Sector Puget Sound Coastal Zone Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP)





2026.0

Table of Contents

District Commander Approval 9
Letter of Promulgation by Federal On-Scene Coordinator 10
Letter of Promulgation by Makah Tribe 11
Letter of Promulgation by Washington State 13
RECORD OF CHANGES 14
REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS BY SPILLER 15
1000 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE 18
1100 Introduction 18
1110 Authority 20
1110.1 Federal Authority 20
1110.2 State Authority 21
1200 Purpose of the Area Contingency Plan 22
1210 Table of Annexes 23
1300 Area Committee Management and Administration 23
1310 Area Committee Organization 24
1320 Charter 25
1330 Area Committee Meetings 25
1340 Area Committee Annual Report 26
1400 Area Contingency Plan Validation and Testing 26
1410 Area Contingency Plan Annual Update, Review, and Approval Process 26
1420 Geographic Response Strategies/Geographic Response Plans Validation (i.e., Booming and Collection Strategies) 28
1420.1 Process to Develop Geographic Response Plans 28
1420.2 Agencies Responsible for Developing and Maintaining Geographic Response Plans and Strategies 29
1420.3 Testing Geographic Response Strategies 29
1430 Area Exercises 31
1430.1 Exercise Types 31
1430.2 Scheduling and Coordination 32
1430.3 After Action Report and Continuous Improvement 33
1440 Plan Implementation 33
1500 Area Contingency Plan's Relationship/Alignment with Other Plans Under National Response System 33

1510 Vessel Response Plans 35
1520 Facility Response Plans 37
1521 Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines 37
1522 Rail Response Plans 38
1530 Local Plans....38
1540 State Plans 39
1550 Tribal Plans....39
1560 Regional Contingency Plans....41
1570 International Plans 41
1600 Area Contingency Plan's Relationship to National Response Framework 44
1610 Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex....45
1620 Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan 46
1700 Area Contingency Plan Relationship to the National Incident Management System....46
1800 Area Contingency Plan Relationship to Other Marine Transportation System Recovery Focused Response Plans Managed by the Coast Guard 47
2000 GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE & JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES 48
2100 Description of Coast Guard Coastal Zone/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inland Zone Boundary (Line of Demarcation) 49
2110 Oil Discharges and Hazardous Substance Releases Originating from Inland Facilities ...51
2200 Copy of Current United States Coast Guard/United States Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum of Understanding 52
2300 Geographic Boundaries/Coordinates (Captain of the Port Boundary)....52
2400 Graphic(s) Depicting Geographic Area Covered by Area Contingency Plan 54
2500 Sub-Geographic Areas....55
2510 Makah Tribe Lands....56
3000 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES 57
3100 General Roles and Responsibilities 57
3110 Responsible Party/Industry Plan Holder....57
3120 Local Government 61
3130 State Government....64
3140 Tribal Government 69
3140.1 Makah Tribe 72
3150 Regional Response Team 73
3160 Federal Government 74

3200 Natural Resource Trustees 76
3210 Local 77
3220 State 77
3230 Tribal 78
3240 Federal 80
3300 Support Available to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator/Unified Command 81
3310 Federal Agency Scientific/Technical Support 82
3311 United States Coast Guard 82
3312 United States Environmental Protection Agency 85
3313 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 86
3314 United States Department of the Interior 88
3315 United States Department of Health and Human Services 90
3316 United States Department of Agriculture 91
3317 United States Department of Energy 91
3318 United States Department of Transportation 91
3319 United States Department of Defense 92
3320 Nongovernmental Organization Technical Support 94
4000 PRE-SPILL RISK ANALYSES, CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSE STRATEGIES 98
4100 Worst Case Planning Scenarios 98
4110 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats 98
4200 Pre-Spill Endangered Species Act Consultations 101
4210 Pre-Authorizations and Best Management Practices 102
4220 Threatened and Endangered Species within Area of Responsibility 105
4300 National Historic Preservation Act 106
4310 Pre-Authorizations and Best Management Practices 110
4400 Environmentally Sensitive Areas 111
4500 Economically Sensitive Areas 111
4600 Geographic Response Strategies 112
4700 Places of Refuge 113
4710 Jurisdiction for Places of Refuge Decisions 115
5000 RESPONSE 117
5100 Initial Reporting, Notification, and Preliminary Assessment Procedures 117

5110 Preliminary Assessments 119
5120 Cleanup Assessment Protocol 121
5200 Emergency Consultations 123
5210 Endangered Species Act 124
5220 Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) 126
5300 General Hierarchy of Response Priorities 130
5310 Safety 131
5320 Priority Identification and Protection Strategies 132
5330 Risk Assessment for Sensitive Area Prioritization 133
5340 Environmentally-Sensitive Areas 134
5350 Wildlife Rescue & Recovery 135
5360 Aligning of Natural Resource Damage Assessment with Response 136
5400 National Incident Management System 139
5410 Unified Command 140
5420 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Decision Authority 142
5430 Responsible Party 142
5440 Common Operating Picture 144
5450 Incident Command Post 145
5460 Public Information 145
5470 Environmental Unit 149
5500 Oil Spill Containment and Cleanup 150
5510 Containment 151
5520 Shoreline Protection Options 152
5530 On-Water Recovery 153
5531 Open Water 153
5532 Nearshore 154
5533 On-Water Recovery Equipment 156
5534 Storage 158
5535 Decanting Policy 159
5540 Non-Floating Oil Recovery and Protection 163
5550 Shore-Side Recovery and Natural Collection Points 166
5560 Shoreline Cleanup 167
5561 Shoreline Cleanup Options 168

5562 Access to Shorelines for Cleanup 169
5563 Passive Oil Recovery 170
5570 Decontamination 170
5580 Waste Management and Disposal 172
5580.1 Management and Disposal of Incident-Generated Wastes 175
5580.2 Decanting Policy 176
5590 Terminating Cleanup Operations 176
5595 Non-Standard/Unconventional Emergency Removal Action Scenarios 177
5595.1 Flammable Liquids Response Considerations 177
5595.2 Operational Safety Issues Associated with Bakken Crude Oil 179
5600 Oil Spill Response Funding and Cost Recovery 179
5610 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Access to Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund 179
5620 Funding Authorizations for Other Agencies 181
5630 Trustee Agency Access to the OSLTF 182
5640 State Funding for Oil Spill Response 183
5700 Hazardous Substance Spill Response 184
5710 Introduction 184
5720 Environmental Support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator 186
5730 State Policy (State Hazardous Substances Response Systems) 187
5800 Hazardous Substance Spill Response Funding and Cost Recovery 188
5810 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Access to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Funding 189
5820 Funding Authorizations for Other Agencies 192
5830 Trustee Agency Access to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 192
5900 Response Documentation Requirements 193
5910 Incident Action Plans and Incident Documentation 194
5911 Northwest Region Naming Conventions 195
5911.1 Naming Convention for Oil Spills – Northwest Regional Policy 195
5911.2 Naming Convention for Divisions 196
5911.3 Naming Convention for Shoreline Segments 197
5911.4 Naming Convention for Task Forces 197
5920 Consultation Documentation and other Decision Memos 198
5930 Cost Recovery Documentation and Claims 198

5950 Post Spill Consultation 201
6000 RESPONSE RESOURCES 202
6100 Oil Spill Removal Organizations and Equipment 202
6110 Oil Spill Removal Organization Classification Program and State-Approved Primary Response Contractors 203
6120 Response Resource Inventory Database 203
6121 Worldwide Response Resource List 204
6130 Classified Oil Spill Response Organization Listings for the Area/Captain of the Port Zone 205
6140 Oil Spill Response Cooperatives and Consortiums 206
6200 Hazardous Substances Response Resources 207
6300 Salvage and Marine Firefighting Resources 208
7000 RESPONSE TECHNOLOGIES 210
7100 Response Technologies for Oil Spill Response 210
7110 Dispersant Use 212
7110.1 Dispersant Use Approval 213
7110.2 Guidance When Using Dispersants 217
7120 National Contingency Plan Product Schedule 219
7130 Special Monitoring of Dispersants (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies Protocols) 220
7140 In Situ Burning 222
7140.1 ISB Authorization and Decision Framework 223
7140.2 In Situ Burning Zones 224
7140.3 ISB Application and Documentation 224
7140.4 Equipment Requirements 225
7150 Special Monitoring of In Situ Burning (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies Protocols) 225
7160 Surface Washing Agents 228
7161 Bioremediation 230
7170 Special Considerations for Non-Standard Emergency Removal Action Scenarios 231
7180 Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System 231
7200 Response Technologies for Hazardous Substance Spill Control 232
Annex A Master Hyperlink Index
Annex B Risk Analyses/Risk Profile

Annex C Fish and Wildlife

Annex D Hazardous Substances

Annex E Salvage and Marine Firefighting

Annex F Response Tools

Annex G Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disaster

Annex H Emergency Support Function (ESF)-10

Annex K Air Operations and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Support

Annex O International Coordination and Relationship to International Plans

Annex AA Acronym List and Glossary of Terms

Annex BB Additional Factors to Consider for a Full and Rapid Response

District Commander Approval

Letter of Promulgation by Federal On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
United States Coast Guard

Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Puget Sound

1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg 4
Seattle, WA 98134-1192
Staff Symbol: s
Phone: (206) 217-6206

16474
02 Oct 2026

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

Subj: AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILL RESPONSE IN THE COASTAL ZONE

1. Purpose. This publication is promulgated in accordance with the requirements and intent of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and is aligned with the National Response Framework. The Puget Sound Captain of the Port/Federal On-Scene Coordinator Coastal Zone Area Contingency Plan provides a framework to communicate, identify risks, and coordinate resources to mitigate oil/hazmat spills and their consequences and ensure a rapid, well-coordinated, and unified response.

2. Publications Affected. This plan is effective immediately and supersedes all previous editions of the Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (ACP).

3. Discussion. The ACP is electronic, enabling users to rapidly access a wide range of supporting documents that are linked to the ACP. The ACP includes information on general authority, doctrine/policy for oil/hazmat incident response, assignment of responsibilities, multi-agency response organization, and specific incident response actions. It was developed to compliment current and future tribal, local, state, regional, and federal oil/hazmat incident response plans. This is a living document and subject to periodic review and amendments to ensure accuracy. All changes will be recorded in the record of changes at the beginning of this plan.

4. Action. The Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan is a guide for all relevant federal, state, and local agencies as well as tribal nations, spill response contactors, responsible parties, and environmental stakeholders. All entities are encouraged to be guided by this plan during response operations regardless of size and scope. This plan will be subject to formal review and re-approval every five (5) years.

Sincerely,

HUNT.MICHAEL.JAMES.1033337163
Digitally signed by HUNT.MICHAEL.JAMES.1033337163
Date: 2026.10.02 15:48:09 -07'00'

M. J. Hunt
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Enclosure: (1) Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan

Letter of Promulgation by Makah Tribe

MAKAH TRIBAL COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 115 • NEAH BAY, WA 98357 • 360-645-2201

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Re: Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan Letter of Promulgation

The Makah Tribe is located at the Northwest point of the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, and the current Makah Usual and Accustomed Fishing Area (U&A) covers approximately 1,550 square miles of marine territory in US waters. The 1855 Treaty of Neah Bay reserves the Makah's right to retain and exercise inherent sovereign authority over our treaty-protected area and ownership of the resources therein. The Treaty is the legal agreement between the Makah Tribe and the United States that recognizes the Makah Tribe's status as a sovereign nation and therefore a resource trustee. As a resource trustee, the Makah Tribe is interested in protecting treaty resources, including from oil spills, for the benefit of Makah tribal members.

