



Alaska RRT Biennial Work Plan Calendar Years 2014 - 2015

Scope of the Plan

This is the biennial work plan as set forth in the Alaska RRT Charter, Article VI. It outlines planned work over the two-year period for the Alaska RRT and its work groups. This is a living document subject to the direction of the co-chairs and the needs of the OSCs.

Goals

The goals expressed in this work plan are not prioritized. They represent a best case shared vision, but are subject to external factors and resource and personnel availability. 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 On-Scene Coordinators when called upon to respond to an incident.
- 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.
- Seek involvement of other stakeholders and all interested parties in spill preparedness and response planning.
- Provide guidance to the OSCs on spill response and subarea planning. The primary emphasis will be on the significant increased projections for shipping through the Arctic Gateway, circumpolar route, Great Circle route, and southeast Alaska.
- In pursuit of National Contingency Plan directives (40 CFR 300.115(i)(6)), review/revise the current dispersant use policy while considering the merits of developing a dispersant preauthorization plan (surface use) for Alaska and the national guidance for submerged application of dispersants.
- Provide guidance and information to Alaska OSCs regarding lessons learned from major national spills. Guidance and information from the major pipeline spills in the Lower 48 have particular relevance to watershed spill planning in Alaska.



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- 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 will or won't affect operations in Alaska.
- Survey other area plans in 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 provide information and guidance on 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 including an update of the NCP, phase out of alternative compliance, implementation of federal non-tank vessel rules, and re-evaluation of the testing regime for the national product schedule.
- 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.

Scheduled Meetings

The Standing Alaska RRT will hold a one day meeting (second day) three times per year in conjunction with the relevant Subarea Committee meeting (first day) according to the following schedule/location if funds allow:

- Winter 2014 in Anchorage (January 28 & 29, 2014) [All Agencies & FOSCs meeting]
- Spring 2014 in Fairbanks (May 20 & 21, 2014) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]
- Summer 2014 in Valdez (October 21 & 22, 2014) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]
- Winter 2015 in Juneau (January 28 & 29, 2015) [All Agencies & FOSCs meeting]
- Spring 2015 in Anchorage (May 20 & 21, 2015) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, ADEC please prioritize]
- Summer 2015 in Kenai (September 23 & 24, 2015) [USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, & ADEC please prioritize]

Preparedness Products

The Alaska RRT is responsible for development of the Regional Contingency Plan (the Unified Plan), while the FOSC and the respective Subarea Committees are responsible for development of the Subarea Contingency Plans (the 10 SCPs), in consultation with the Alaska RRT. Tasks for the next 2 year period are:

- Update dispersant use policy including a preauthorization plan for Alaska.



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- 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).
- Arctic Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercise work group 4 to continue work as a task force to explore Unified Area Command issues in a SONS in Alaska and recommend a path forward.
- Develop a matrix for various state, federal, and industry plan types (e.g., OSRP, VRP, FRP) showing plan holder, plan reviewer(s), plan approver, and response jurisdiction.
- Science and Technology Committee (STC) –
 - Review/Modify/Confirm STC charter and membership.
 - Reconnect with National Response Team STC, as necessary.
 - Organize and present a meta-analysis of current studies including ‘best available science’ regarding cold water efficacy and toxicity of dispersant.
 - Identify and coordinate speakers and data (regional, national, & international) to address the ARRT and OSCs on the latest dispersant use science on efficacy and toxicity in Alaska. Arrange posting of best available science on the ARRT website.
 - Investigate and finalize status of NRT guidance on particulate level guidelines (PM 10 vs PM 2.5) regarding ISB and terrain models.
- As directed by the NRT, develop a scenario-based, integrated federal logistics support requirements and sourcing plan for an Arctic SONS. Will need FOSC and North Slope subarea committee to assist and support.
- Work with OSC work group to staff and guide a new steering committee to oversee revision of the Unified Plan with emphasis on a clearly defined review/revision process and prioritization of changes (e.g., new content based on Endangered Species Act consultation and Essential Fish Habitat analysis, updated Regional Stakeholder Committee guidance, process for review and update of the Unified Plan and subarea contingency plans, inclusion of updated dispersant use policy and preauthorization plan).
- Post approved updates (e.g., PPOR Guidelines, Cultural and Historic Properties Guidelines, new/revised/relevant MOUs) of the Unified Plan to the ARRT website pending the next change (Change 4) to the Unified Plan.
- Subarea Plans. The following plans are scheduled for updates:
 - Interior – underway
 - Cook Inlet* - Dec 2015
 - Kodiak * - March 2015



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- Western Alaska
 - Bristol Bay*- Feb 2018
 - Prince William Sound* - underway
 - Aleutians* - underway
 - All FOSCs shall review the content regarding identifying and establishing the Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) as appropriate to each of the Subarea plans as they are scheduled for updates. [This could be awkward since the new RSC guidance is not done yet.]
 - * Denotes a SCP that will require review and development of avoidance areas within 24 months of finalization of the new dispersant preauthorization plan
- Alaska RRT Response Aids
- The ARRT Coordinators will lead the drafting of ARRT policy detailing 24/7/365 staffing, availability, and activation procedures for all members.

Preparedness Training

Encourage Alaska RRT members and Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators (and other responders, as appropriate) to attend training, as appropriate. (Note the EPA ARRT Coordinator will post information to Alaska RRT members and Federal/State response organizations on the scheduling and availability of such training via the ARRT website).

Exercises

- Internal. As practicable, the Alaska RRT will annually initiate and exercise a “Worst Case 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.
- 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 will evaluate their exercise schedules and make recommendations for exercises that are suitable for Alaska RRT participation. For example, FOSCs and SOSCs will identify Alaska RRT notification or activation as an exercise objective during the exercise design process. Participation in Alaska Shield 2014 earthquake exercise in March 2014 meets this external exercise requirement.

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



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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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