



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.

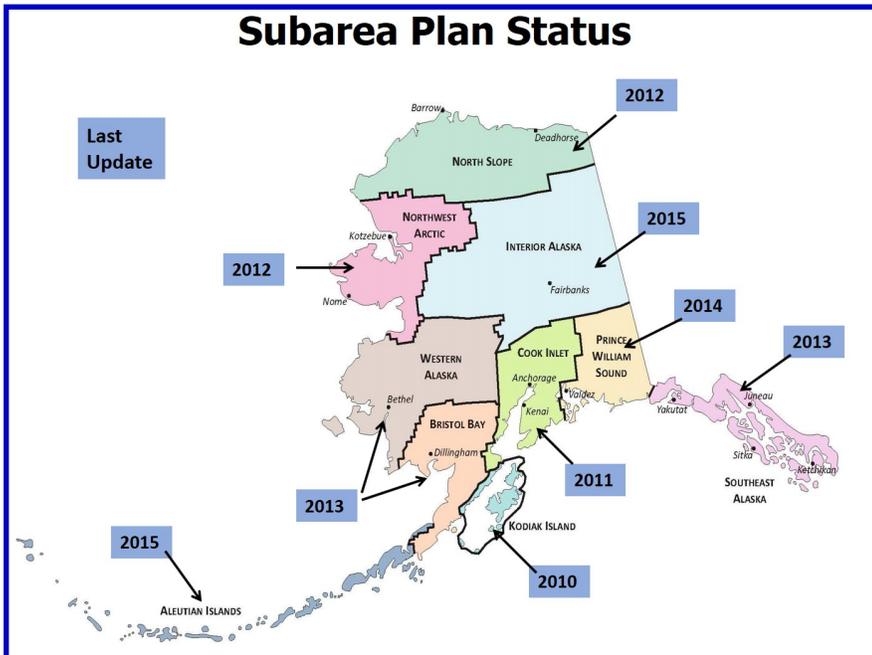
IMPORTANT DATES IN 2017

- January 18-19** ARRT Meeting, and AK Interior Subarea Committee Mtg. Fairbanks, AK
- February 6-10** AK Forum on the Environment Anchorage, AK

The ARRT will host a session at the Alaska Forum on the Environment, offering an overview of the role the ARRT plays in spill planning and response, and encouraging Tribes to get involved in the spill planning process, through the subarea Planning Committee in their area, or directly with the RRT.

- May 23-24** ARRT Meeting and Southeast AK Subarea Committee Meeting Sitka, AK
- Sept 27-28** ARRT Meeting and Prince William Sound Subarea Meeting Cordova, AK

Subarea Plan Status



<http://alaskarrt.org>

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>.

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 issued an update to the existing policy regarding the use of dispersant chemicals in Alaskan waters.

This brought to a close a process of public involvement and State and Federal agency collaboration that took 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.

A multi-agency team is seeking public input that will help guide the development of Dispersant Avoidance Areas within the Preauthorization Area as required by the Alaska Regional Response Team (RRT) *Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska*. This plan was signed and enacted in January 2016 and is part of the Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases, also known as "The Unified Plan." Avoidance Areas will be included in Section 1 of appropriate Subarea Contingency Plans. In the event of an off-shore crude oil discharge, Avoidance Areas will guide the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) in making dispersant use decisions. More information on Avoidance Areas and how to provide public comments is available on the project website: <http://nukadraft.wixsite.com/avoidanceareas>



Responders assess an illegal hazardous waste dump
Photo: USEPA

Small Community Emergency Response Plans—AK Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Successful management of a disaster begins at the local level. When a community is prepared to deal with a disaster the impact can be minimized and lives may be saved. One key to community preparedness is a community emergency plan that defines how the community will manage disasters. The plan should include local, regional, and state resources that support local response.

The Small Community Emergency Response Plan (SCERP) is a new, exciting approach to emergency management for small communities. SCERP is a customized flip book with essential, community-specific information for responding to a disaster. For additional information or questions please call DHS&EM SCERP Planning Team toll-free at 1-800-478-2337 or 1-907-428-7000. Learn More at <https://ready.alaska.gov/plans/SCERP>

Or click below to view:

[\(SCERP Factsheet\)](#)

[Communities which have completed a SCERP](#)

Requests for information and questions can also be directed to DHS&EM SCERP Planning Team via e-mail at [General Planning Point of Contact](#).

TRAINING

Bringing it to Bethel: Oil spill response training in Western Alaska

Story and photos provided by Lt. James Daugherty, Prevention, Coast Guard Sector Anchorage

[Coast Guard Sector Anchorage](#) teamed up with members of the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation](#) to bring oil spill response training to village representatives in Bethel, Alaska, Aug. 1, 2016. The joint venture trained 26 students from nine remote Western Alaskan villages in a robust curriculum that included first responder actions, spill containment and hands-on experience with spill response equipment.

“This was the largest class we’ve seen in six years,” said Bob Whittier, on-scene coordinator for Alaska, EPA. “Partnering with local communities is vital in raising awareness and protecting the environment.”