An oil pollution incident would impact the Makah community differently than it would other US citizens. The Makah culture and well-being have always been closely tied to our relationship with the natural environment, especially the ocean. This relationship to the ocean continues today, in part through our robust and valuable treaty fisheries, which support our local economy, the food security of our community, and our cultural practices and spiritual traditions. An oil spill has the potential to close a fishery, damage habitat within the Makah U&A, and otherwise impact natural and cultural resources within the U&A. Therefore, an oil pollution incident would cause unique losses to our cultural and spiritual traditions, in addition to our economy and food security. Further, Makah fishermen can only exercise the Tribe's treaty-reserved fishing rights within the boundaries of our U&A due to the place-based nature of Makah treaty rights. Makah fishermen cannot go elsewhere to exercise this treaty right the way that non-Makah fishermen may adapt to oil pollution impacts by fishing elsewhere.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Section 107(f)(1) and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) Section 1006(c)(3) additionally authorize tribal governments to act as Natural Resource Trustees for resources under their jurisdiction. Further, CERCLA Section 126(a) affords tribal governments substantially the same treatment as states for response-related purposes, including roles and responsibilities under the National Contingency Plan. These provisions authorize tribal governments to play a critical role in protecting public health and the environment during hazardous substance releases and oil spill incidents.

As part of the National Response System, the Makah Tribe is developing a Makah Spill Response Plan, which will ultimately be incorporated into the Tribal Annex of this plan, and has been actively engaged in contingency planning efforts within Region 10.

Following several catastrophic oil spills, the Makah Tribe has dedicated significant resources to oil spill prevention and preparedness. This includes hosting the Neah Bay Emergency Response Towing Vessel (1999), standing up the Office of Marine Affairs to address the risks of oil pollution to the Tribe (2008), and joining the Region 10 Regional Response Team (2008) as the first Tribe to do so. A continuation of this dedication to addressing the risk of oil pollution to Makah treaty resources has included participation in the development of the Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan, which was developed in partnership with the USCG, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and states of Washington, and Oregon.

This plan serves as guidance to planners and responders preparing for a coordinated federal, state, tribal, and local response to a discharge or a substantial threat of discharge of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within Region 10 boundaries and surrounding waters, which includes Makah U&A. The Makah Tribe is dedicated to ensuring this plan appropriately recognizes tribal authorities and is up-to-date and actionable for responders, given its critical importance in protecting Makah treaty resources from the threat of oil spills.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Greene Sr.
Chairman
Makah Tribal Council

Letter of Promulgation by Washington State

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

Subj: WASHINGTON STATE PROMULGATION OF THE SECTOR PUGET SOUND AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

1. The Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (ACP) is one of three ACPs in Washington State. Each ACP is aligned with the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP), the state's master oil and hazardous substance spill prevention and contingency plan required under RCW 90.56.060.

2. Policies and procedures in this ACP are consistent with the other Washington ACPs and with the NWRCP, ensuring a cohesive statewide planning framework. If conflicting guidance is given, higher level plans should be used until guidance is brought into alignment.

3. Structure and content across the three ACPs are aligned to the maximum extent practicable to promote consistency and ease of use for industry and responders operating across multiple jurisdictions.

4. This ACP was developed in accordance with the requirements and intent of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and applicable federal regulations. This plan was also developed in accordance with the requirements and intent of RCW 90.56, RCW 88.46, and applicable state regulations.

5. Washington State is committed to coordinated, collaborative planning that engages the response community, applies lessons learned from spills and drills, and incorporates public input through a formal comment process during routine plan maintenance.

10/14/2026

Carlos Clements
Program Manager
Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

10/14/2026

Matt Bissell
Preparedness Section Manager
Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

10/16/2026

David Byers
Response Section Manager
Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program

RECORD OF CHANGES

Change Number	ACP Section # Changes	Date Entered	Entered By

REQUIRED NOTIFICATIONS BY SPILLER

All spills of oil or hazardous substances into navigable waters, as defined by the Clean Water Act (CWA), and all spills of a reportable quantity of hazardous substances (40 CFR Part 302) must be immediately reported by the spiller to the National Response Center (NRC). The NRC will contact appropriate local U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offices. Notifying state offices does not relieve the spiller from federal requirements to notify the NRC nor vice versa.

National Response Center (NRC)
1-800-424-8802

All spills of oil or hazardous substances into Washington State waters must be immediately reported to the Washington State Emergency Management Division (WEMD).

The Washington State Emergency Management Division
24-hour Emergency Spill Response
1-800-258-5990
1-800-OILS-911

Or

Washington State Department of Ecology Region Offices
Northwest Office, Shoreline: 1-206-594-0000
Southwest Office, Olympia: 1-360-407-6300
Central Office, Union Gap: 1-509-575-2490
Eastern Office, Spokane: 1-509-329-3400

The owner or operator of a regulated vessel must notify the state of any vessel emergency that results in the discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil to state waters or that may affect the natural resources of the state within one hour of the onset of that emergency.

All spills of a reportable quantity of oil or hazardous substances in Oregon must be reported by the spiller to:

The Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS)
24-hour Emergency Spill Response

1-800-452-0311 or 1-800-OILS-911 (in Oregon)

The party responsible for a spill of oil or hazardous substances in Idaho State is required by Idaho State law to notify the following:

Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM)/
Idaho Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

24-hour Emergency Notification
1-800-632-8000 or 911 (in Idaho)

1-208-846-7610 (outside Idaho)

For spills and Marine Casualties (defined by 46 CFR 4.03) in coastal navigable waters of Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Washington Coast north of the Queets River contact:

Sector Puget Sound
1-206-217-6001

For spills and Marine Casualties (defined by 46 CFR 4.03) occurring in coastal navigable waters of the Columbia River, the Oregon Coast, and the Washington Coast south of the Queets River, contact:

Sector Columbia River
1-833-769-8724

For spills occurring in inland waters of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, contact:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle 1-206-553-1263

Spills into waters shared by two states must be reported to both states.

1000 GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

1100 Introduction

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH • USCG Coastal ACP Handbook

The Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP) describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, state, Tribal, and local response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil, or a release or substantial threat of release of a hazardous substance(s), within the boundaries of the Puget Sound Coastal Zone.

Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) are required by Title IV, Section 4202 of the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, which amends Subsection (j) of Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) (33 United States [U.S.] Code [USC] 1321 (j)), as amended by the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (33 USC 1251 et seq.), to complete the development of a national planning and response system. The ACPs are also written in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA).

As part of the National Planning and Response System, Area Committees were established for each area designated by the president. Qualified personnel from federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies comprise the Area Committee. Each Area Committee, under the direction of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for the area, is responsible for developing its local ACP.

In the SPS planning area and throughout the Northwest Region, the Area Committees are committed to:

- Timely notifications;
- A bias toward a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response when discharges or releases occur;
- Making decisions through an inclusive Unified Command (UC);
- Engaging in collaborative decision-making within RRT Region 10;
- Ensuring coordinated processes across the region;
- Maintaining regionwide expertise regarding the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and ACPs and serving as full participants in the planning process; and
- Ensuring organized transitions when key personnel turnover occurs within the RRT10 and Area Committee agencies.

This plan is intended as a guide for coordinating response actions and ensuring consistent spill response to discharges or releases. Federal and state rules require that responsible parties (RPs) manage spills with a pre-designated response management organization that accommodates a UC structure in recognition of federal, state, Tribal, or local jurisdiction.

If an oil discharge or hazardous material release occurs during a presidentially declared disaster, the response may be conducted under the National Response Framework (NRF). See https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/NRF_FINALApproved_2011028.pdf.

1110 Authority

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • Statutory Guidance Tool • Laws, Regulations and Directives, Federal • EPA NCP Overview
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• FEMA National Response Framework

Oil discharge and hazardous substance release preparedness and response within the SPS area of responsibility (AOR) are conducted under a shared federal, state, and Tribal authority framework established by the NCP, applicable federal statutes, state law, and Tribal law. Federal, state, and Tribal governments each possess distinct authorities and responsibilities based on geographic jurisdiction, statutory mandates, and treaty rights, and they coordinate their actions through the UC and Incident Command System (ICS). This shared governance structure supports coordinated planning, effective decision-making, and the protection of public trust resources and cultural interests during spill prevention, preparedness, and response activities. The following sections summarize the federal and state authorities governing the development and implementation of this ACP.

1110.1 Federal Authority

Executive Order 12777 (22 October 1991) delegates authority to designate Areas, appoint Area Committee members, specify ACP content, and review ACPs to the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (through the Department of Homeland Security [DHS]) for the Coastal Zone, and to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Inland Zone. The Coastal Zone and Inland Zone are defined in the NCP (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 300.5). EPA has NCP response authority for incidents in all areas inland of the Coastal Zone. The USCG has designated as areas those portions of the Captain of the Port (COTP) Zones that are within the Coastal Zone and for which Area

Committees will prepare ACPs. COTP Zones are described in USCG regulations (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 3). The Homeland Security Act (Title IV, Section 402) transferred USCG functions from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to DHS.

1110.2 State Authority

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is required by law (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 90.56.060) to prepare a statewide master oil and hazardous substance spill prevention and contingency plan. Ecology has adopted four contingency plans to meet this requirement; the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP), SPS ACP, Sector Columbia River (SCR) ACP, and Northwest Inland ACP. These plans guide the activities of all state and local agencies when responding to discharges or potential discharges of oil or releases or potential releases of hazardous substances.

By statute (RCW 90.56.020), Ecology is the lead state agency for spill prevention, response, and cleanup. The Ecology Director serves as the head of the state's ICS in response to a discharge of oil or to a release of hazardous substances and they coordinate the response efforts of all state agencies and local emergency response personnel. The Ecology State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) also serves as the state's principal spokesperson in the Incident Command as an advocate for all state interests. If a RP fails to respond in a manner deemed reasonably consistent with the NWRCP or applicable ACP, Ecology may assume full or partial control of the response in consultation with UC.

1200 Purpose of the Area Contingency Plan

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH • USCG Coastal ACP Handbook

The SPS ACP serves as the primary guidance document for coordinated response efforts to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases within the designated Coastal Zone. The ACP is intended to:

- Serve as the primary operational manual for responders during oil discharges and hazardous substance releases;
- Provide a structured and orderly approach to implementing response actions aimed at protecting worker and public health, natural resources, and property from the impacts of actual or threatened discharges of oil or hazardous substances releases, including Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD);
- Promote a unified and coordinated response by federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as potential RPs, response contractors, and affected communities;
- Offer guidance for Facility Response Plan (FRP) and Vessel Response Plan (VRP) reviewers and plan holders to ensure alignment and consistency with the Puget Sound ACP; and
- Align with the NCP and the NWRCP to ensure a cohesive regional and national response framework

The ACP is designed to support **effective initial actions** during a discharge or release—whether oil, hazardous substance, radiological, or biological—that occurs within or threatens the Coastal Zone and to incorporate of procedures and protocols from other agency plans as those agencies arrive on scene and integrate into the response.

1210 Table of Annexes

Standard Annexes	
Annex A	Master Hyperlink Index
Annex B	Risk Analyses/Risk Profile
Annex C	Fish and Wildlife
Annex D	Hazardous Substances
Annex E	Salvage and Marine Firefighting
Annex F	Response Tools
Annex G	Voluntary Organizations Assisting in Disaster
Annex H	Emergency Support Function (ESF)-10
Annex K	Air Operations and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Support
Annex O	International Coordination and Relationship to International Plans
Non-Standard Annexes	
Annex AA	Acronyms List and Glossary of Terms
Annex BB	Additional Factors to Consider for a Full and Rapid Response

1300 Area Committee Management and Administration

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG Coastal ACP Handbook

The primary objective of an Area Committee is to provide effective response planning and preparedness. The SPS Area Committee is composed of federal, state, Tribal, and local agency members, and with industry and nongovernmental organization (NGO) representation. The Puget Sound Area Committee, under the direction of the USCG Puget Sound FOSC, is responsible for developing an ACP. The Puget Sound Area Committee is also responsible for working with state, Tribal, and local officials to plan for joint response

efforts, including appropriate procedures for mechanical recovery; dispersant use; shoreline cleanup; protection of sensitive environmental areas; and protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife.

