



Alaska RRT Biennial Work Plan Calendar Years 2013 - 2014

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 committees and work groups. This is a living document subject to the needs of the Co-chairs and the OSCs.

Goals

- 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.
- Maintain 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 resources and funding to meet the items in <this strategic plan>.
- Enhance outreach to, and participation by Federally-recognized tribes in spill preparedness and response planning
- The ARRT will 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 and southeast Alaska.
- As directed by the NRT, the ARRT will develop a pathway for the development of a dispersant preauthorization plan for Alaska, as well as careful consideration of the national guidance being developed for submerged application of dispersants.
- The ARRT will 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.
- The ARRT will 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.



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- The ARRT will survey other area plans in other states and identify features or information that would be useful for improving area planning in Alaska.
- The ARRT will provide information and guidance on emerging technologies, industry preparedness and new initiatives, and provide information and guidance on other state or federal initiatives such as vessel of opportunity programs and 24-hour cleanup capability.
- The ARRT will 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. The ARRT will 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 three times per year in conjunction with the relevant Subarea Committee meeting according to the following schedule/location if funds allow:

- Winter 2013 in Anchorage (February 20 & 21, 2013)
- Spring 2013 in Valdez (May 21 & 22, 2013)
- Summer 2013 in Juneau (September 24 & 25, 2013)
- Winter 2014 in Anchorage (January 28 & 29, 2014) [All FOSCs and SOSCs are requested to attend]
- Spring 2014 in Fairbanks (May 20 & 21, 2014)
- Summer 2014 in Valdez (October 21 & 22, 2014)

Preparedness Products

The Alaska RRT is responsible for development of the Regional Contingency Plan (the Unified Plan), while the FOSC and the respective Area 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:

- Science and Technology Committee
 - The S&T Committee shall convene a Dispersant Working Group and charge them to prepare a Dispersant Preauthorization Plan for Alaska for adoption in the next update to the Unified Plan.
 - The S&T Committee will ensure the opportunity for consultation with tribes and stakeholders in preparing a Dispersant Preauthorization Plan for Alaska.
 - Prepare and complete update to the PPOR Guidelines for action by the ARRT on September 25, 2013.



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- Update the Unified Plan to include
 - Adding new/revise/MOUs/MOAs
 - - Adding the updated dispersant guidelines
 - - Adding the updated PPOR guidelines
 - - Adding new information/changes due to ESA consultation
 - - Other updates.

- Subarea Plans. The following plans are scheduled for updates:
 - Interior
 - Prince William Sound
 - Aleutians
 - All FOSCs shall incorporate the new NRT Use of Volunteers Guidelines as appropriate to each of the Subarea plans as they are scheduled for updates.

- Tribal Outreach & Consultation Work Group
 - Establish a Work Group, to include USCG (ARRT Coordinator plus Tribal Liaison), EPA (ARRT Coordinator plus Tribal Coordinators), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and other interested parties. Prepare and submit to the Alaska RRT for approval, Alaska RRT Tribal Government Outreach & Consultation Guidelines. Draft guidelines are due by the Summer/Fall 2013 meeting and final guidelines will be submitted for approval by the February meeting of 2014. The ARRT will task the S&T Committee with preparing a Dispersant Preauthorization Plan for Alaska that includes the opportunity for consultation with tribes and stakeholders.

- Alaska RRT Response Aids
 - The ARRT will draft and promulgate a document detailing activation procedures for all members.

- Review of other RRT preparedness products for applicability to other Alaska RRT initiatives
 - USCG and EPA to continue formal consultation requirements pursuant to the Endangered Species Act for the Unified Plan and 10 SCs.

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).



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Exercises

- As practicable, the Alaska RRT will develop and exercise an annual table-top exercise (TTX) of a “Worst Case Scenario” from one of the Subarea Contingency Plans at an Alaska RRT working session. 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 TTX.
- 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.

Lessons Learned

During the OSC report-outs at each Alaska RRT meeting, each OSC 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 resource expenditures, and high media or political interest. Each Subarea Committee will consider these lessons learned reports to update their respective SCPs as appropriate.