2000 COMMAND

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • EPA IMH • USCG IMH **ICS Resources:** • FEMA ICS Forms

2010 COMMAND STRUCTURE - UNIFIED COMMAND ORGANIZATION

The Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) and NWACs manage spill incidents using NIMS ICS and a UC structure.

Principles of Unified Command

- **Incident Command System (ICS):** All signatory agencies will use the NIMS ICS model as the foundation for response operations.
- **Unified Command (UC):** Federal, state, and RP OSCs will form the UC and jointly manage response activities.
- **Decision-Making:** The UC will make decisions by consensus and document them in a single IAP for each operational period. If consensus cannot be reached, the FOSC as final decision-making authority.
- **Local Government Participation:** One or more LOSCs may be incorporated into the UC as appropriate.
- **Tribal Government Participation:** One or more federally recognized TOSCs may be incorporated into the UC as appropriate.

Under this structure, the UC brings together federal, state, Tribal, local, and RP representatives to share authority, coordinate decisions, and jointly direct spill response and cleanup operations.

2020 Command Staff Elements: Roles and Responsibilities

2021 Incident Commander/Unified Command

Incident Commanders for oil discharges and hazardous substance releases will, whenever possible and practical, be organized under the UC structure, which includes, but is not limited to:

- The pre-designated FOSC;
- The State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC);
- The representative of the RP;
- The Local On-Scene Coordinator(s) (LOSC), as appropriate; and
- The Tribal On-Scene Coordinator(s) (TOSC), as appropriate.

To be considered for a UC position, the involved organization:

A. Must have jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility under a law or ordinance for the incident;

B. Must have incident or response operations impact on the organization's AOR;

C. Must be specifically charged by law or ordinance with commanding, coordinating, or managing a major aspect of the incident response;

D. Should have full organization authority to make decisions and execute all of the tasks assigned to the IC on behalf of their organization; and

E. Should have the resources to support participation in the response organization.

Actual UC makeup for a specific incident will be determined on a case-by-case basis, taking into account:

- The specifics of the incident;
- Determinations outlined in the five criteria listed above; and
- Decisions reached during the initial meeting of the UC.

The makeup of UC may change as the incident progresses, to account for changes in the situation.

The UC is responsible for the overall management of the incident. The UC directs incident activities, including the development and implementation of strategic decisions, approves the IAP, and approves the ordering and releasing of resources. It is expected that each UC member will have the authority to make decisions and commit resources on behalf of his or her organization.

An organizational chart for the UC and Command staff is shown in Figure 2000-1. This chart serves as an example and is not meant to be all-inclusive

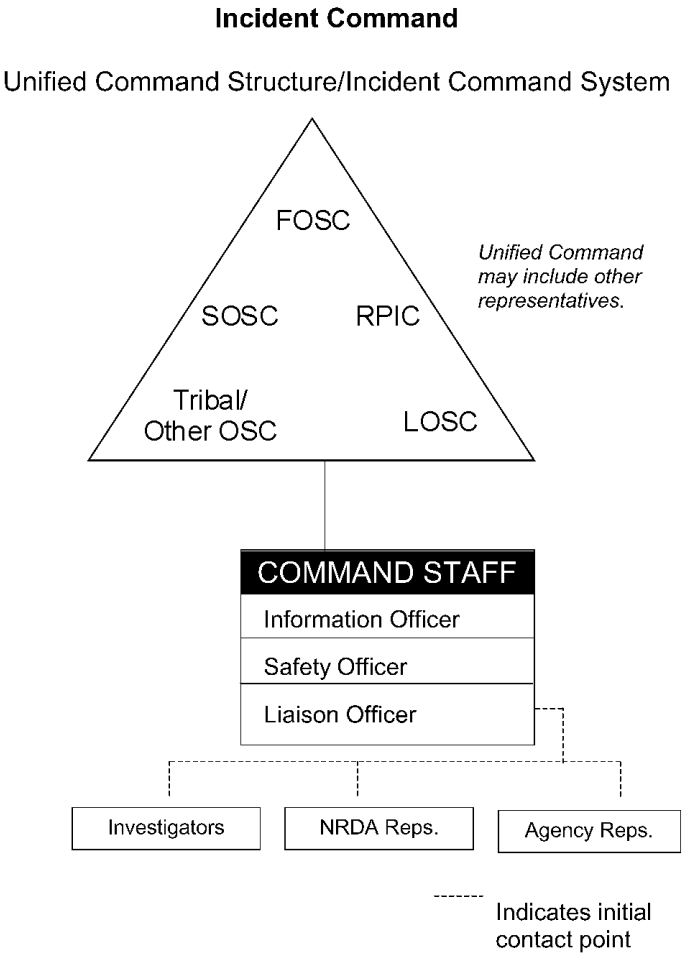


Figure 2000-1: Incident Command

2022 Naming Convention for Oil Spills – Northwest Regional Policy

To ensure that accurate and credible information is provided to the public and to elected officials, it is the policy in the Northwest to use the following naming convention for oil spills:

1. **Source by Name:** Name of vessel or facility, or other source (rail, pipeline, etc.);
2. **Geographic:** Location of the incident;
3. **Incident Description:** Spill, spill threat, fire, explosion, grounding, sinking, etc.; and
4. **Date:** May be optional if the spiller has had previous oil spills.

When UC is formed, UC officials negotiate and concur on key decisions, which may include the name of the incident.

2023 Public Information Officer

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • EPA IMH • USCG IMH **Command:** • Joint Information Center Manual • NRT Public Information Resources

The RRT and NWACs prefer that the RP not fill the PIO position. This applies to both government agency and private industry RPs. However, the RRT and NWACs recognize that UC holds the discretion to fill the position with whomever they choose. UC should consider credibility with the media and public, as well as previous experience in drills or spills, familiarity with the NWRCP tools and policies and with Emergency Support Function #15 (ESF-15). Upon the concurrence of UC, the RP may fill the PIO position.

The RRT10 and NWACs encourage RPs to designate an Assistant PIO to participate in meetings attended by the PIO and to be present during briefings by the PIO or delegate. The PIO is appointed by and reports to the IC/UC. The PIO should be trained in ICS, familiar with the NWRCP, and experienced in public affairs, public speaking, crisis communication, media relations, and principles of JIC management. Further regional guidance is in the NWRCP Annex A, Joint Information Center Manual.

2024 Safety Officer

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • EPA IMH • USCG IMH **Command:** • EPA Safety Officer Toolbox • Hazard Assessment Worksheet • Health and Safety Job Aid • Safety Office Job Aid
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Safety and Health Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers

See the EPA and USCG Incident Management Handbooks (IMH) and the Tools and Resources box at the beginning of this section for helpful resources.

2025 Liaison Officer

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Command: • Liaison Manual

It is the policy of the RRT10 for the Liaison Officer position be filled by a qualified representative from a federal, state, Tribal, or local agency. If no such agency representative is initially available, qualified, or willing to serve, the UC may, at its discretion, authorize an RP representative to fill the position. The RRT10 and NWACs also encourage RPs to designate an Assistant Liaison Officer to fully participate in the meetings and briefings alongside the Liaison Officer. Further responsibilities are outlined in Annex B, the Liaison Manual Annex B.

2030 Natural Resource Damage Assessment

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • EPA IMH • USCG IMH **General:** • DOI NRDA Primer • NOAA NRDA

NRDA involves identifying the type and degree of impacts on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources to assist in restoring those resources. NRDA may involve a range of field surveys and studies used to develop a monetary damage claim, or may involve immediately developing a restoration plan with the RP. NRDA activities for small spills typically involve simplified assessment methods and minimal field data collection.

Given that the goals of NRDA are outside the sphere of most emergency spill response actions, NRDA activities generally do not occur within the structure, processes, and control of the ICS. However, particularly in the early phases of a spill response, many NRDA activities overlap with environmental assessment performed for the sake of spill response. Because NRDA is carried out by natural resource trustee agencies and/or their contractors, personnel limitations may require staff to perform NRDA and response activities simultaneously. Therefore, NRDA staff should remain coordinated with the spill response organization and need to work with the Liaison Officer to coordinate with the UC, Environmental Unit (EU), Wildlife Branch and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinator to resolve any problems or address areas of overlap. While NRDA resource requirements and costs may fall outside the responsibility of the Logistics and Finance sections, coordination is still important.

For amplifying information on the potential tasks and responsibilities of an NRDA representative, see the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and/or EPA IMH.

2040 INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Criminal and civil investigators from federal and state agencies do not normally serve as members of the UC. While investigative personnel may report to officials who are part of UC, the investigative function remains separate to avoid conflicts of interest and to ensure that UC decision-making remains focused on response operations. Coordination between investigators and UC is conducted through the investigators' respective agencies.