1310 Area Committee Organization

There are three Area Committees in the Northwest Region, which make up RRT Region 10: SPS, SCR, and Northwest Inland. Area Committee membership is reserved for representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, federally recognized Tribal governments, and local government agencies with statutory responsibilities for environmental protection, response, or natural resource management within the AOR, consistent with 33 USC §1321(j)(4) and applicable NCP guidance. The FOSC will serve as chair for the Area Committee. Ecology is designated to serve as vice-chair.

Participation in Area Committee meetings, subcommittees, workgroups, and planning activities is not limited to Area Committee members. Other parties encouraged to attend meetings, provide input, and contribute technical expertise in support of ACP development and preparedness activities include:

- Any Tribal government, including federally-recognized and non-federally-recognized Tribes;
- Industry representatives;
- Facility owners/operators;
- NGOs;
- Academia;
- Response contractors; and
- Other interested stakeholders.

Participation does not confer Area Committee membership status, governance authority, or decision-making responsibility, which remain vested in appointed Area Committee

members. This approach is intended to ensure inclusive collaboration while maintaining consistency with statutory and regulatory requirements.

1320 Charter

The mission of the SPS Area Committee is to ensure the highest state of readiness of the spill response community. The SPS Area Committee will strive to accomplish this by developing a comprehensive and useful ACP, preparing the response community through training and exercises, developing coordination mechanisms to facilitate effective responses, and educating stakeholders and the public. The SPS Area Committee will function as an efficient organization for ensuring effective response to environmental threats in this area. The SPS Area Committee will collaborate, sharing information and resources to produce the best possible plans and creative solutions to problems. The SPS Area Committee will employ best available research and technology in both problem-solving and decision-making. The SPS Area Committee will learn from responses and activities, improve processes, and develop as individuals and as an organization.

The FWPCA encourages local contingency planning to include coordinating community response to oil discharges and hazardous substances releases. OPA 90 expanded upon FWPCA and required the establishment of Area Committees consisting of qualified members of federal, state, local, and Tribal governments. The latest copy of the SPS Area Committee Charter can be found on the RRT10/NWAC website.

1330 Area Committee Meetings

Area Committee meetings provide an open forum for bringing together federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies, interested community partners, NGOs, and the private sector for the purpose of planning and preparing for responses to major incidents that affect multiple jurisdictions. Planning may include discussion of new ideas to improve the overall efficiency, coordination, and health and safety of response efforts. The Area Committee will meet at least two times a year.

It is the FOSC's responsibility to encourage appropriate agency and Tribal representatives to participate. While the FOSC may delegate attendance to a designated representative, the FOSC is ultimately accountable for ensuring appropriate Coast Guard representation on the Area Committee.

1340 Area Committee Annual Report

FOSCs must submit an FOSC annual report detailing Area Committee activities, relevant planning and response data, best practices, and challenges. SPS shall submit an FOSC annual report for the previous calendar year no later than 1 May of the following year to the USCG Northwest District for review and endorsement. The USCG Northwest District will review and route Area Committee annual reports through the USCG Pacific Area to the USCG Headquarters Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER) for final approval. CG-MER uses this information to measure policy effectiveness, identify best practices, and drive policy revisions.

1400 Area Contingency Plan Validation and Testing

ACPs are living documents. ACPs must be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure their accuracy and utility for oil and hazardous substance response.

1410 Area Contingency Plan Annual Update, Review, and Approval Process

The SPS ACP will be updated annually. At a minimum, the annual review and update process must address the following:

- Validation of contact information;
- Incorporation of lessons learned from exercises or incidents;
- Validation of Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) data, as needed;
- Validation of worst-case discharge (WCD) scenarios;

- Validation of threatened and endangered species lists; and
- Identification of any gaps.

The Area Committee will receive recommendations for revisions to the SPS ACP from workgroups, exercises/drills, training, FOSCs, and other interested parties. The lead of the Area Committee (Chief, Emergency Management Force Readiness (EMFR) Division) or representatives from Ecology, in consultation with the Incident Management Division (IMD) subject matter experts (SMEs), Ecology SMEs, and representatives from interested Tribes will:

- Consider the proposed change;
- Make edits and minor changes;
- Submit major changes to the Area Committee for review and concurrence; and
- Provide feedback to the submitter on the action taken.

Any interested party may submit comments or recommended changes to the ACP at any time by going to the RRT10 site.

Upon completion of the annual review and update, the FOSC must document changes via the Record of Changes log and post the most recent ACP update on the RRT10 site (https://www.rrt10nwac.com/). As this ACP serves as a key portion of Washington State's Master Oil and Hazardous Substance Response Plan, the ACP will be put up for a public comment period, as required by state laws and any comments will be adjudicated.

The District Commander and National Review Panel review ACPs on a five-year cycle to maintain national consistency and a unified response posture.

The dating convention for the ACP is (YYYY.X). "YYYY" is the year of the National Review Panel's review, and ".X" shows how many updates have been made since. For example, a plan reviewed in 2018 would have updates as 2018.1, 2018.2, etc. A new national review is required every five years, starting a new cycle (e.g., 2023.0).

1420 Geographic Response Strategies/Geographic Response Plans Validation (i.e., Booming and Collection Strategies)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Geographic Response Plans Guidance **Mapping and GIS:** • NOAA ERMA
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• GRP Booming Strategy Points – Standardized Data Format

Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) contain a set of planned site-specific geographic response strategies (GRSs) that are designed to give responders information to minimize impact to sensitive resources in the first few hours following a spill. Each GRP has two priorities: 1) identify natural, cultural, and significant economic resources in a specific geographic region, and 2) describe and prioritize response strategies to minimize damages to these resources during an oil discharge. GRPs are provided at the RRT10 Geographic Response Plans site.

Each GRP has several chapters that contain:

- Introduction to the plan;
- Site descriptions, including physical features, hydrology, climate, risk assessment, and literature references;
- Reference maps, notification strategies, and prioritized tactical strategies;
- Resources at risk (RARs), including endangered species, and shoreline information; and
- Staging area and boat launch information for the area.

1420.1 Process to Develop Geographic Response Plans

Development of GRPs in the SPS planning area is a collaborative process coordinated through the regional GRP Subcommittee. GRPs are developed through workshops and field

work involving federal, state, Tribal, and local oil discharge emergency response experts, as well as representatives of industry, ports, environmental organizations, pilots, and response contractors. Within RRT Region 10, GRP and GRS development is through partnership between federal, state and local agencies, natural/cultural/socioeconomic resource trustees, industry, Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSROs), and Tribes. Staff of Tribal organizations should be engaged throughout GRP development and testing, as Tribal knowledge holders and technical staff can provide critical, unique input regarding sensitive area identification and response prioritization. The form and content of GRPs and GRSs, as well as availability, are coordinated through the GRP Subcommittee to the Regional Response Team (RRT).

1420.2 Agencies Responsible for Developing and Maintaining Geographic Response Plans and Strategies

Key agencies have committed resources to manage the development and maintenance of GRPs. Marine GRPs are co-managed by Ecology and SPS. Inland GRPs are co-managed by Ecology, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and EPA.

For additional evaluation criteria for GRPs and GRSs, see the Geographic Response Plans Guidance tool.

1420.3 Testing Geographic Response Strategies

GRSs are tested during drills and spills or during the plan development process. Testing of the strategies is an important priority for the northwest response community. Deployment provides an opportunity for response contractors, plan holders, and agencies to verify the effectiveness of the strategy, deploy equipment, and train personnel to ensure that they are prepared for a real oil discharge. GRP strategies are updated based on the results of these drills.

It is critical to evaluate the functionality and accuracy of the data. It should be noted that large quantity of GRS data and booming strategies may prohibit comprehensive field validation. Therefore, it is important to employ a risk-based decision-making methodology. Use the following tiered process to assist with GRS validation management.

Validation Level	Name	Description	Requirements
I	Desktop	Evaluation of GRS data by SMEs (i.e., natural resource trustees) in an office or workshop setting. Can be supplemented with computer simulations.	All data should attain Level I validation. Level 1 validation must be revised as the response environment dictates.
II	Visual Confirmation	Deployment of SMEs to specified geographic area. Visual inspection of operational environment and verification of tactical strategies. No equipment deployment. Can be supplemented with computer simulations.	Targeted for moderate to high-risk areas where a degree of uncertainty exists.
III	Equipment Deployment	Deployment of identified equipment to verify its performance in the specified operating environment.	Targeted for inconclusive Level II validation strategies. Performed in high-risk areas where rapid and efficient response is critical.
IV	Full Scale Exercise (FSE)	Deployment of all appropriate response personnel and equipment under an area full-scale exercise.	As dictated by the area exercise design/objectives.
V	Incident	Deployment of all appropriate response personnel and equipment for an actual incident.	Real world event.

1430 Area Exercises

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
ICS Resources: • FEMA ICS Forms
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Northwest Area Committee Exercise Schedule (NACES) • National PREP Guidelines

Opportunities to exercise this ACP, including its components and annexes, are provided through the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). PREP was established to meet the intent of OPA by creating a practical, cost-effective exercise framework that supports both government and industry preparedness efforts.

PREP is a unified federal initiative that satisfies the exercise requirements of multiple agencies, including the USCG, EPA, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

In alignment with national guidance, federal and state agencies participating in the Puget Sound Area Committee have adopted exercise policies consistent with PREP. More information on PREP can be found at:

- 2016 National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines.
- Coast Guard Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual – COMDTINST 16000.14B.

1430.1 Exercise Types

PREP exercises are classified into three primary categories:

1. Equipment Deployment Drills;
2. Incident Management Team (IMT) Discussion-Based Exercises; and
3. Operations-Based Exercises (including Functional and Full-Scale Exercises).

Each type serves a specific training and evaluation function, and all contribute to a comprehensive preparedness strategy. The scope and objectives for these exercises are defined in the PREP guidelines. Participation by Area Committee members and the broader response community will vary by exercise, from verifying contact information to contributing to scenario design, or serving as controllers and evaluators.

By engaging in PREP exercises and adhering to their guidance, federal exercise requirements under OPA are effectively met.

1430.2 Scheduling and Coordination

Effective exercise scheduling is critical to the success of national and regional preparedness efforts. While larger exercises require significant resources and coordination, advance planning ensures participant availability and allows for budget alignment.

Exercise scheduling is handled in several ways:

- Quadrennial Area Exercises are coordinated through the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) in partnership with regional agencies and industry stakeholders.
- Annual PREP drills are implemented through industry-led WCD exercises. All drills should be submitted to the Northwest Area Committee Exercise Schedule (NACES) for coordination amongst area partners. The regional drill schedule is available at: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/naces/
- The FOSC may conduct Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs) to independently assess industry response capabilities. The states also have authority to conduct GIUEs. These unannounced events provide an important measure of preparedness and plan effectiveness.
- ODEQ and Ecology require regulated plan holders to coordinate with an agency planning representative when designing and scheduling required drills.

1430.3 After Action Report and Continuous Improvement

Following each exercise, an after-action report (AAR) is developed, capturing lessons learned from the drill and, as appropriate, identifying recommended updates to the ACP. A strong improvement plan is informed by exercise findings, includes realistic corrective actions, and supports increased preparedness across agencies and stakeholders.

