



Alaska RRT Biennial Work Plan Calendar Years 2021-2022

Updated: February 2, 2020

Scope, Structure and Responsibilities

This is the biennial work plan as set forth in Article VII 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 Area Committees, and area planning managers. This is a living document subject to the direction of the Co-chairs, ADEC, with input from the other 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 expanding transportation and oil exploration and production activities throughout remote Alaska, with emphasis on new development areas and emerging threats.
- 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.
- Support Area Committees and encourage participation by federally recognized tribes, industry, NGOs and the public.
- Enhance outreach to and seek participation by federally recognized tribes in spill preparedness and response planning, including membership in the ARRT and area committees.
- Seek involvement of other stakeholders and all interested parties in spill preparedness and response planning, with an emphasis in encouraging involvement with the State Emergency Response Commission, Local Emergency Planning Committees/Districts, and Statewide Hazardous Materials Response Team.
- Provide guidance and support to the OSCs on spill response and area planning. The primary emphasis will be on the significant increased projections for shipping through the Bering Strait, circumpolar route, Great Circle Route, and Dixon Entrance in southeast Alaska.

- Provide guidance and information to Alaska OSCs and agency planners regarding lessons learned from major national spills and/or major pipeline spills in the Lower 48 that may have relevance to spill planning in Alaska.
- Provide guidance and information on international developments in spill preparedness and response, federal rulemakings, federal research and development 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 to Area Committees and/or OSCs on emerging technologies, industry preparedness and new initiatives, and other state or federal initiatives (e.g., vessel of opportunity programs and 24-hour cleanup capability).
- Advocate for improvements in the national response system via the NRT and report on developing initiatives, 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, OSCs, area committee participants, and other responders to attend relevant training, as appropriate.

Priorities

Priorities advance, in whole or in part, the stated Goals. They may also reflect more immediate needs or requirements. Priorities for the next two-year period are as follows.

- Continue to act as a resource for Area Committees;
- Implement the Conservation Recommendations from the NMFS and USFWS Biological Opinions, to the extent practicable, and encourage ARRT member agencies to work collaboratively to implement the Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPM), with Terms and Conditions, from the NMFS ESA Biological Opinion;
- Utilize web-based technologies (i.e., Adobe Connect) to enhance the experience for call-in participants at ARRT meetings;
- Ensure continued cooperation between the three RCP signatory agencies, for training, exercises, and planning activities;
- Through the Science and Technology Committee (STC), interpret the findings of the national-level work groups and communicate key messages for Area Committees and OSCs.
- Recommend to Area Committees adoption and/or incorporation of lessons learned and improvement plans. Through the Statewide Planning Committee (SPC), work with Area Committees to incorporate lessons learned and strive for continuous improvement of the Regional and Area Contingency Plans.
- Update the “Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. EPA and the USCG Seventeenth Coast Guard District Concerning FOSC Response Boundaries for Oil Discharges and Hazardous Substance Releases” (1994).
- Publish Regional Contingency Plan Update

- Update *In Situ* Burning Guidelines for Alaska through addition of an inland focused FOSC/SOSC Review Checklist. The Statewide Planning Committee will scope any other potential updates.

Plan Status

The ARRT promulgated the Regional Contingency Plan September 14, 2018. The ARRT’s Statewide Planning Committee is working on annual review and updates to the RCP. A summary of the status of the Regional and Area Contingency Plans is provide in Table 1.

Table 1: Plan Status Summary

Plan	Committee Tasked with Plan Maintenance	Plan Schedule
Regional Contingency Plan	ARRT Statewide Planning Committee	Current Version signed September 2018. Version 2, anticipated Spring 2021
Alaska Inland Area Contingency Plan	Alaska Inland Area Committee	Current Version signed September 2018. Version 2020 Public Review Summer 2020. Version 2020 anticipated to be final in late winter 2021
Arctic and Western Area Contingency Plan	Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee	Current Version, 2020.0, signed December 2020 <i>*Incorporation of AK Inland and SE AK Public Review comments. No Public Review in 2020.</i>
Prince William Sound Area Contingency Plan	Prince William Sound Area Committee	Current Version, 2018.1 signed March 2020. Version 2020 anticipated 2021.
Southeast Alaska Area Contingency Plan	Southeast Alaska Area Committee	Current Version signed September 2018. Version 2020 Public Review Fall 2020. Version 2020 anticipated to be final in late winter 2021
Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response	ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee	Current Version, signed August 2020.
Alaska Implementation Guidelines for FOSCs for the Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties during Emergency Response under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan	ARRT Cultural Resources Committee	Plan dated January 2002. <i>A revision is anticipated once the national Programmatic Agreement is updated.</i>
In Situ Burning Guidance for Alaska		Current version dated 2008

Note: The RCP and the ACPs are subject to an annual review, revisions will be made as determined appropriate by the ARRT or Area Committees. Substantial changes to plan content may be subject to a state required public review process.

Scheduled Meetings

To the extent practicable, the Standing Alaska RRT will hold a one-day meeting two times per year and may be in conjunction with an Area Committee or other planning/preparedness meetings according to the following schedule/location as funds allow:

Meeting	Location & Date
Winter 2021	Anchorage (February 8-10, 2021) <i>[All member agencies and OSC's are asked to attend]</i>
Fall 2021	September 21-23, 2021 (Location TBD)
Winter 2022	February 1-3, 2022 (Location TBD)
Fall 2022	

Exercises

The goal of ARRT exercises or participation in exercises is to test policies and procedures, determine where there are gaps, and implement corrective actions to close those gaps.

Internal. As practicable, the Alaska RRT will initiate an annual activation, consultation, or notification exercise. Exercise results will be documented. 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 agency, State agency, or industry. 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.

ARRT Notification Contacts will be updated following every exercise.

Annual Report

The ARRT, facilitated by the ARRT USCG Coordinator, shall produce an Annual Report and submit it to the NRT.

Tasks

The Statewide Planning Committee will maintain an Action Tracker, the "ARRT Project Tasks" spreadsheet. This will be reviewed monthly by the Co-Chairs, ADEC and Coordinators.