and makes recommendations for future national research and development.

- **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Subcommittee** – provides information and recommendations on WMD/hazardous substance response and research and development.

NRT Incident-Specific Activation

The NRT is activated to address interagency policy issues at the national level under any of the following conditions: (1) when a release exceeds the response capability of the region in which it occurs, (2) the release crosses regional boundaries, and/or (3) involves a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States or the environment, substantial amounts of property, or substantial threats to natural resources (e.g., Spills of National Significance). The role of the incident-specific team is determined by the operational requirements of the response to a specific discharge or release.

Together, the 15 member agencies of the NRT provide solutions for effective response to a wide range of oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents, both foreign and domestic. The NRT and RRTs coordinate planning and can access assets and capabilities, such as: technical assistance; subject matter experts; scientific expertise; logistical support; and coordination of capabilities associated with each member agency's specific responsibilities and expertise to support FOSCs and state and local responders. The following are only a few examples of each NRT agency's capabilities.



The NRT is comprised of 15 federal member agencies, each with responsibilities and expertise in various aspects of emergency response to pollution incidents.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA's Forest Service, Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, and other agencies have personnel, laboratory, and field capabilities to evaluate, monitor, and control situations where natural resources, including soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation, have been impacted by hazardous substances and other natural or manmade emergencies. Further, the Forest Service offers additional equipment to the response effort.

***Department of Commerce (DOC),
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)***

DOC, through NOAA, provides scientific support for preparedness activities and response in marine and navigable waters. NOAA Scientific Support Coordinators are technical advisors to the FOSC, coordinating science during preparedness and response. NOAA's expertise includes: trajectory forecasts



of air and water pollutants; sensitive and protected species and habitats; actual and predicted weather, ice and ocean conditions; environmental chemistry; satellite imagery; aerial photogrammetry; mapping and geospatial data management. NOAA is also the natural resource trustee for the living marine resources it manages and protects.

Department of Defense (DOD)

For response to contaminant release incidents, the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage & Diving (SUPSALV), the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as NORTHCOM's Defense CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear) Response Force [DCRF for short] and Command & Control CBRN Response Element (C2CRE) have extensive expertise in containment, collection, and mitigation. This is in addition to National Guard capabilities, which can include a WMD Civil Support Team (CST), a CBRN Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), and a Homeland Response Force (HRF).

Department of Energy (DOE)

DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration is ready to respond to any type of nuclear/radiological accident or incident domestically or internationally, including environmental radiological monitoring/sampling, assessment, and working with local, state, and federal agencies and officials to resolve the situation.



***Department of Health and Human
Services (HHS)***

HHS's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) provide worker health and safety training, while the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has established a surveillance system to evaluate the human health exposures to hazardous substances in emergencies. During an incident, CDC and ATSDR also advise the FOSC on human health threats and the prevention or mitigation of exposure to hazardous substances.

Department of the Interior (DOI)

Through its bureaus and offices, and based on its extensive land and resource management responsibilities, DOI provides scientific expertise to FOSCs to help protect sensitive natural, recreational, and cultural resources and areas. DOI also provides experts on remote sensing; mapping (including geographic information systems [GIS]); surface and ground water contamination; contaminant transport; oil, gas, and

mineral development; and oil spill response. DOI is also available to facilitate environmental restoration.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

DOJ, in coordination with legal counsel of the federal agencies and departments involved, provides expert advice on legal questions arising during an incident. DOJ also represents the federal government in litigation relating to hazardous substance, oil, chemical, or biological releases. Through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), DOJ is the lead federal agency for the coordination of law enforcement and investigative activities in response to threats or acts of terrorism.

Department of Labor (DOL)

DOL's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has the responsibility and authority to ensure that response workers are properly protected and response activities comply with safety and health requirements. In this role, OSHA provides technical assistance and support to the FOSC and other NRT/RRT agencies regarding hazard identification and assessment, training, and controls, including personal protective equipment, to protect the safety and health of response workers. During response activities, OSHA also fulfills its normal duties, roles, and responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

Department of State (DOS)

DOS coordinates international response and notification efforts when discharges or releases may affect international interests, including when they involve foreign flag vessels or threaten impact

beyond U.S. jurisdiction. DOS also coordinates requests for NRS assistance to and from foreign governments.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) manages national transportation safety programs for hazardous materials and oil by all modes of transportation and pipelines. In addition, the PHMSA provides technical assistance to the planning and response communities, including publication of the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA provides FOSCs and coordinates preparedness and response for hazardous substance releases and oil discharges in the inland zone. EPA has a number of special teams that can assist FOSCs, including the Environmental Response Team, National Decontamination Team, and Radiological Emergency Response Team. These teams have highly trained scientists, engineers, and other technical experts who provide training and specialized

assistance in multimedia sampling and analysis, hazards assessment, cleanup techniques, and waste management.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