1440 Plan Implementation

RRT10 agencies are responsible for reviewing this document regularly. They are encouraged to use this plan in all response training and establish an annual training program to ensure that all parties:

- Understand the goal is to conduct response and cleanup activities that are timely, efficient, and minimize threats to human health and the environment.
- Understand and are fully aware of their respective roles and responsibilities;
- Understand their role in the UC System;
- Understand how they coordinate and communicate with other parties and agencies;
- Understand what and where their assignments will be at a spill scene;
- Understand the overall level of commitment they are to devote to spill response operations; and
- Understand how they will be notified and when to respond to such notification.

1500 Area Contingency Plan's Relationship/Alignment with Other Plans Under National Response System

The NRS is a mechanism routinely and effectively used to respond to a wide range of oil and hazardous substance releases. It is a multi-layered system involving individuals and teams from Tribal, local, state, and federal agencies, as well as industry and other organizations.

These groups share expertise and resources to ensure that response and cleanup activities are timely, efficient, and minimize threats to human health and the environment.

At the heart of the system is the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The NCP outlines the process to ensure that the federal government's resources and expertise are available immediately for response actions that are beyond the capabilities of local, state, or Tribal responders. The NCP provides the framework for the NRS and establishes how it works.

Each ACP is aligned with the NWRCP, which in turn aligns with the NCP, ensuring consistency in preparedness and response from the local to the national level. In cases of conflicting guidance, the higher-level plan is followed until differences are reconciled. These plans provide guidance for responders but do not alter statutory or regulatory authorities.

The coordinated planning model in the Northwest Region supports alignment of policies, facilitates interagency collaboration, and ensures effective communication across a large and diverse geographic area. This structure promotes consistent preparedness and response strategies while providing a forum for sharing expertise and lessons learned.

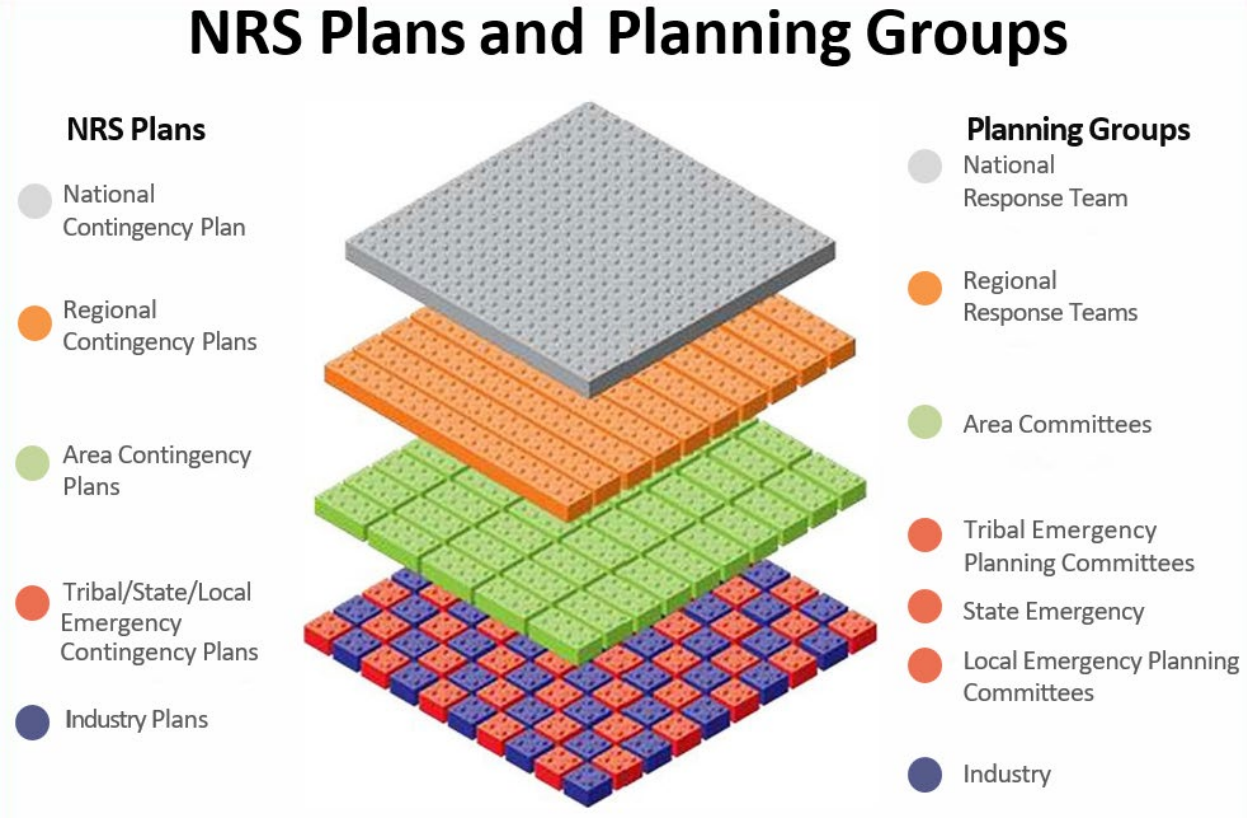


Figure 1500-1: Relationship between plans and planning groups within the National Response System

1510 Vessel Response Plans

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Best Management Practices

Section 311(j)(5) of the FWPCA, amended by Section 4202 of OPA (33 USC 1321(j)(5)), requires the preparation and submission of response plans for tank vessels. This requirement was subsequently expanded to include applicable non-tank vessels of 400 gross tons or greater by the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Acts of 2004 and 2006. These types of vessels, through their tank vessel VRP and non-tank vessel VRP, establish preparedness measures and response protocols to mitigate the impact or substantial threat of oil discharges and hazardous substance releases within their areas of

operation. Due to the transitory nature of vessel operations, all VRPs are reviewed at the national level. VRPs are based upon national planning and response scenarios that articulate how a vessel will carry out a response.

UC/ICs can utilize these plans to assist with a response to a tank or non-tank vessel. The following information should be available in a VRP.

- Tank Diagrams;
- Emergency Contacts;
- Contracted Response Resources;
- Salvage and Marine Firefighting Plan; and
- Emergency Lightering Procedures.

VRPs are required for all tank vessels that are constructed or adapted to carry oil in bulk as cargo or cargo residue except vessels exempted in 33 CFR Part 155.1015, and fishing and fish tender vessels of not more than 750 gross tons when engaged only in the fishing industry. The requirements for these plans can be found in 33 CFR Part 155 Subpart D.

VRPs are required for non-tank vessels under 33 CFR 155.5015 if they are self-propelled, 400 gross tons or greater, use oil as fuel for main propulsion, and operate on navigable waters of the United States. This also includes vessels carrying oil as secondary cargo and Integrated Tug Barge (ITB) units, based on their combined tonnage and oil capacity. The requirement does not apply to public vessels, foreign-flag vessels in innocent or transit passage, vessels already covered under tank vessel VRP requirements, vessels incapable of carrying oil, permanently moored craft, or inactive vessels.

A plan must be activated when a vessel representative has determined on board resources and personnel may not meet the needs of an actual or potential incident. VRP activation occurs when the vessel representative contacts the qualified individual identified in the VRP. VRP activation serves as the initial risk-based discussion critical in initiating an effective response. The FOSC may direct a vessel to activate their VRP pursuant to his/her federal removal authority under the CWA Section 311(c) (33 USC 1321(c)).

When a decision is made to mobilize resources, the resources identified in the plan must be used unless the FOSC approves a deviation. Deviations from the resource provider listed in the approved VRP should be authorized only in exceptional circumstances and only when it is determined that the deviation would provide a more expeditious or effective spill response or mitigation of environmental effects. The FOSC must document the reasons for approving the deviation for internal recordkeeping purposes.

Ecology also reviews and approves response plans in accordance with state legislation, per RCW 90.56.210 and RCW 88.46.060.

1520 Facility Response Plans

33 CFR Part 154 requires that the owner or operator of a “substantial harm” or “significant and substantial harm” facility, submit an FRP to the local COTP. In addition, OPA Section 4202(b)(4)(B) (33 USC 1321(j)(5)(E)), as implemented at 33 CFR 154.1025(b) and (c), prohibits a facility from handling, storing, or transporting oil unless the facility has an approved (or interim waiver) FRP. For all marine transportation-related facilities, reviews and approvals will be done by the local COTP. FRPs are based upon national planning standards and response scenarios that articulate how a facility will carry out a response. FRPs must be activated by the facility owner/operator if a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge is evident.

Ecology also reviews and approves response plans in accordance with state legislation, per RCW 90.56.210 and RCW 88.46.060 .

1521 Response Plans for Onshore Oil Pipelines

Owners and/or operators of onshore oil pipelines that, because of their location, could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging oil into or on a navigable waterway of the United States, or adjoining shoreline must possess a

response plan for onshore oil pipelines. The requirements for this response plan are found in 49 CFR Part 194.

Ecology also reviews and approves response plans in accordance with state legislation.

1522 Rail Response Plans

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Responding to Rail Incidents

PHMSA, in consultation with the Federal Railroad Administration, required a Comprehensive Oil Spill Response Plan (COSRP) for trains containing petroleum oils. Railroads are required to share information about high-hazard flammable train (HHFT) operations with state and Tribal emergency response commissions to improve community preparedness.
Ecology also reviews and approves response plans in accordance with state legislation.

For additional information, see the Responding to Rail Incidents tool.

1530 Local Plans

EXTERNAL RESOURCSES
• Find your LEPC

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are responsible for the development and maintenance of local emergency response plans in accordance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Sections 301 to 303 (42 USC 11001–11003). LEPC membership includes representatives from local government agencies, emergency responders, environmental groups, and local industry.

These emergency plans include:

- Identification and location of hazardous materials;

- Procedures for immediate response to chemical accidents;
- Public notification strategies for discharges or releases;
- Identification of facility coordinators; and
- Schedules for plan testing.

The local emergency response plan is reviewed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and RRTs may provide additional review and assistance if requested by the SERC or LEPC. In addition, Ecology may receive requests to review new or updated LEPC plans. Ecology, on behalf of the state, reviews local plans to ensure alignment with the RCP and applicable ACP(s).

Federal contingency plans are designed to coordinate with local governments. FOSCs must engage with LEPCs and ensure that ACP content aligns with Local Emergency Response Plans to the maximum extent possible.

1540 State Plans

The NCP requires the governor of each state to designate a lead state agency that will direct state-led response operations. Washington State has adopted the SPS ACP, Columbia River ACP, Northwest Inland ACP, and NWRCP to serve collectively as the state's Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Prevention and Response Plan, as required by RCW 90.56.060.

Ecology is designated as the lead agency for managing oil discharges or hazardous substance releases to state waters, with responsibility for overseeing prevention, response, containment, and cleanup. Ecology also leads the state's ICS for such spills and coordinates response efforts among state and local agencies.

1550 Tribal Plans

The USCG and the state recognize the sovereignty, rich cultural heritage, and traditional ecological knowledge of Tribal Nations with territories, rights, and interests in the Puget

Sound planning area. In alignment with the principles and framework of the NRS, Tribal Nations play a vital role in regional preparedness, planning, and response activities.

Tribal Nations may develop and maintain emergency response plans to address potential chemical releases and hazardous substance emergencies. These plans complement and integrate with the ACP and other federal, state, and local plans within the NRS structure.

FOSCs maintain situational awareness of all relevant tribal emergency response plans and ensure that Tribal interests, resources, and authorities are appropriately addressed, as required by the NCP to uphold federal trust responsibility to Tribal governments. FOSCs must also coordinate planning and response efforts with the USCG RRT co-chair and ensure the inclusion of Tribal perspectives during preparedness and response activities.

