

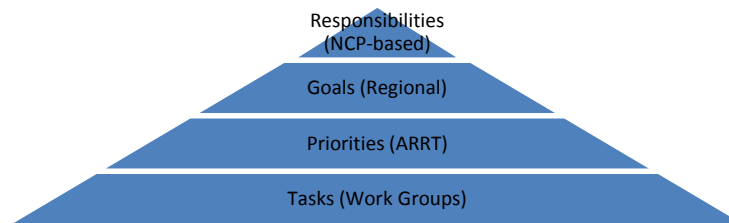


Alaska RRT Biennial Work Plan Calendar Years 2015 - 2016

Scope and Structure

This is the biennial work plan as set forth in Article VI of the Alaska RRT Charter. It outlines planned work over the two-year period for the Alaska RRT (ARRT) and its work groups and offers priorities for consideration by On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) and subarea committees, and area planning managers. This is a living document subject to the direction of the co-chairs, input from ARRT members, and the needs of the OSCs.

Article III of the Alaska RRT Charter describes the ARRT's responsibilities as articulated in the National Contingency Plan (NCP) at section 300.115. **Goals** expressed herein support those overall responsibilities, but account for the unique demands and complexities of the Alaska region. **Priorities** are intended to advance, in whole or part the Goals, but may also reflect more immediate needs or requirements. **Tasks** are specific, measurable, time-based initiatives usually assigned to work groups (i.e., committees and task forces), which advance Priorities.



Goals

Goals represent a best case long-term shared vision – spanning beyond two years, but are subject to external factors and resource and personnel availability. The goals are not prioritized. The ARRT shall:

- Continuously improve the Federal and State capabilities and plans to respond to an oil or hazardous substance incident.
- Enhance area planning and spill preparedness to keep pace with the expansion of oil exploration and production activities throughout remote Alaska, with particular emphasis for on and offshore in the Arctic.
- Enhance readiness of Alaska RRT members to support OSCs when called upon to respond to an incident.
- Provide a forum to exchange information on spill response technologies and procedures.
- Prioritize and coordinate the ARRT's combined resources and funding for optimum outcomes.
- Enhance outreach to and seek participation by federally recognized tribes in spill preparedness and response planning, including membership in the ARRT.



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- Seek involvement of other stakeholders and all interested parties in spill preparedness and response planning.
- Provide guidance and support to the OSCs on spill response and subarea planning. The primary emphasis will be on the significant increased projections for shipping through the Bering Strait, circumpolar route, Great Circle route, and southeast Alaska.
- Provide guidance and information to Alaska OSCs and agency planners regarding lessons learned from major national spills. Guidance and information from the major pipeline spills in the Lower 48 may have particular relevance to watershed spill planning in Alaska.
- Provide guidance and information on international developments in spill preparedness and response, federal rule-makings, federal R&D efforts and topics relevant to Alaska from major spill conferences. Multilateral agreements under development for the Arctic as well as bilateral agreements will be reported with consideration of how they affect operations in Alaska.
- Identify best practices and policies from other regions and identify features or information that would be useful for improving area planning in Alaska.
- Provide information and guidance on emerging technologies, industry preparedness & new initiatives, and other state or federal initiatives (e.g., vessel of opportunity programs and 24-hour cleanup capability).
- Advocate for improvements to the response system for Alaska.
- Advocate for improvements in the national response system via the NRT and report on developing initiatives such as the equipment surge project, SONS guideline updates, changes proposed for the National Response Framework, lessons learned from other key national incidents, procedures for retention of state response experts to fill ICS positions in major responses, and others.
- Encourage Alaska RRT members, On-Scene Coordinators, and other responders to attend relevant training, as appropriate.

Priorities

Priorities are meant to advance, in whole or part stated Goals, but may also reflect more immediate needs or requirements. Priorities for the next two-year period are:

- Continue to pursue all steps (e.g., Endangered Species Act consultation, adjudication of public comments, results of tribal consultation, legal review, etc.) to promulgate and implement the proposed *Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska* (Annex F, Appendix I).
- Subject to completion of the update to dispersant use policy and preauthorization plan, provide OSCs guidance – to ensure statewide consistency – on development of avoidance areas in the preauthorization zone portions of the five affected subareas (i.e., Bristol Bay, Aleutian Islands,



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Cook Inlet, Kodiak, Prince William Sound). OSCs may, in consultation with their subarea committee, develop avoidance areas in their subarea outside of the preauthorization zone.

