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Alaska Regional Response Team

Newsletter to Tribes

Summer 2020

Upcoming Events

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Alaska Regional Response Team Meeting	September 14-16, 2020	Teleconference/Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleconference: 866-299-3188, • Passcode: 9072715083, • Web Conference/Adobe Connect: https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/epaalaska/ • Agenda located at https://alaskarrt.org/
Alaska Regional Response Team Meeting	February 8-10, 2021	Anchorage, AK or Teleconference/Webinar

What is the Alaska Regional Response Team?

The Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) is a multi-agency body consisting of representatives of the Federal agency and the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation that coordinates these agencies in supporting a spill response. Federally recognized tribes are also welcome as members of the ARRT (see “Ways to Be Involved” below for more information on this). The purpose of the ARRT is to:

- recommend changes to the regional response organization as needed,
- review the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) as needed,
- evaluate the preparedness of participating Federal agencies and the effectiveness of Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) for the Federal response to discharges and releases, and
- provide technical preparedness assistance to the response community, and ultimately to
- support the On-Scene Commanders during a spill response.

What is NEW in 2020?

[Alaska Regional Response Team and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes](#): The ARRT first produced the ARRT Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes in 2014. The ARRT Coordinators (from U.S Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation) have recently updated this guidance to reflect the new Contingency Planning structure and formation of Area Committees in Alaska.

We would appreciate your comments. Please submit any comments or questions to Mary Goolie, EPA ARRT Coordinator/Area Planner (goolie.mary@epa.gov). The summer 2020 [*Alaska Regional Response Team and Alaska Area Committees Guidelines for Coordination and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes*](#) is available at www.alaskarrt.org under “What’s New”.

Regional Contingency Plan: The ARRT Coordinators (from U.S Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation) are working on revisions to the Regional Contingency Plan. The 2018 RCP was developed using the content of the original and former Unified Plan and Subarea Contingency Plans. The 2018 RCP was intended to be a reorganization of plan content and there were no changes to the content. In the draft 2020 RCP, the coordinators are working on improving the existing plan content and adding some additional information to guide area planners for spill response and the ARRT members. The revisions include streamlining the plan to remove repetitive content within the RCP and between RCP and ACP, improving grammar and readability and completing sections that were left “To be determined” in the 2018 RCP and some new content. The 2020 RCP is expected to be ready for public review in the Fall/Winter. (A notice will be posted at www.alaskarrt.org)

Wildlife Protection Guidelines: The ARRT Wildlife Protection Committee has revised the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska*. This revision reformats the guidelines to parallel the Area Contingency Plans and is a supplement to these plans, providing specific guidance and recommendations to minimize impacts to wildlife from an oil spill or hazardous material release and/or associated response efforts. (A notice will be posted at www.alaskarrt.org. The WPG and its associated documents will also be posted on the [ADEC Area Plans References and Tools](#) Page.

Cultural Resources and Historic Properties Protection: The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), including National Park Service, and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) hosted two Historic Properties Specialist (HPS) Workshops in October and November 2019. The workshops increased the knowledge of HPS personnel in Alaska who may advise Federal On-scene Coordinators during a spill response on the protection of historic properties and cultural resources, including areas of cultural importance and/or traditional use areas of tribes.

Additionally, the SHPO and DOI will chair an ARRT Cultural Resources Committee meeting in fall 2020, with quarterly meetings to follow in 2021. Potential tasks will include updating the committee charter and identifying ways to improve the Alaska Implementation Guidelines.

Ways to be Involved:

Tribal Membership on the ARRT

Tribes are welcome to join the ARRT. Please contact Mary Goolie, EPA ARRT Coordinator/Area Planner (goolie.mary@epa.gov) for more information. The ARRT is primarily an advisory and coordination committee of government agencies. Currently there are not tribes that serve as members, but in Region 10 (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) 4 tribes have elected to join the RRT10.

There are 4 subcommittees of the ARRT. The committees work on the development and review of some important guidance documents, such as the *Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Oil Spill Response in Alaska* or *Alaska Implementation Guidelines for the Protection of Historic Properties during Emergency Responses*. The working groups tasked with revising these documents are also

open to members representing tribes as well as other local governments and non-governmental organizations

- Attend meetings in-person, via web conference or teleconference

Tribal Membership on the Area Committee

The Area Committees are really where most of the action happens in preparing for and planning for a response to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release.

- Attend meetings in-person, via web conference or teleconference
- Serve on an Area Committee working group
- For more information,
 - [Alaska Inland Area Committee](#)
 - [Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee](#)
 - [Prince William Sound Area Committee](#)
 - [Southeast Alaska Area Committee](#)

Ways you can contribute to Area Contingency Planning

Even if you do not have time to participate in an Area Committee working group, you can contribute to contingency planning beyond just reviewing and commenting on the plans.

- Have you completed FEMA's Incident Command System Training? The Area Contingency Plans are organized by ICS section. By being more familiar with ICS, you will be better able to use the plan or have a role in a response. For more information see: <https://training.fema.gov/nims/>
- We are looking to add local reference materials, to introduce responders to the local environment and culture. Do you know of any website, books, blogs, etc. that a responder could use to prepare themselves before coming to your community?

Upcoming Plan Reviews

Plan	Timeframe (exact dates TBD)
Southeast Area Contingency Plan	Fall 2020
Arctic and Western Alaska Area Contingency Plan	Fall/Winter 2020
Alaska Regional Contingency Plan	Fall/Winter 2020

*Contact Information for these plans available below

Contacts

ARRT Coordinators	
Environmental Protection Agency	Mary Goolie goolie.mary@epa.gov
U.S. Coast Guard	Marc Randolph marc.a.randolph2@uscg.mil
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Craig Ziolkowski craig.ziolkowski@alaska.gov

Area Committee Secretaries		
	Federal	State
Alaska Inland	Mary Goolie goolie.mary@epa.gov	Craig Ziolkowski craig.ziolkowski@alaska.gov <i>(contact for all Area Committees)</i>
Arctic and Western Alaska	LCDR Matt Richards Matthew.D.Richards@uscg.mil	
Prince William Sound	LT Alex Gomez Alex.R.Gomez@uscg.mil	
Southeast Alaska	Kathy Hamblett Kathy.A.Hamblett@uscg.mil	

Websites
Alaska Regional Response Team www.alaskarrt.org
ADEC Oil and Hazardous Response Plans and Area Committees https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/