Additionally, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the 1997 Programmatic Agreement (PA) on Protection of Historic Properties during Emergency Response (PA) under the NCP, the FOSC must consult with affected Tribal Nations to protect culturally-significant sites and historic properties during response operations.

By fostering strong partnerships with Tribal Nations and recognizing their sovereign status, this plan supports the unified, coordinated response approach envisioned by the NRF and the NRS.

For additional information on regional Tribal Nations policy, see the NWRCP, Section 1515.

1560 Regional Contingency Plans

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • Statutory Guidance Tool • Laws, Regulations and Directives, Federal • EPA NCP Overview

The NCP (40 CFR Part 300) is the rule book for implementing CERCLA and OPA. All response actions by the federal agencies must be consistent with the NCP. Since inception, the NCP has required federal agencies to develop and maintain Regional Contingency Plans. In accordance with the NCP, RCPs function as a higher-level coordination plan for each federal region. RCPs provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants by the RRT. Vital RCP content includes but is not limited to:

a. Regional response resources and capabilities;

b. Line of demarcation between coast and Inland Zones (initially determines if the USCG or EPA is the lead FOSC); and

c. Pre-authorization policy and plans for use of chemical and biological agents on the NCP Product Schedule, or use of burning agents.

A link to the RCP is located here:
https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans2

1570 International Plans

REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Canda-U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan • Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP) Annex 3 (CANUSPAC)

The Puget Sound planning area shares an international border to the north with Canada. In particular, the northern terrestrial boundaries of Washington and the marine boundary

between the United States and Canada transect the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Georgia and Haro Straits waterbodies.

For oil discharges and other hazardous material releases, or potential releases that occur at or in the adjacent transboundary area, it is required that federal and state/provincial response leadership in both United States and Canada will coordinate their respective responses on their sides of the border.

Two particular documents outline how the UC members on each side of the border will coordinate spill response in the transboundary region: The Pacific-Geographical Annex 3 (CANUSPAC) of the Canada-United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan for spills of oil and other harmful substances for marine spill responses; and the Canada-United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan (CANUSWEST) for inland spill response (https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans4).

The CANUSPAC Annex was developed to facilitate quick response to incidents involving both the United States and Canada. The plan supports the movement of resources to support incident response activities. In case of a pollution/marine incident-related emergency or exercise that may occur in the United States or Canada, which would require emergency assistance from the USCG/Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) or agencies/contractors working in conjunction with the USCG/CCG, a call from the appropriate USCG will be made. These notifications are designed to facilitate the expeditious movement of personnel and/or equipment across the U.S./Canada border when responding to marine-related emergencies and drills that assist agencies in preparing for marine emergencies.

Any pollution incident in one country that poses a substantial threat to the other country shall be reported immediately to the Canadian National Environmental Emergencies Center (819-997-3742) or the United States National Response Center (800) 424-8802, depending on the incident location. In addition, for spills threatening the marine zone, the

USCG Northwest District will immediately notify the CCG Western Region emergency number and vice versa, in the event of an incident with cross-border threats or impacts.

The FOSC and staff are encouraged to review and be familiar with the CANUSPAC Plan contents; however, the Northwest District is responsible for international engagement. To activate the plan, SPS needs to notify the RRT chair (at Northwest District) to activate the CANUSPAC. Northwest District will notify CCG-Western Region Environmental Response at the 24-Regional Operations Centre in Victoria at 800-889-8852. Canadian representatives will contact SPS at the Joint Harbor Operations Center (JHOC) in Seattle to activate CANUSPAC. The JHOC will contact Northwest District Command Center to provide the details to the District Advisory Response Team (DRAT).

Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-MER) maintains all bilateral and multilateral pollution agreements, working with the U.S. Department of State.

For additional information on the RRT10 multinational policy, see Section 1280 of the NWRCP.



Figure 1570-1: U.S.–Canada Maritime Boundary and Offshore Jurisdiction – Sector Puget Sound AOR

1600 Area Contingency Plan's Relationship to National Response Framework

EXTERNAL RESOURCE
• FEMA National Response Framework

The NRF is a guide to how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. It is built on scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to align key roles and responsibilities across the nation. The NRF describes authorities and best practices for managing incidents that range from the serious but purely local to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters.

The NRF sets the doctrine for how the United States builds, sustains, and delivers the National Preparedness Goal's response core capabilities: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery.

The NRF supports the responsibilities of the FOSC, under the direction of both the FWPCA and CERCLA removal authorities.

Other useful natural disaster response resources include the National Response Team Abandoned Vessel Authorities and Best Practices Guidance and the NRF's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Annex.

1610 Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex

REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA)

The Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA) to the NRF describes the policies, situations, concepts of operations, and responsibilities of the federal departments and agencies governing immediate response and short-term recovery activities for releases of radioactive materials. These incidents may occur on federally-owned or -licensed facilities, privately owned property, urban centers, or other areas and may vary in severity from the small to the catastrophic. The incidents may result from inadvertent or deliberate acts. The NRIA applies to incidents where the nature and scope of the incident require federal response to supplement the state, Tribal, and/or local response efforts.

For additional information, see the NRIA at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_incident-annex_nuclear-radiological.pdf

1620 Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan

REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP)

The objective of the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP) is to establish an organized and integrated capability for timely, coordinated response by federal agencies to peacetime radiological emergencies.

The FRERP:

1. Provides the federal government's concept of operations based on specific authorities for responding to radiological emergencies;
2. Outlines federal policies and planning considerations on which the concept of operations of this plan and federal agency-specific response plans are based; and
3. Specifies authorities and responsibilities of each federal agency that may have a significant role in such emergencies.

The responsibilities for response to a WMD incident lie with multiple agencies and the Area

Committee should be prepared to provide resources under the NRF during a response to a terrorist incident. It is possible that a major public health and environmental incident could be the result, perhaps the intent, of this type of incident. The ACP may be needed to address critical short-term issues while a larger response infrastructure is developed under the full NRF. Parallel response actions by the Area Committee member agencies may be on-going under the NRS prior to and during NRF activation.

1700 Area Contingency Plan Relationship to the National Incident Management System

The NIMS guides all levels of government, NGOs, and the private sector to work together to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from incidents.

NIMS provides stakeholders and partners across the whole community with the shared vocabulary, systems, and processes to successfully deliver the capabilities described in the National Preparedness System. NIMS defines operational systems that guide how personnel work together during incidents. More specifics on using NIMS ICS for command and coordination in an oil discharge or hazardous substance release is discussed in Section 5400 "National Incident Management System."

The FOSC must use NIMS to support the development of a UC when warranted by incident size or complexity. The composition of the UC may vary by incident, and the FOSC must attempt to include, as appropriate, state, Tribal, and local On-Scene Coordinators and an RP representative.

See the Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook for additional resources.

1800 Area Contingency Plan Relationship to Other Marine Transportation System Recovery Focused Response Plans Managed by the Coast Guard

The Marine Transportation System Recovery (MTS) Plan for the SPS COTP Zone provides procedures to facilitate a safe, efficient, and timely restoration of the MTS to pre-disruption condition. Potential cascading effects extending beyond a local MTS disruption are addressed. Regional or national impacts may be felt when a major port is interrupted or closed with restrictions. Establishing an effective and efficient MTS Recovery framework to facilitate short-term recovery of the MTS and support restorative efforts beyond the initial response/recovery phase is vital to local, regional, economic, and security interests.

The MTS Recovery Plan is held and maintained by SPS. This information is publicly available. If there are MTS-related issues related to an oil or hazardous substance response, this information can be accessed by contacting SPS.

2000 GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE & JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Mapping and GIS: • Pacific Northwest Jurisdiction Mapper

Sector Puget Sound (SPS's) office is located in Seattle, Washington.

The geographic area described in this plan falls within the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Northwest District, as defined in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 3.65, which is divided into the Inland and Coastal Zones. This section addresses the Coastal/Inland Zone jurisdictional boundary within the SPS Captain of the Port (COTP) Area of Responsibility (AOR), as defined by 33 CFR 3.65-10. These boundaries are further detailed in Section 2300, "Geographic Boundaries/Coordinates (Captain of the Port Boundary)."

Each Coast Guard Sector is the predesignated Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) within each respective COTP Zone. Additional jurisdictional boundaries are outlined in Section 2100, "Description of Coast Guard Coastal Zone/United States Environmental Protection Agency Inland Zone Boundary (Line of Demarcation)" and shown in Table 2100-1 and Figure 2400-1.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) is also within the SPS AOR. OCNMS includes 3,188 square miles of marine waters off the Olympic Peninsula coastline, from Koitlah to the Copalis River mouth, extending 25-45 miles seaward. Figure 2400-2 shows the OCNMS boundaries.

2100 Description of Coast Guard Coastal Zone/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inland Zone Boundary (Line of Demarcation)

According to the National Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR 300.5), the "Coastal Zone" encompasses all United States (U.S.) waters influenced by tides, specific ports, and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, and high seas waters subject to the NCP, as well as the adjacent land surfaces, ground waters, and ambient air.

The "Inland Zone" refers to the environment located inland from the Coastal Zone, excluding the specified ports and harbors on inland rivers.

The SPS FOSC's AOR includes the Coastal Zone in the state of Washington from the Queets River north to the Canadian border midline in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, to the outer limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone, to inside Puget Sound to include waters influenced by the tide, and up rivers to those points listed in Table 2100-1. For discharges originating on land that impact or threaten navigable waters, the appropriate federal agency (EPA or the USCG) will be determined based on the AOR expected to experience the greatest impact.

The boundaries between the USCG and EPA AORs within the Sector Puget Sound Captain of the Port Zone for FOSC are outlined in Table 2100-1 and illustrated in Figure 2400-1. For an interactive tool showing jurisdictional boundaries, please visit the following link: EPA Region 10 Pacific Northwest Jurisdiction Mapper (arcgis.com)

The coastal and inland boundary is displayed in detail at the following website: https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=609375dea9ef4013a3cc5b35e6a9ecac

In areas where precise boundaries are not defined, the boundary will generally default to the high-water mark. In locations where navigable waterways feed into the ocean, the boundary will generally default to the high tide mark. This policy will help to ensure that

response is not delayed by uncertainty or disagreement between EPA and the USCG regarding jurisdiction.

For more information on regional policies regarding the first federal official at an incident, determination of FOSC for an incident that impacts multiple jurisdictions, overlapping jurisdictions, or modifications to notification requirements, see Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP) Sections 1311 through 1314.

Table 2100-1: Area of Responsibility Boundaries

River Name / Body of Water	USCG Sector Puget Sound / EPA Boundary
Big Quilcene River	Bay high water mark to first bridge at Linger Longer Road
Chuckanut Creek	Highway 11 Bridge
Clallam River	State Highway 112 Bridge
Deep Creek	State Highway 112 Bridge
Deschutes River	4th Avenue Bridge at Olympia
Dosewallips River	Route 101 Bridge
Duckabush River	Route 101 Bridge
Dungeness River	First bridge at E. Anderson Rd.
Duwamish River	Pacific Highway South Bridge
East Twin River	State Highway 112 Bridge
Ebey Slough	I-5 Bridge in Everett
Elwha River	State Highway 112
Hama River	Route 101 Bridge
Hoko River	State Highway 112 Bridge
Lake Washington Ship Canal (Lake Washington/Lake Union)	Montlake Bridge in Seattle
Little Quilcene River	First bridge crossing river at Center Rd., Quilcene, Washington
Nisqually River	I-5 Bridge
Nooksack River	Slater Road North of Marietta
Puyallup River	I-5 Bridge
Pysht River	Bridge on Pysht River Road
Queets River	Route 101 Bridge at Queets
Quillayute River	Mouth of Dickey River
Sail River	State Highway 112 Bridge
Salt Creek	Bridge on Camp Hayden Road
Sekiu River	State Highway 112 Bridge
Skagit River, North Fork	First bridge upstream of Skagit Bay in Rexville
Skagit River, South Fork	Fir Island Rd. Bridge in Conway. First bridge upstream of Skagit Bay

River Name / Body of Water	USCG Sector Puget Sound / EPA Boundary
Skokomish River, South Fork	Route 106 Bridge
Snohomish River	Interstate 5 Bridge
Sooes River	Bridge Approximately 1 Mile South of Makah Bay, Tsoo-Yess Beach Road
Steamboat Slough	I-5 Bridge Near Everett
Stillaguamish River	Great Northern Railroad Bridge at Silvana
Swinomish Canal	Entire Channel
Union River	State Highway 300 Bridge
Waatch River	Hobuck Road
Whatcom Creek	Holly Avenue Bridge in Bellingham
West Twin River	State Highway 112 Bridge

Note: Table 2100-1 is not an all-inclusive list of rivers in SPS's AOR. All other rivers, tributaries, and estuaries not mentioned in Table 2100-1 will have a line of demarcation at their respective entrances.

