

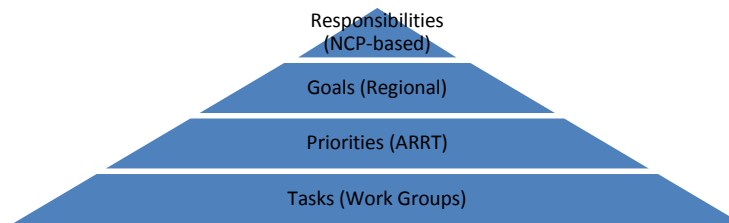


Alaska RRT Biennial Work Plan Calendar Years 2016 - 2017

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.
- Track currency and status of federal, state, and industry pollution preparedness and response plans.
- Encourage greater subarea committee participation by federally-recognized tribes, industry, NGOs and the public.

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:



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- Continue to pursue all steps (e.g., adjudication of public comments, results of tribal consultation, ARRT review, etc.) to promulgate and implement the proposed *Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska* (Annex F, Appendix I). Note: Reportable item required by the Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region **Dispersant Use Policy Task Force (Lead: CDR Bo Stocklin (USCG). Mbrs: M. Combes (EPA), P. Johnson (DOI), D. Helton (DOC), & G. Folley (ADEC))**
- 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, 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. **ARRT Tri-Chairs**
- Where relevant to ARRT equities, ARRT member agencies will work collaboratively to implement the Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPM) (with Terms and Conditions) from the NMFS ESA Biological Opinion and, to the maximum extent practicable, the Conservation Recommendations from the NMFS and USFWS Biological Opinions. **ARRT Co-Chairs**
- Evaluate access to web-based technologies (i.e., Go-To Meeting, etc.) to enhance the experience for call-in participants at ARRT meetings. **ADEC Co-Coordinator**
- Pending completion of NOAA/CRRC-led national level work group, review and present findings on state of the science for dispersants in cold water. **Science and Technology Committee (STC)**
- Develop and propose a revision of Annex D of the Unified Plan. **Unified Plan Update Committee**
- Enhance coordination of scheduling of regulatory agencies' drills and exercises [at the subarea committee level]. **ADEC leading effort but will involve EPA, USCG, ARRT members, and stakeholders in time.**
- Work toward ARRT-related objectives as stated in approved implementation plans and policy documents:
 - National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR), pg 13
 - Departmental/Agency-specific Arctic plans
 - National Response Team Plan for Incorporation of National Academy of Sciences Arctic Spill Response Assessment
 - Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Final Report and Implementation Plan (specifically recommendations 2(d),(e),(f) and (h)
 - *BP Deepwater Horizon/Macondo* Incident Specific Preparedness Review
 - USCG/BSEE WCD Contingency Plan Analysis Report
 - 16 DEC 2010 NRT Memorandum: Required ACP Revisions on Use of Dispersants on Oil Spills
 - Presidential Executive Order on Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic (EO 13689)



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Plan Status

- Unified Plan: Current version is Change 3 issued in January 2010. Due for revision 2015.
 - Subarea Plans:
 - *Aleutians (May 2015) - current
 - *Bristol Bay (February 2013) - current
 - *Cook Inlet (December 2010) - revision underway
 - Interior (April 2015) - current
 - *Kodiak (March 2010) - March 2016 (moved right due to workload)
 - North Slope (May 2012) - current
 - Northwest Arctic (January 2012) - 2016 (moved left due to workload)
 - *Prince William Sound (October 2014) – current
 - Southeast Alaska (April 2013) - current
 - Western Alaska (February 2013) - current
- * Denotes a SCP that will require review and development of avoidance areas within 24 months of finalization of the dispersant preauthorization plan contained in new Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska.

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 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]
- Fall 2016 in Nome (September 27 & 28, 2016) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]
Annual ARRT Strategy Session in Anchorage September 29, 2016
- Winter 2017 in Fairbanks (January 17 & 18, 2017) [All Agencies & FOSCs meeting]
- Spring 2017 in Juneau (May 23 & 24, 2017) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, ADEC please prioritize]
- Fall 2017 in Anchorage (September 27 & 28, 2017) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]
Annual ARRT Strategy Session in Anchorage September 29, 2017

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. **Co-
Coordinators**



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- 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. **Co-Coordinator**

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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