USCG reports directly to the Secretary of Department of Homeland Security (DHS). USCG provides FOSCs and coordinates government and industry activities for oil spills and hazardous substance releases in the coastal zone. The USCG National Strike Force provides specialized equipment and response personnel for oil spills and chemical releases, along with incident management expertise. USCG also develops and delivers exercise and training programs for the NRS. The National Pollution Funds Center is also part of the USCG, and administers the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and the USCG's use of the Superfund and Disaster Relief funds for pollution response.

General Services Administration (GSA)

GSA provides logistical and telecommunications support during an incident. This support may include providing space, telephones,



transportation, supplies, equipment, and procurement-related services.

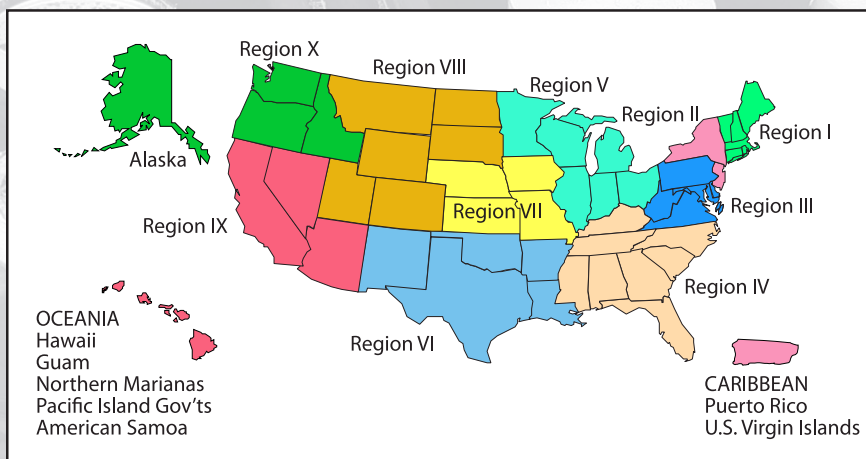
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulates civilian nuclear facilities and nuclear materials. It is the lead federal agency during radiological events involving its licensees and provides expertise during other radiological incidents.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA, which is part of DHS, is the lead agency for administering financial and technical assistance during a Presidentially declared disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Act. FEMA is responsible for providing hazardous materials response guidance and training for emergency first responders.

Regional Response Teams



National Response System

The NRT is part of a larger system known as the National Response System. Other components of the NRS are the RRTs, State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), FOSCs, Area Committees (ACs), and the National Response Center (NRC).

Other Key Components of the NRS

Regional Response Teams – ensure that the multi-agency resources and expertise of the NRS are available to support the FOSC as needed during a pollution incident. There are 13 RRTs, one for each of the ten EPA federal regions, plus one for Alaska, one for the Caribbean, and one for Oceania. The RRTs are comprised of representatives from the 15 federal NRS member agencies, plus state representatives, and are co-chaired by the EPA and USCG.

Federal On-Scene Coordinators – key players during an oil or hazardous chemical emergency. The FOSC coordinates or directs on-scene response resources and efforts during a pollution incident. Actions may include sampling

and monitoring, controlling the source of the release, on-site treatment, and off-site waste disposal. The FOSC also oversees area planning and development/updates of Area Contingency Plans, provides access to the expertise of the NRS federal member agencies, and is a valuable source of support and information to the local response community. The FOSC is pre-designated by EPA for inland areas and by USCG for coastal areas. There are more than 250 EPA and USCG FOSCs located throughout the U.S.

The National Response Center – the communications core of the NRS. It is staffed 24 hours a day and receives more than 30,000 incident notifications each year. From these notifications, NRC watchstanders generate reports and relay them to the appropriate FOSCs and to the SERCs. Federal law requires the responsible party to report oil spills, gas and hazardous liquid pipeline releases, chemical releases, and radiological releases to the NRC.

The NRC Advisory Group (NAG) provides a forum for the NRC and NRT member agencies to discuss and address topics related to NRC processes, procedures, operations and interagency concerns.

For more information on the NRT, visit www.nrt.org.



Report Oil and Chemical Spills
to the National Response Center
(800) 424-8802

National Response Team • c/o U.S. EPA, Mail Code 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW • Washington, DC 20460
January 2020

Working together to protect against threats to our land, air, and water

NRT
www.nrt.org