2110 Oil Discharges and Hazardous Substance Releases Originating from Inland Facilities

The authority to respond to releases or threats of a release of oil is derived from the Clean Water Act. The determination of the pre-designated FOSC for oil discharges from land shall be determined based on the areas vulnerable to the greatest threat. If the release or threat of a release does not impact or threaten navigable water, neither EPA nor the USCG has the authority to respond.

The authority to respond to releases or threats of a release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants is derived from Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and is not predicated on impacts to navigable water.

2200 Copy of Current United States Coast Guard/United States Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum of Understanding

While MOUs may exist for other regions, there is no existing memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the USCG and EPA specific to the SPS AOR.

In cases involving the release of oil or hazardous substances from shoreline facilities, as well as those releases that threaten or have caused contamination of sediment, soil, or other shoreline areas, the duty officers from EPA and USCG will consult to determine the appropriate lead agency.

The boundaries between the USCG and EPA AORs may be referenced through the following web interface: https://rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=maps

2300 Geographic Boundaries/Coordinates (Captain of the Port Boundary)

The SPS COTP Zone is detailed in 33 CFR 3.65-10. The boundaries of SPS's COTP Zones start at latitude 48°29'35" N, longitude 124°43'45" W, proceeding along the Canadian border east to the Montana-North Dakota boundary; thence south along this boundary to the Wyoming state line; thence west and south along the Montana-Wyoming boundary to the Idaho state line; thence northwest along the Montana-Idaho boundary to latitude 46°55'00" N; thence west along latitude 46°55'00" N to longitude 123°18'00" W; thence north to a point latitude 47°32'00" N, longitude 123°18'00" W; thence west along latitude 47°32'00" N to the outermost extent of the EEZ; thence northeast along the outermost extent of the EEZ to the Canadian border; thence east along the Canadian border to the point of origin.



Figure 2300-1: USCG Sector Puget Sound COTP Area of Responsibility

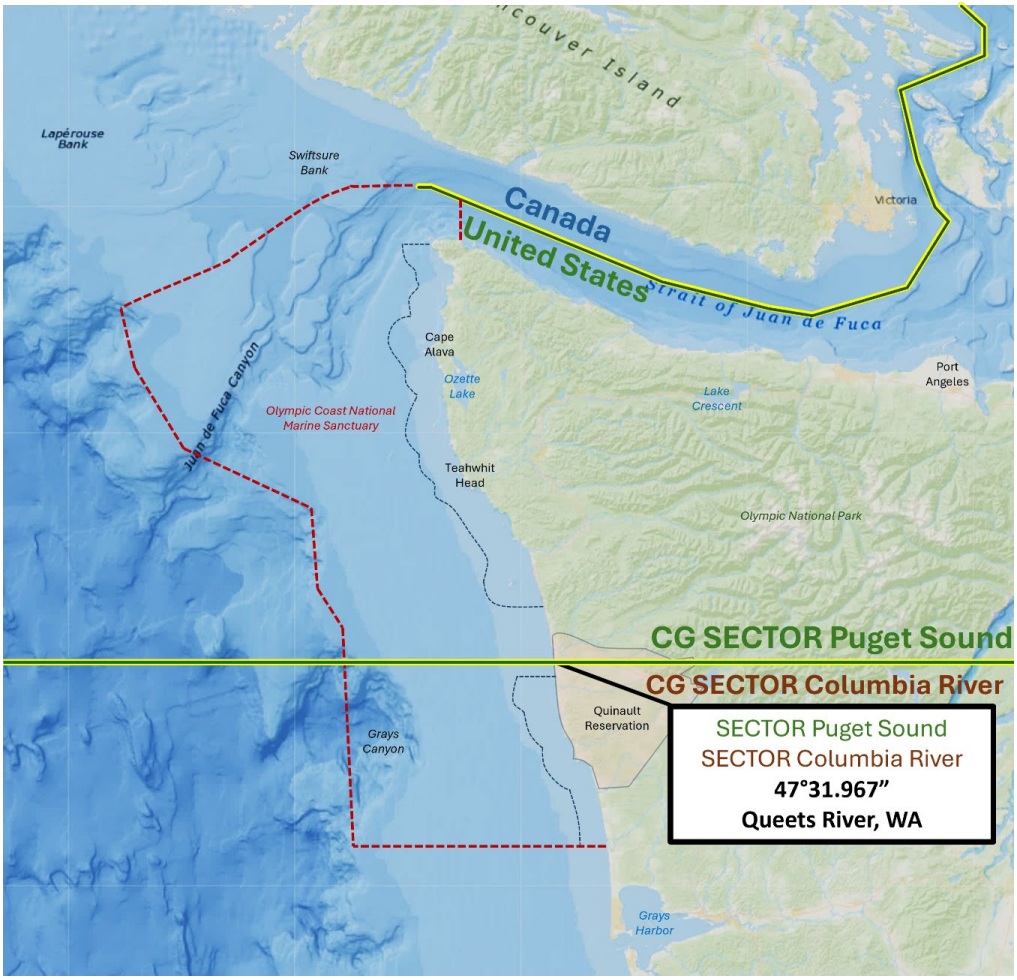


Figure 2300-2: Sector Puget Sound division line with Sector Columbia River

2400 Graphic(s) Depicting Geographic Area Covered by Area Contingency Plan

The USCG SPS FOSC Zone encompasses coastal waters, harbors, tributaries, and inlets from the Washington coast at latitude 47°32' N / longitude 124°21'15" W (Queets River) and proceeds north along the midline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca along the Canadian border. Within this area, the Puget Sound Coastal Zone, geographic area is defined as “all United States waters subject to the tide, specified ports and harbors on inland rivers, waters of the contiguous zone, other waters of the high seas subject to the NCP.”

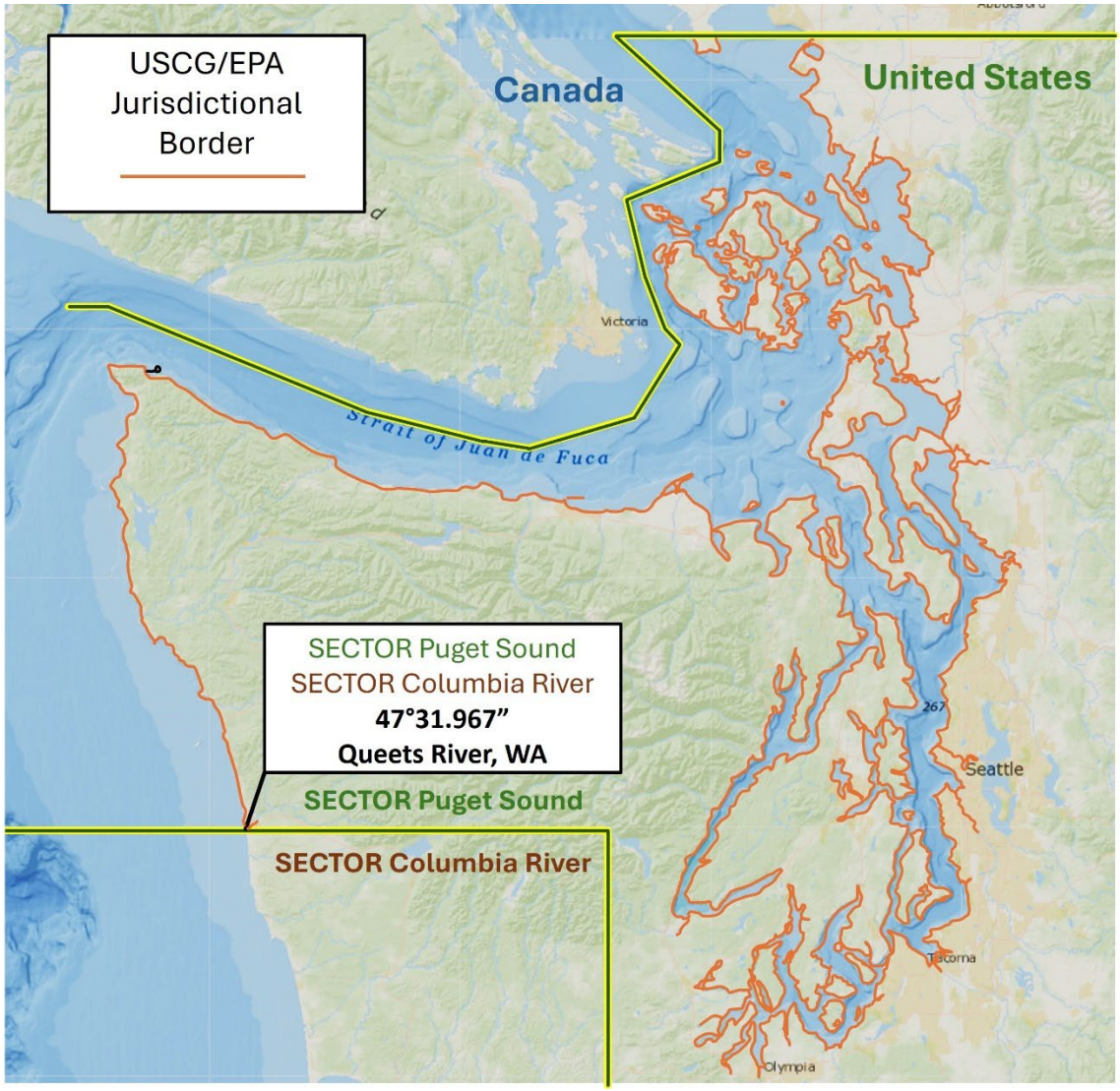


Figure 2400-1: Sector Puget Sound FOSC Area of Responsibility Boundaries



Figure 2400-2: Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) extends into SPS's AOR. OCNMS includes 3,188 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline, from Koitlah Point down to the Copalis River mouth and extending 25-45 miles seaward.

The OCNMS Boundary Map can be found at https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protect/regulations/boundarymap.html

2500 Sub-Geographic Areas

For an interactive map showing county borders, you can visit the EPA Region 10 Pacific Northwest Jurisdiction Mapper: https://rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=maps.

For the purposes of the COTP Zone, the SPS's ACP is not further broken into sub-geographic areas. The Coastal Zone identified within this ACP spans 13 counties within

Washington State. The overlapping counties are as follows: Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom.

2510 Makah Tribe Lands

Makah Tribe land holdings were settled in the Treaty of Neah Bay in 1855 with the U.S. government, and more recently various courts have determined the Makah Marine Usual and Accustomed Area (U&A) consists of U.S. waters north of 48°02'15"N latitude (at the Norwegian Memorial), east of 125°44'00"W longitude, and west of 123°42'30"W longitude (at Tongue Point just east of Crescent Bay in the Strait of Juan de Fuca). The seaward boundary of the Makah Tribe approximates the 100-fathom isobath in the southerly direction from the U.S./Canada international boundary to a point due west of the mouth of the Copalis River. The Makah are the sole natural resource trustees to the mean lower low water line and co-trustees of the marine resources seaward from this line within this U&A. The Makah U&A encompasses a portion of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and the Flattery Rocks and Quileute Needles National Wildlife Refuges.

3000 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH • USCG Coastal ACP Handbook

3100 General Roles and Responsibilities

The signatory agencies of the Northwest Area Committees will use the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS) model. Responsible parties (RPs) for a spill incident shall utilize an ICS, which is capable of rapidly and readily integrating into the NIMS-based ICS/Unified Command (UC) organization.

The Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC)/State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) maintains and manages incident management teams (IMTs) for response to the discharge of oil and releases of hazardous substances in the Coastal Zone. FOSCs/SOSCs are responsible for determining the source, cause, and RP, as well as initiating source control and enforcement actions as appropriate. Additional responsibilities include ensuring containment, cleanup, and disposal are carried out adequately, notification of all natural resource trustees, and coordination of activities within federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies.

3110 Responsible Party/Industry Plan Holder

The RP, or a designated representative, will fill the role of RP Incident Commander (IC) within the UC. In addition, the RP's personnel will be expected to staff part of the UC's response organization within the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Admin/Finance sections.

As defined in the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, each RP for a vessel or a facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses a substantial threat of a discharge, into or upon the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines or the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is liable for the removal costs and damages specified in Subsection (b) of Section 1002 of OPA. Any removal activity undertaken by a RP must be consistent with the provisions of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP), the Area Contingency Plan (ACP)/Geographic Response Plan (GRP)/Geographic Response Strategy (GRS), and the applicable Vessel Response Plan (VRP) and/or Facility Response Plan (FRP) required by OPA. If directed by the FOSC at any time during removal activities, the RP must act accordingly.

Each RP for a vessel or facility from which a hazardous substance is released, or which poses a substantial threat of a release, is liable for removal costs as specified in Section 107 of CERCLA (42 USC 9607).

The following is a list of the primary duties of the RP:

- The first response role of the RP is to notify appropriate agencies and other responders of an incident, in accordance with applicable laws and response plans.
- Initiate UC with public safety agencies as soon as possible.
- Cooperate with local public safety agencies. This includes providing full access to properties, information, and expertise of the company. The RP conducts whatever response actions are necessary and for which their personnel are trained and equipped. This can include turning valves off, plugging leaking containers, and evacuating employees. It may include firefighting by industrial fire brigades. All of these response activities are done under the direction and authority of a public safety IC.
- Provide a qualified individual as applicable and required by, Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 155.
- Activate the FRP or VRP if applicable.
- Arrange for spill response countermeasures as appropriate, which may include contracts with specialized Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) or hazardous

material (HAZMAT) contractors to clean up and mitigate a discharge or release under the direction of the Incident Command (IC), UC or FOSC.

- Responsible for Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) in conjunction with natural and cultural resource trustees.
- Responsible for response costs and other damages caused by the discharge or release.

The RP should conduct inquiries into the cause of the incident. This is often done with the participation or oversight of state or federal agencies. The RP should then revise prevention, preparedness, and response measures accordingly.

The NCP requires that response plan holders "prepare and submit a plan for responding, to the maximum extent practicable, to a worst-case discharge (WCD), and to a substantial threat of such discharge, of oil or a hazardous substance." These response plans are required to be consistent with the ACP.

The requirement for vessel, onshore facility, railroad, and pipeline response plans to be consistent with the ACP applies to:

- Contingency plan: content, review, and approval;
- The execution and evaluation of spill drills and exercises; and
- The management of spill response actions.

Failure to adequately conform to the ACP may result in rejection of a spill contingency/response plan; non-credit for a drill; or federal and/or state agencies assuming direct control of a spill response action. However, it is also the policy of the Area Committee that the UC will encourage the RP for an incident, to maintain the primary responsibility for managing the response action as long as they:

- Actively and cooperatively participate in the UC structure;
- Provide an organization that is compatible with NIMS ICS;
- Provide regular communication and documentation that assures adequate response resources are being rapidly mobilized in proportion to the size of the incident, as discussed in the following section; and

- Follow their approved spill contingency/response plan (if applicable, unless otherwise directed, or a deviation is agreed to, by the UC.

Umbrella Vessel Contingency Plans

Washington requires vessel oil spill contingency plans from all tank vessels and cargo and passenger vessels (300 gross tons or greater) to be submitted for review and approval (RCW 88.46.060). Vessel owners and operators have two options for meeting these vessel contingency plan requirements. The first is to submit a company-specific vessel oil spill contingency plan to the states. The second is to enroll in one of the organizations that operate umbrella vessel contingency plans.

The Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC) and National Response Corporation provide contingency plan coverage, primary response contractors, and a spill management team to enrolled vessels for a per trip fee. These contingency plan services are provided for immediate response coverage, with the intention to transition to the RP within the first 24 hours of the oil spill response. The WSMC provides this coverage in Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Washington coast.

Vessels enrolled with WSMC or the National Response Corporation are expected to follow the approved umbrella contingency plan throughout the duration of the spill response. Any deviation from an approved vessel contingency plan must be approved through the UC, if one exists, consistent with the authorities of the FOSC and the appropriate SOSC. All changes in ICS Command staff to allow enrolled party representatives to participate must be approved by the UC. Where inadequate staff replacements are available to the enrolled party, the regulatory agencies may contract with qualified local persons to fill organizational posts. Representation by an enrolled vessel owner or operator's selected ICS staff and qualified individual is not guaranteed after the removal of the cooperative's preapproved representatives.

The emergency response towing vessel (ERTV) stationed at Neah Bay is an important safety net to prevent disabled ships and barges from grounding in the western Strait of Juan de

Fuca or off the outer coast. Funding for the ERTV is provided by private maritime industry-financed and managed operations. The maritime shipping industry established an ERTV contract (vessel under charter to WSMC) to maintain an industry-funded standby towing capability at Neah Bay. If the ERTV is needed to assist a vessel, the ERTV would follow the WSMC contract for standby service and be contracted directly by the vessel owner/operator for emergency services. As required by Washington statute, the USCG and Ecology may separately contract for the services of the ERTV stationed at Neah Bay to respond to an emerging maritime casualty, or as a precautionary measure.

3120 Local Government

State, local, or Tribal public safety agencies are ordinarily the first government representatives at the scene of a discharge or release. They are expected to initiate public safety measures that are necessary to protect public health and welfare, and that are consistent with containment and cleanup requirements, as stated in the NCP.

The focus of local responders is usually directed toward abating immediate public safety threats. The degree of local response will depend upon the training and capabilities of local responders relative to the needs of the specific emergency.

In some cases, first responders will identify the nature and scope of an incident. This information is then passed on to Tribal, state, and federal responders who are activated to address the situation with specific expertise and/or capabilities.

Often, local agencies take mitigating actions of a defensive nature to contain the incident and protect the public. In many instances, RPs or local agencies are capable of an aggressive response and quick abatement of immediate hazards. In these cases, local authorities usually rely on state, Tribal, and federal responders to ensure that cleanup is complete, and remediation is sufficient.

A major role of local organizations during all emergency incidents is to provide security for all on scene forces and equipment. For large incidents, help is often requested through the

state emergency management agencies. Activities include establishing local liaison with hospitals, emergency services, and police personnel, as well as restricting entrance to hazardous areas to all but essential personnel.

Coordination with the local governmental organizations of counties, cities, or towns is especially important for traffic control, land access, and disposal of oil or hazardous materials removed during response operations. Additional coordination with impacted Tribal organizations is also crucial depending on the location and anticipated impact of the spill.

Landowners/facility managers are also encouraged to participate in planning and response. Landowners are a valuable resource due to their local knowledge. The landowner, to the extent practical and based on the FOSC's/UC's judgment, may be included in the planning and response activities, under the direction of the FOSC through the Liaison Officer.

Landowners who provide access to or are affected by a discharge or release have jurisdiction over their lands and warrant special consideration by the responding agency or UC. In the event an incident poses, or has the potential to pose, an imminent threat to human health or the environment, it is in the best interest of the landowner to facilitate access to an On-Scene Coordinator.

Under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.52, local governments in Washington bear the legal responsibility to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including oil discharges and hazardous material releases. Their roles include:

- Establishing emergency management organizations: Each political jurisdiction (county, city, town) must create a local emergency management organization, with a director appointed by the jurisdiction's executive officer (RCW 38.52.070(1));
- Authority to act in disasters: Local governments may enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to respond to disasters without being bound by time-consuming legal formalities (except mandatory constitutional requirements) (RCW 38.52.070(2));

- Mutual aid arrangements: Local emergency directors can develop mutual aid agreements with public and private agencies. These agreements must align with the state emergency management plan and are activated when local capabilities are exceeded (RCW 38.52.091);
- Coordination and use of public agencies: The governor and executive heads of political subdivisions are authorized to utilize and direct all public agency services. In a proclaimed disaster, they may command citizens and their resources as needed (RCW 38.52.110); and
- Emergency Management Defined: Emergency management includes all non-military emergency functions related to mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and support for search and rescue in the face of natural, technological, or human-caused hazards (RCW 38.52.010(1)).

Operational Responsibilities During an Incident

Local responders are the first line of defense during hazardous substance releases. Fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services personnel are typically first on scene, initiating actions to protect life, property, and the environment, consistent with the containment and cleanup requirements under the NCP (40 CFR Part 300).

Response priorities include immediate threat mitigation—securing the area, evacuating as needed, and containing the spread. The response scale depends on local capabilities and the nature of the hazard. When needed, local teams coordinate with state and federal agencies for specialized support.

In addition to direct response actions, local governments are responsible for:

- Maintaining site security and protecting personnel and equipment during operations;
- Coordinating with local hospitals and emergency medical services to manage casualties or exposures;
- Engaging with law enforcement to restrict access to hazardous areas and control traffic;
- Supporting logistics and public communications related to evacuation, sheltering, and protective actions; and

- Assisting with waste management and disposal of hazardous substances removed during cleanup.

In complex incidents, mutual aid and state-level assistance may be required. Continued coordination with city, county, and town-level organizations is essential to ensure effective land access, public safety, and operational efficiency throughout the response.

3130 State Government

A designated representative of impacted state(s) will fill the SOSC role in the UC. In addition, their staff will be part of the UC response organization and will perform the following duties:

- Represent the state in response to an oil or hazardous material spill or release or threatened spill or release, and to coordinate cleanup response with state and local agencies.
- Determine and implement appropriate response strategies in consultation with other members of the UC.
- Provide and coordinate state resources to the response effort as needed to accomplish combined cleanup objectives.
- Identify and maximize the protection of environmentally, culturally- and economically-sensitive areas. Determine Resources at Risk (RAR).

The Washington State Response System is designed to provide coordinated state agency response, in cooperation with federal agencies, for effective cleanup of oil or hazardous substance spills.