Class members represented approximately 18,000 residents in the Bethel area. They would likely be the first responders to a spill in the vicinity of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which covers 50,000 square miles, comparable in size to the entire state of Louisiana.

Federal and state resources are scarce in the area, and government response to a spill would likely take at least 24 hours depending on local weather conditions. The response time is significantly reduced if residents know what to look for and how to report it.

Many students in the class had received prior training from earlier initiatives by members of state and federal agencies, and others were selected due to their prior familiarity with oil products and spills.

“In many cases, we are training those most likely to react quickly and organize the effort,” said Lt. Todd Bagetis, chief, incident management division, Sector Anchorage.

“Those we teach here will take their knowledge back and disseminate it in their communities.”

A representative from the [Alaska Chadux Corporation](#) also taught a class on boom deployment and containment measures. Using boom and other methods to stop oil contamination will allow these communities to contain spills until help arrives.

“Empowering local communities to protect themselves in case of a spill will go a long way to keeping our resources protected. We look forward to continued efforts in our state and continued partnerships with the EPA and Coast Guard,” said Lisa Krebs, DEC representative.

Tags: [17th Coast Guard District](#), [Alaska DEC](#), [coast guard sector anchorage](#), [EPA](#)

Prince William Sound SeaRiver Tanker Exercise:

Valdez, AK, October 19-20, 2016 -

The US Coast Guard along with other agency partners from Alaska department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Services worked together with Tesoro, Overseas Shipping Group and Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. to support the 2016 Prince William Sound Shippers Exercise. The Annual exercise drew over 225 total participants including 35 Active Duty Coast Guard Members from 6 separate units. During the exercise, participants worked together under a Unified Command structure to mitigate a simulated 1250 barrel spill from a Tanker which was loading at the Valdez Marine Terminal. The Crude Oil spill was a significant incident, primarily affecting the Port of Valdez and the shorelines on the southern portion of the Port. Responding agencies worked together with the responsible party to develop and validate response objectives and strategies. The Vessel Response Plan was exercised as well as the Unified Plan and Prince William Sound Area Contingency Plan. Many positive relationships were created and many lessons learned were captured which greatly increased the readiness of the Response Community in Prince William Sound.

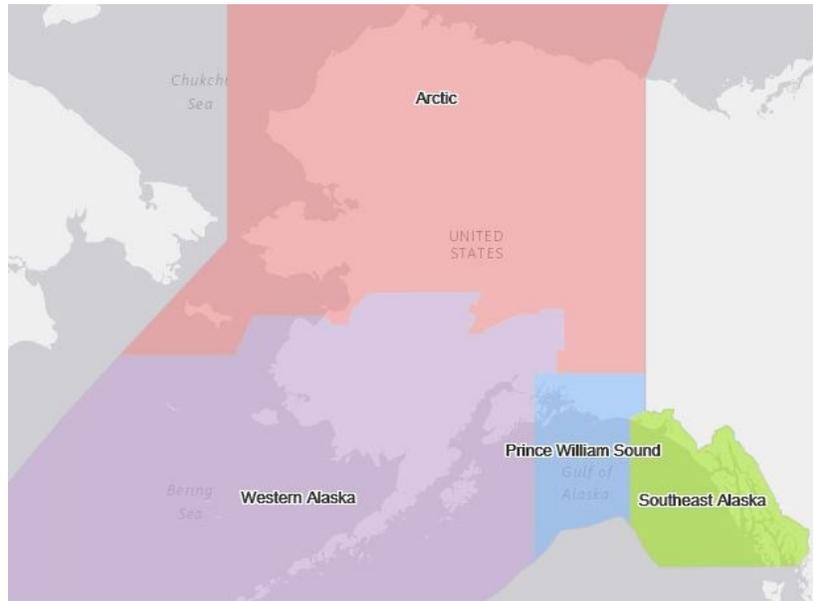


Members of Coast Guard Sector Anchorage, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Chadux Corporation and residents of Bethel, Alaska take a group photo during oil spill response training for representatives of the Western Alaska village, Aug. 1, 2016. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

Alaska Area Planning Framework Update

In an effort to be better prepared in the event of an oil spill or hazardous materials release, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) are considering adjusting from the existing [Unified Plan](#) for oil spill and hazardous materials releases to becoming consistent with the [National Contingency Plan](#) and the [National Response Framework](#).

Below is a diagram of the proposed Alaska Planning Areas. You can learn more about this effort at http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/PPR/plans/regional_plan.htm.



Under the proposed structure, emergency response planning for each of these areas would be conducted by Area Committees, as defined in the NCP. Each Area Committee would, under OSC leadership, maintain and update an Area Contingency Plan, detailing government actions in the event of a spill.

A Statewide Planning Committee would be established to ensure consistency across plans statewide, and to coordinate planning efforts among the four planning areas and the ARRT. The existing OSC working group, would remain as a forum for OSC's to share lessons learned and to coordinate State and federal planning and preparedness efforts. The relationship between the ARRT, the Planning Committee, The Area Committees and the OSC Working Group, is illustrated below:

