

ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Meeting Summary

0830–1700 Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Robert B. Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Ave., Anchorage, AK

The agenda is available [here](#).

Presentations and Background Information from the meeting are available online:
Introductions, ARRT Committee Reports
Area Committee Reports
National Response Team Report
Special Topic: Response to the November 30, 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake
Special Topic: Alaska's Earthquake and Tsunami Risk
Special Topic: Port Williams/Shuyak Island USCG After Action Report
Special Topic: Discussion on ARRT Activations and Notifications and role in a National Response Framework/ Stafford Act response
Report: "Ensuring Food Safety Following an Oil Spill in Alaska: Regulatory Authorities and Responsibilities"

Safety Briefing, Introductions, Opening Remarks

Ms. Mary Goolie, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) Coordinator, welcomed the meeting attendees and conducted introductions. The ARRT tri-chairs—Mr. Mark Everett, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); Mr. Calvin Terada (EPA); and Ms. Denise Koch, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)—welcomed all attendees to the meeting and offered opening remarks. Ms. Goolie also introduced Mr. Marc Randolph, USCG ARRT Coordinator and Mr. Craig Ziolkowski, ADEC ARRT Coordinator.

Review of Actions Since Last Meeting and Biennial Work Plan

Mr. Everett provided a review of the ARRT's actions, activities, and informational items since the last meeting, held in Anchorage, Alaska, in October 2018.

Working Group, Subcommittee, and Task Force Reports

Science and Technology Committee

Ms. Catherine Berg, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinator, provided an update on the Science and Technology Committee (STC). She highlighted a Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach program workshop held on February 20 and 21, 2019, in Anchorage. She also presented on the work efforts of the Alaska Clean Seas Marine Mammal Response Working Group. The Marine Mammal Working Group is an informal working group consisting of federal and state agencies, industry, non-governmental working groups, and private members focused on arctic marine

mammals; it is not a working group of the STC. Parties interested in participating in the Marine Mammal Working Group should contact Ms. Berg.

Cultural Resource Protection Committee

Dr. Philip Johnson, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Regional Environmental Officer, noted that the committee is still newly re-activated. The National Park Service (NPS) and Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology serving as Alaska's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) are working to prepare and deliver Historic Properties Specialist training in October 2019. (This training was originally planned for April 2019, but had to be rescheduled due to the partial federal government shutdown.) Currently, there are few, if any, qualified historic properties specialists in Alaska. The potential audience for this training are individuals from agencies, contractors, Alaska native organizations, and graduate school programs.

Wildlife Protection Committee

Dr. Johnson also provided a briefing on the Wildlife Protection Committee. The committee reconvened in 2018, meeting six times, with a primary goal to update the Wildlife Protection Guidelines. A major objective of the revision is to make the guidelines more responder-friendly, streamlining content, and create more checklists and flowcharts. The committee is also working to re-organize the guidelines to match the table of contents of the Area Contingency Plans (ACPs). They also intend to incorporate new content, such as the National Resource Damage Assessment process and subsistence considerations.

Food Safety Task Force/Work Group

Mr. Doug Helton, representing NOAA, presented an update on the Food Safety Policy Task Force. The Oil Spill Recovery Institute, in partnership with the task force, published the report "Ensuring Food Safety Following an Oil Spill in Alaska: Regulatory Authorities and Responsibilities" in December 2018. The report is available online at the Oil Spill Recovery Institute: <http://www.pws-osri.org/general-announcements/osri-seeks-nominations-to-stc-2019-2/>

He proposed some next steps for the task force, including the following:

- Develop risk communications regarding food safety;
- Develop guidance on subsistence food safety for the ACPs;
- Address concerns regarding the food safety and stranded marine mammals; and
- Address trans-boundary (international boundaries) and food safety issues.

Karen Pletnikoff, representing the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Association, commented that the "Ensuring Food Safety Following an Oil Spill in Alaska: Regulatory Authorities and Responsibilities" report and future task force products would be better products if the task force was larger and more diverse.

Statewide Planning Committee

Mr. Randolph and Mr. Ziolkowski presented on the Statewide Planning Committee. They reviewed the Statewide Planning Committee progress and actions and the status of the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) update.

National Response Team Update

Mr. Roger Fernandez, National Response Team (NRT) Executive Director, provided an update on the NRT and an overview of the resources brought to emergency response by the NRT member agencies. He also reviewed the results of the 2018 NRT ACP survey to assess the functionality of ACPs and ways they would be improved.

Area Committee/On-Scene Coordinator Reports

Prince William Sound Area Committee

CDR Michael Franklin, Marine Safety Unit Valdez (MSU Valdez) Federal OSC (FOOSC), reviewed the responses and exercises in Prince William Sound since November 2018. He also highlighted the Valdez Narrows navigation safety and security zone enforcement. They have expanded USCG law enforcement support, created a quick response card for near-misses and are working on further legal engagement and continued outreach on this concern. The next Prince William Sound Area Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2019. MSU Valdez will be involved in the Alaska Shield exercise (April 10-13, 2019) and the Alyeska/SERVS Valdez Marine Terminal exercise on May 8, 2019.

Southeast Alaska Area Committee

CAPT Steve White, USCG Sector Juneau FOOSC, and Mr. Bob Mattson, ADEC State OSC (SOSC), presented on recent activity in Southeast Alaska. The Southeast Alaska Area Committee meeting is scheduled for late summer 2019. CAPT White briefed the ARRT on new and emerging risks in southeast from “very large cruise ships” and the on-going increase in Dixon Entrance and Prince Rupert vessel traffic.

Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee

CAPT Sean MacKenzie, USCG Sector Anchorage FOOSC, reviewed the recent activity in the Arctic and Western Alaska Area. He reviewed the progress and plans of the Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee. The area committee organized into five subcommittees, which have met, and many have formed work groups. The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2019 in Fairbanks, AK.

Mr. Geoff Merrell, SOSC, recognized the “unsung” role of prevention activities; such activities are reducing damage and releases from the November Cook Inlet earthquake. There were no major hazardous material infrastructure damaged and no major releases.

Mr. Tom DeRuyter, SOSC, spoke on recent ADEC-led or involved spills and exercises and projects in the ADEC Northern Area Response Team area of responsibility.

Alaska Inland Area Committee

Mr. Bob Whittier, EPA FOOSC, presented actions in the Alaska Inland area and greater EPA involvement in Region 9 (California wildfires). He noted the upcoming preparedness exercises, which include the Conoco Phillips Kuparuk Mutual Aid Drill, Hilcorp’s tabletop exercise, the Alaska Shield tabletop, and an Eielson Air Force Base Worst Case Discharge exercise.

General Discussion Topics and Special Presentations

Cook Inlet 2018 Earthquake, Lessons Learned

Mr. Bryan Fisher, Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (ADHSEM) and the State Coordinating Officer and Incident Commander for the earthquake response, and Mr. Tim Manner, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 10 Federal Coordinating Officer, presented on the Cook Inlet earthquake response that occurred on November 30, 2018. While this was not a catastrophic earthquake, it was a major incident with corresponding major state and federal responses. They noted that the response was rapid and robust with infrastructure repairs completed in a very fast timeline. Rapid repair to the road infrastructure was credited in large part to private contractor's readiness to initiate operations. Updates on the earthquake response will be posted online at: <http://ready.alaska.gov/Earthquake>.

They also reviewed the new Lifeline Status reporting framework, which represents a streamlining of the Stafford Act Essential Support Functions (ESF) to key categories, as shown below. The State intends to use this communication structure for all future State Emergency Operations Center responses. (Note: Hazardous Waste will be renamed Hazardous Materials).



Implications to the Regional Contingency Plan and Area Contingency Plans: Mr. Fisher noted that they found that ACPs were sufficient, with the exception of some terminology that should be updated. The ARRT Coordinators and agency planners recommended inserting the Lifeline Status reporting in the next version of the RCP and ACPs, as appropriate. They also recommended that planners insert Stafford Act response priorities into the ACPs (Schools, Sheltering, Food Distribution, and Evacuation Locations), as well as references to Small Community Emergency Response Plans and Community Planning Guidance, produced by the ADHSEM.

Additional Ways for Involvement:

- Alaska Partnership for Infrastructure Protection (APIP) – A public-private partnership to improve response to all-hazard incidents.
- Regional Interagency Steering Committees, convening June 11 and 12, 2019, in the Anchorage Federal Building.

Earthquake and Tsunami Hazards and Risks

Dr. Summer Ohlendorf, with the U.S. Tsunami Warning Center, presented on the risk of earthquakes and tsunami in Alaska. Her presentation is posted on the ARRT website, hyperlink provided in the table of Presentations and Background Information.

Port Williams Shuyak Island Spill: USCG Lessons Learned

LCDR Matt Hobbie, Sector Anchorage Chief of Contingency Planning and Force Readiness, presented on the USCG Lessons Learned from the Port Williams Shuyak Island spill in the Kodiak Island geographic zone. He summarized the major lessons learned by category.

- Incident Management Team (IMT): IMT members and sections chiefs should be co-located and local resources should be utilized prior to requesting external support;
- Responder Proficiency: Augment/develop proficiency of responders in the development of cleanup and removal endpoints and in cleanup tactics of persistent oils;
- Investigations: USCG Sector must request external investigation support early in response;
- Prevention: Large volume of persistent oil should not have been stored in the manner and location it was, and administrative controls by agencies must be maintained to reduce or eliminate risk of discharge; and
- Role of Area Committees: Area committees should lead for After Action Report (AAR) development. AARs should incorporate lessons learned from all response participants.

Can the ARRT Co-Exist During a National Response Framework/Stafford Act Response?

Mr. Robert Forgit, FEMA representative to the ARRT, facilitated a discussion on the role of the ARRT during a National Response Framework/Stafford Act response and when the ARRT should be activated or conduct an activation or notification briefing on an incident. Discussion was robust and ARRT members expressed general agreement on the following points:

- The ARRT can be activated at the request of an FOSC or any ARRT member.
- The ARRT should develop, and share with its members, improved procedures for an activation and notification call, including general guidelines for what information should be shared and the order of the reports by members. Overall call elements should include the following:
 1. Roll-call of participating members by agency;
 2. Incident and response summary by lead response agency;
 3. ARRT agency reports, limited to activities pertaining to their role as ARRT members (and not on overall agency response activities);
 4. Ensure call is brief and focused on what ARRT members can do to support the FOSC or Incident Commander.
 5. Provide information on status of ARRT member agency's capability to provide support

Public Comments

One meeting attendee signed up to offer public comments.

- Charlene Saclamana, Kawerak Emergency Preparedness Specialist. Kawerak desires improved government coordination in regard to oil spill preparedness, prevention, and response gaps. (Follow-up conversation offered and occurred on March 11 to address her concerns.)

Concluding Comments and Remarks

Representatives of the ARRT member agencies and the OSCs offered closing comments and remarks, and the meeting adjourned.

Special Recognition

Ms. Koch and CAPT White recognized and thanked Bob Mattson for his years of service to ADEC and his mentorship to so many ADEC employees and the greater Southeast response community over the years. Mr. Mattson retires in April.

Upcoming Meetings

- Alaska Inland Area Committee and Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee meetings: May 15, 2019, in Fairbanks, AK
- ARRT Meeting: May 16, 2019, in Fairbanks, AK

Follow-up Subjects and Assignment of Tasks

1. **Cultural Resource Protection Committee** will brief on-scene coordinators (OSCs) on the role of Historic Properties Specialist after new specialists have completed the Alaska-specific training.
2. **Statewide Planning Committee** will follow up with Mr. Fisher regarding DHSEM recommendation to update ACP terminology.
3. **Statewide Planning Committee** will forward to Area Committees a recommendation to insert the new the Lifeline Status reporting in the next version of the ACPs and to insert, as appropriate, reference to the response priority locations: Schools, Sheltering, Food Distribution, and Evacuation Locations. They will also forward a recommendation to the Area Committees to include references to Small Community Emergency Response Plans and Community Planning Guidance into the ACPs (plan locations TBD).
4. **ARRT Coordinators** will insert new the Lifeline Status reporting in the next version of the RCP.
5. **ARRT Coordinators** will develop, and share with ARRT members, improved procedures for an activation and notification call, including general guidelines for what information should be shared and the order of the reports by members.

Participant Summary:

Member Agencies in Attendance		
Member Agency	Present	Not Present
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	●	
Department of Agriculture		●
Department of Commerce	●	
Department of Defense		●
Department of Energy		●
Department of Health and Human Services		●
Department of the Interior	●	
Department of Justice		●
Department of Labor		●

Department of State		●
Department of Transportation		●
Environmental Protection Agency	●	
Federal Emergency Management Agency	●	
General Services Agency		●
U.S. Coast Guard	●	
Non-member Organizations in Attendance		
1 Call Alaska		
Alaska Chadux Corporation		
Alaska Clean Seas		
Alaska Journal of Commerce		
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association		
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company		
Bristol Bay Native Association		
Coastal Alaska Premier Seafoods		
Conoco Phillips		
Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council		
Cook Inlet Spill Response Inc.		
Crowley Alaska Tankers		
Crowley Fuels		
Hilcorp Alaska		
Kawerak, Inc.		
Native Village of Kluti-Kaah		
Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC		
Pew Charitable Trust		
Prince William Sound RCAC		
State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game		
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archaeology		
State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management		
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency		
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management		
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement		
U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service		