- Evaluate access to web-based technologies (i.e., Go-To Meeting, etc.) to enhance the experience for call-in participants at ARRT meetings.
- Follow-up on remedial action items from 2013 Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS) regional exercise to determine status, need, and path forward to resolution.
- As directed by the NRT, develop a scenario-based, integrated federal (including state) logistics support requirements and sourcing plan for an Arctic SONS. Will need FOSC and North Slope subarea committee to assist and support.
- Develop a matrix for various state, federal, and industry plan types (e.g., OSRP, VRP, FRP) showing plan holder, plan reviewer(s), plan approver, response jurisdiction, and contact information.
- Science and Technology Committee (STC) –
 - In conjunction with the national level work group, organize and present a meta-analysis of current studies including ‘best available science’ regarding cold water efficacy and toxicity of dispersant.
 - Identify and coordinate speakers and data (regional, national, & international) to address the ARRT and OSCs on the latest dispersant use science on efficacy and toxicity in Alaska. Elevate availability of and facilitate access to the best available science on this topic.
 - Investigate and finalize status of NRT guidance on particulate level guidelines (PM 10 vs PM 2.5) regarding ISB and terrain models.
 - Consider role of other stakeholders in STC proceedings.
- Support the new OSC-ARRT steering committee to oversee revision of the Unified Plan with emphasis on a clearly defined review/revision process and prioritization of changes (e.g., new content based on Endangered Species Act consultation and Essential Fish Habitat analysis, updated Regional Stakeholder Committee guidance, process for review and update of the Unified Plan and subarea contingency plans, inclusion of updated dispersant use policy and preauthorization plan).
- Define the scope of Change 4 to the Unified Plan in time for a June 2015 revision.
- Scope the contents of potential statewide policy on food safety issues and protocols during responses.
- Enhance coordination of scheduling of regulatory agencies’ drills and exercises at the subarea committee level.
- Encourage greater subarea committee participation by federally-recognized tribes, industry, NGOs and the public.



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- Develop an ARRT policy detailing 24/7/365 staffing, availability, and activation procedures for all members and designation of alternate.
- Work toward ARRT-related objectives as stated in approved implementation plans and policy documents:
 - o National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR), pg 13
 - o Departmental/Agency-specific Arctic plans
 - o National Response Team Plan for Incorporation of National Academy of Sciences Arctic Spill Response Assessment
 - o Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Final Report and Implementation Plan (specifically recommendations 2(d),(e),(f) and (h)
 - o *BP Deepwater Horizon/Macondo* Incident Specific Preparedness Review
 - o USCG/BSEE WCD Contingency Plan Analysis Report
 - o 16 DEC 2010 NRT Memorandum: Required ACP Revisions on Use of Dispersants on Oil Spills
 - o Presidential Executive Order on Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic

Plan Status

- Unified Plan: Current version is Change 3 issued in January 2010. Due for revision 2015.
- Subarea Plans:
 - o Interior (April 2007) - revision underway
 - o *Aleutians (April 2009) - revision underway
 - o *Cook Inlet (December 2010) - Dec 2015
 - o *Kodiak (March 2010) - March 2016 (moved right due to workload)
 - o Northwest Arctic (January 2012) - 2016 (moved left due to workload)
 - o North Slope (May 2012) - current
 - o Western Alaska (February 2013) - current
 - o *Bristol Bay (February 2013) - current
 - o Southeast Alaska (May 2013) - current
 - o *Prince William Sound (October 2014) - current

* Denotes a SCP that will require review and development of avoidance areas within 24 months of finalization of the new dispersant preauthorization plan

Scheduled Meetings

In accordance with ARRT Charter Article IV, Section 8, all members/alternates and OSCs are welcome to attend any ARRT meeting. To the extent practicable, the Standing Alaska RRT will hold a one day meeting three times per year in conjunction with the relevant Subarea Committee meeting according to the following schedule/location as funds allow:

- Winter 2015 in Juneau (January 27 & 28, 2015) [All Agencies & FOSCs meeting]
- Spring 2015 in Anchorage (May 19 & 20, 2015) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, ADEC please prioritize]



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- Summer 2015 in Kenai (September 23 & 24, 2015) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]
Executive Committee annual strategic planning meeting in Anchorage September 25, 2015
- Winter 2016 in Anchorage (January 26 & 27, 2016) [All Agencies & FOSCs meeting]
- Spring 2016 in Kodiak (May 24 & 25, 2016) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, ADEC please prioritize]
- Summer 2016 in Nome (September 27 & 28, 2016) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]

Exercises

- Internal. As practicable, the Alaska RRT will initiate an annual “Worst Case Discharge” scenario from one of the Subarea Contingency Plans. The Alaska RRT co-chairs may request the assistance and participation of a FOSC to add realism to the exercise. Exercise results may be documented in the Alaska RRT meeting summary and considered by the Subarea Committee for use in updating the Subarea Contingency Plan, as needed. EPA and USCG will alternate as the lead for these exercises and will coordinate with ADEC in developing the exercise.
- External. As practicable, the Alaska RRT will participate in at least one exercise sponsored by Federal, State, or industry via a live activation. FOSCs and SOSCs should evaluate their exercise schedules and make recommendations for exercises that are suitable for Alaska RRT participation. For example, FOSCs and SOSCs may identify Alaska RRT notification or activation as an exercise objective during the exercise design process.

Lessons Learned

During the OSC report-outs, the OSCs will be asked to walk through their response to recent significant incidents and summarize issues and lessons learned from those incidents.

For significant incidents where a Unified Command is activated, the Alaska RRT may request that the OSC conduct a hot wash and document lessons learned as part of the demobilization process. Upon request, the OSC will submit the lessons learned to the Alaska RRT and provide a briefing during the next regularly scheduled meeting. Examples of significant incidents may include: responses involving multiple federal/state/local agencies, high cost or intensive resource expenditures, and high media or political interest. Each subarea committee will consider these lessons learned reports to update their respective SCPs as appropriate.

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