



# Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT)

<http://alaskarrt.org>

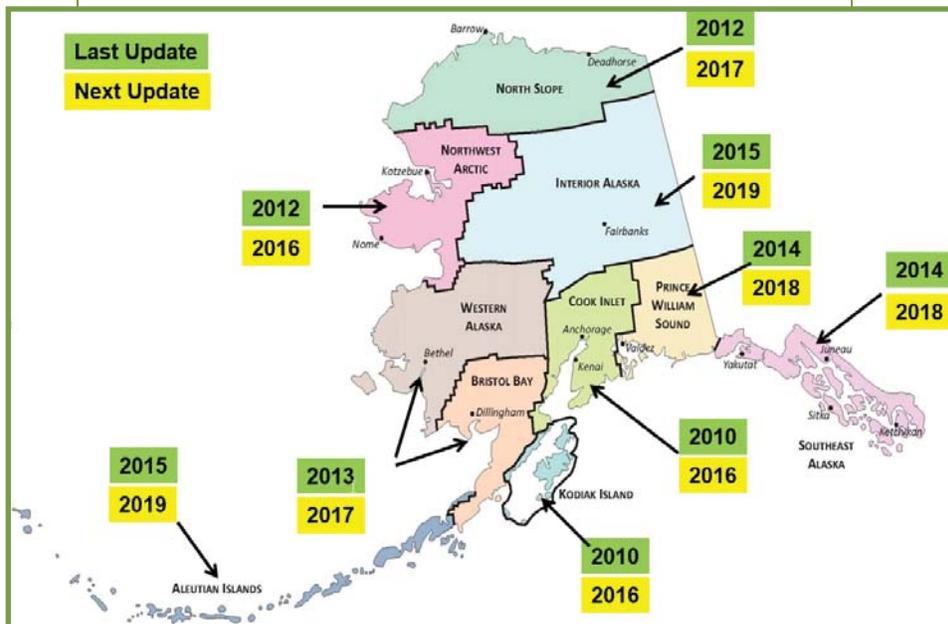


## Subarea Contingency Plan Updates

Subarea Contingency Plans (SCP) contain guidance to spill responders specific to their respective planning subarea.

SCP's updated in the last year include The Aleutian Islands, and the Alaska interior. You can view the subarea plan for your region at <http://alaskarrt.org/Documents.aspx?f=175>.

The chart below details when SCP's were last updated, and projected dates for completing new updates. The Cook Inlet SCP update is currently underway. Date of last update is in green, and planned updates are in yellow.



### IMPORTANT DATES IN 2016

- January 27** ARRT Meeting Anchorage, AK
- May 24-25** ARRT Meeting and Kodiak Subarea Committee Meeting Kodiak, AK
- Sept 27-28** ARRT Meeting and Northwest Arctic Subarea Committee Meeting Nome, AK

### ARRT Biennial Work Plan

The ARRT establishes priorities for work in the upcoming two years, and details those in a Biennial Work Plan (BWP). While the BWP covers two years, it is updated annually. You may view the current BWP at <http://alaskarrt.org/Documents.aspx?f=9>.



A USCG aircraft supporting spill response in Alaska. Photo: USCG

## **Domestic Duties, Internationally Informed**

The Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT), like the 12 other RRTs covering our nation, fulfills its mandates under the requirements of the Oil Pollution Act of 90 (OPA90), the Clean Water Act, and the National Contingency Plan. While most readers know the focus of the ARRT's efforts is domestic (state and federal territory) preparedness and response in nature, one thing they may not know is that these efforts are sometimes informed by work being done in the international arena. Groups such as the Arctic Council Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response work group, the International Marine Organization, and the Arctic Coast Guard Forum function in ways and complete projects which often parallel or complement domestic preparedness and response coordination. Beyond those tie-ins, many ARRT members, including the State of Alaska, are contributors to or customers of international coordinating initiatives such as the United States' pollution planning and response bilateral agreements between Russia and Canada. Each of these professional collaborations, both within the U.S. and between nations, help to form a strong, resilient preparedness and response network.

## **ARRT Policy Governing the Use of Chemical Dispersants**

In January of 2016, the ARRT expects to issue an update to the existing policy regarding the use of dispersant chemicals in Alaskan waters.

This will bring to a close a process of public involvement and State and Federal agency collaboration that has taken several years to complete.

The update includes a change in dispersant pre-authorization posture affecting five planning subareas. These are Kodiak, Cook Inlet, the Aleutian Islands, Prince William Sound, and Bristol Bay. A key facet of the new policy is the process by which sensitive areas are to be identified for exclusion from pre-authorization of dispersant use.

Each of the five affected subarea committees must work to identify these areas within 24 months of issuance of the new plan.

You can assist in this effort, by actively participating in Subarea Planning in your region. You can view a map of the Alaska planning subareas on page 1 of this newsletter.

For more information, visit our website at <http://alaskarrt.org>.



Responders assess an illegal hazardous waste dump  
Photo: USEPA

## **President Obama visits Alaska**

In early September, President Obama visited Alaska and announced new investments to combat climate change and assist remote Alaskan communities. New commitments to respond to the unique challenges facing remote Alaska communities include support for efforts to build resilience to climate impacts, addressing high energy costs by incentivizing clean and efficient energy solutions, and providing tools to help communities understand and prepare for future climate change impacts. These new commitments build on elements within the National Strategy for the Arctic Region to strengthen community and tribal participation in Area Planning, promote Arctic oil pollution preparedness, response and prevention, and updating the statewide Dispersant Use Plan to better address risks in crude tanker transit areas.



Photo: Whitehouse.gov