Washington State Department of Ecology

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) acts as the state IC for oil discharges or hazardous substance releases or threatened releases or discharges to waters of the state. Ecology provides 24-hour response to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases when any amount of regulated waste or hazardous substance is released to the air, land, or water, or whenever oil is discharged on land or to state waters. As needed, Ecology deploys

SOSCs to an incident. The agency maintains spill response teams in Olympia, Seattle, Bellingham, Vancouver, Spokane, and Yakima that provide round-the-clock response service to emergencies that pose an immediate threat to human health and the environment. In addition, Ecology:

- Confirms emergency notifications;
- Determines the source and cause of an incident;
- Identifies the RP for an oil discharge or hazardous substance release;
- Assumes responsibility for incident management and cleanup if the RP is unavailable, unresponsive, or unidentified;
- Sets state cleanup standards and ensures that source control, containment, cleanup, and disposal are accomplished;
- Assists in monitoring and ensuring the safety of first responders and other personnel;
- Determines the need for and initiates appropriate enforcement actions;
- Coordinates spill response with other state and federal agencies as well as impacted Tribes and local jurisdictions using NIMS/ICS;
- Establishes a Joint Information Center (JIC) with involved agencies and the RP to provide current and accurate information to the community;
- Conducts on-site inspections of commercial vessels and oil handling facilities;
- Provides maritime expertise, such as advice on salvage operations;
- Leads, activates, and coordinates the NRDA team, including the state departments of Fish and Wildlife, Health, Natural Resources, Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation Commission and natural resource trustees from Tribes and federal, state, and local agencies;
- Leads/supports activities of the Environmental Unit (EU) of the ICS; and
- Notifies the appropriate resource trustee agency of injury to fish, shellfish, habitat, and other wildlife.

Washington State Patrol

Washington State Patrol (WSP) assumes responsibility as IC and acts as the lead state agency responsible for cleanup activities when oil discharges and hazardous substance releases occur on state highways. The WSP also:

- Assists local jurisdictions with law enforcement and evacuations.
- Represents local jurisdictions as designated Incident Commander.
- Coordinates and maintains liaison with other state agencies involved with an incident.
- Assists in receiving and disseminating warning information.
- Provides communications and technical support to the incident.
- Provides radiological monitoring.
- Provides aerial reconnaissance of the impacted area.
- Coordinates fire resources when an emergency mobilization is authorized for a hazardous substance incident.
- Provides 24-hour, statewide communications support.

Washington Emergency Management Division

The Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) maintains a 24-hour capability to receive notification of oil discharge and hazardous substance release incidents. and requests for assistance and initial notification to local, state, and federal response agencies. WEMD should be contacted via the WEMD's number, 800-258-5990. Additional information can be found at this site: https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is a trustee of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and associated habitats. WDFW is also trustee of wildlife management lands and public access sites. WDFW should be engaged in responses where a potential exists for impacts to trustee resources. WDFW's areas of expertise include environmental sampling, identifying natural resource protection needs, oiled wildlife rescue, and NRDA. Unless

otherwise indicated by USFWS, WDFW is delegated the role of Wildlife Branch Director and Deputy Director for spills in Washington State.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) is a trustee of state-owned aquatic lands and associated habitat, including kelp, eelgrass, sediment, and other elements of the nearshore and bedland environments. WA DNR should be engaged in a response where a potential exists for impacts to trustee resources. WA DNR's areas of expertise include NRDA and identification of aquatic habitat/state lands protection needs. This agency should be activated by phone through the Ecology representative on the Regional Response Team (RRT). WA DNR's website is http://www.dnr.wa.gov/.

Washington Parks and Recreation Commission

The Washington Parks and Recreation Commission (WA Parks) is a trustee of state park lands, including public recreation sites, and associated natural resources. The WA Parks Commission's areas of expertise include maintaining the biological, cultural, natural, and structural resources of underwater parks, beach properties, mooring buoys, boat launches, and related recreational facilities, conducting NRDA, and identifying state parks lands and property protection needs. This agency should be activated by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT.

Washington Department of Health

The Washington Department of Health (WA DOH) is responsible for public health related to shellfish beds. The agency also has responsibility for beach closures for human health and safety purposes, utilization of contaminated food organisms, and general health-related matters for the safety of the public. During radiological incidents, WA DOH assumes responsibility as IC and acts as the lead agency. WA DOH should be engaged for any incident where the potential exists for seafood contamination or any incident where there are radiological concerns. WA DOH's area of expertise include conducting NRDA, and

rendering appropriate laboratory support and services to the SOSC. This agency should be activated by phone by calling the Duty Officer at (360) 888-0838. Additional information regarding this agency can be found at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation is responsible for the protection of historic and archaeological sites. This agency also provides State Historic Preservation consultation to a UC during an incident response. This agency's areas of expertise include assisting with NRDA and identification of historic and archaeological resource protection needs. This agency should be activated by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT. Additional information can be found on this agency at this site: https://dahp.wa.gov/

Washington Department of Agriculture

The Washington Department of Agriculture has several areas of expertise including laboratory testing and sampling for spills involving pesticides, as well as food product testing (e.g., milk, seaweed, etc.). This agency should be activated by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT.

Labor and Industries: Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration

The Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration is primarily responsible for assuring that employers, including oil spill cleanup contractors, Ecology, and other state agencies are providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. This agency has several areas of expertise. Labor and Industries (L&I) will evaluate the following safety and health programs:

- Site characterization and control;
- Medical surveillance;
- Decontamination procedures; and
- Personal protective equipment requirements.

L&I establishes and enforces safety requirements for emergency spill response, including for the use of volunteers. This agency can be engaged by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT.

Washington State Department of Transportation

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) may provide traffic control, equipment, and personnel for non-hazardous cleanup activities on state and interstate highways. This agency can be engaged by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT.

Utilities and Transportation Commission

The Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) is responsible for developing and enforcing safety standards for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines located within the state. This agency can be engaged by phone through the Ecology representative on the RRT. Additional information on this agency can be found at this site: https://www.utc.wa.gov/

3140 Tribal Government

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • Volunteer Guidance Tool

Tribal governments are sovereign governments recognized under federal law and possess inherent governmental authority, subject to congressional limitations and applicable federal statutes. Tribal governments may exercise authority to protect the health, safety, welfare, natural resources, cultural resources, and trust and treaty-reserved rights of their members consistent with federal law.

Pursuant to 33 United States Code (USC) § 2706 and 42 USC § 9607(f), federally recognized Tribes may act as natural resource trustees for natural resources belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to the Tribe, or held in trust for the Tribe by the United States.

Tribal trustee authority is exercised in accordance with applicable federal law, including the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and relevant NRDA regulations.

In furtherance of these authorities, Tribal governments are responsible for identifying and communicating Tribal jurisdictional interests, trust and treaty-reserved rights, Tribal emergency response plans, natural resource trustee interests, and culturally-sensitive areas that may be affected by a discharge or release. Tribes may develop and maintain their own emergency response or contingency plans consistent with the NCP and the NIMS, designate tribal representatives for preparedness and response coordination, and participate in Area Committee planning, training, and exercises. Where provided by the Tribe, relevant planning information may be incorporated into this ACP to support coordinated preparedness and response.

During an incident, Tribal governments may designate a Tribal On-Scene Coordinator (TOSC) or other authorized representative to participate in the response consistent with the ICS and the NCP. When an incident affects Tribal lands, trust lands, usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing or hunting areas, trust and treaty-reserved rights areas, or other areas where a Tribe asserts jurisdiction or trustee interests, Tribes may participate in UC or provide agency representatives, technical specialists, or subject matter experts (SMEs) to the command and general staff. Tribal representatives may provide Tribal ecological knowledge, cultural knowledge, and information regarding current and historical Tribal uses of affected areas to inform response strategies and operational decision-making. Where multiple Tribes have interests in an affected area, each Tribe may designate its own representative consistent with ICS structure and incident needs.

As natural resource trustees under OPA and CERCLA, Tribal governments are responsible for assessing potential injury to Tribal trust resources and may participate in NRDA activities consistent with 15 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 990 and 43 CFR Part 11. NRDA is distinct from response operations but may occur concurrently. Tribal trustee coordination during response will occur in accordance with the NCP, Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP), and applicable Area Contingency Plans (ACPs).

The FOSC, consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA) §311, CERCLA §104, and the NCP, is responsible for directing and coordinating federal response actions and for ensuring that affected Tribal governments are notified as soon as practicable when a discharge or release may impact Tribal lands, resources, or interests. FOSC will, as soon as practicable, notify and offer emergency coordination to all affected tribes, through appropriate designated tribal coordinator, regarding oil discharges and chemical releases that could potentially affect Tribal interests and provide opportunities for meaningful coordination during response operations. The FOSC is responsible for integrating tribal concerns into response objectives and strategies consistent with federal law, ICS structure, and the UC process. Where a Tribe elects not to participate directly in UC, the FOSC remains responsible under the NCP for ensuring that tribal trust resources and interests are appropriately considered in response decision-making.

For state-led incident responses, SOSCs, consistent with applicable Washington statutes and regulations (RCW 90.56), are responsible for coordinating state response actions and for engaging with affected Tribal governments. SOSCs will coordinate with Tribal governments in a manner consistent with state-to-Tribal government relationships, state law, and UC principles. When state agencies serve as natural resource trustees, they will coordinate trustee activities with Tribal governments acting in their trustee capacity.

For incidents occurring on Tribal lands, the Tribal government has authority regarding access, coordination, and the use of volunteers on those lands, consistent with applicable federal and state worker safety, liability, and emergency response requirements. All response and volunteer activities must comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) standards (29 CFR 1910.120), NCP worker safety provisions, and ICS-established safety protocols.

Throughout preparedness and response activities, Tribal governments, the FOSC, and SOSCs share responsibility for maintaining effective communication, respecting jurisdictional authorities, protecting sensitive cultural information consistent with

applicable law, and supporting a coordinated, efficient, and legally compliant response under the NCP, the NWRCP, and ACPs.

3140.1 Makah Tribe

Makah Tribe personnel who will be participating in any level of the response are expected to be appropriately trained in any ICS positions they will be staffing, as well as understand how they will best fit into the system during a response. The positions where each member will be assigned will be determined jointly by the UC to best suit the needs of the response.

The Makah Tribe will be represented within the ICS structure by members from various Tribal departments including:

- The Port of Neah Bay/Office of Marine Affairs;
- Makah Fisheries Department;
- Makah Cultural and Research Center;
- Makah Emergency Management Department;
- Neah Bay Police Department; and
- Neah Bay Fire Department.

Makah Tribal staff participating in the UC's ICS structure will communicate with the TOSC when arriving on scene, upon check-in, to ensure that appropriate assignments are made and field operations are coordinated. Once Tribal staff are assigned, they will work within the ICS structure, under the direction of the appropriate section chief, unit leader, or division/group supervisor. This in no way limits their ability to communicate with the TOSC.

Depending on the type and complexity of response, it is generally expected that the Makah Tribe will provide staff and resources in the following areas:

- **Command**: The Office of Marine Affairs Manager will be the TOSC.
- **Public Information Officer/Joint Information Center (JIC):** The Makah Tribe will designate a trained Public Information Officer as appropriate.
- **Planning Section/EU:** Makah Fisheries personnel will become members of the EU and Planning Section) as appropriate and will be relied upon to provide the best available information about Tribal resources that are at risk, provide baseline characterizations, assess and suggest response options, provide local knowledge to support response operations, and help determine treatment endpoints, and help

evaluate response options and waste management issues in concert with other key resource agencies and stakeholders.

- **Operations Section:** Port of Neah Bay personnel may be requested to facilitate the deployment of boats, equipment, and personnel; and may staff other operations roles as assigned.

3150 Regional Response Team

The functional role of RRTs in each federal region has two principal components. One component is the standing team whose duties involve communication systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a regionwide basis. The second component of the RRT is an incident-specific team that may be assembled, as determined by the operational requirements of a response to a specific discharge or release.

The RRT has responsibility for developing an RCP and for assisting the FOSC when guidance, coordination, or resources are needed to provide an adequate response to an incident. The RRT includes designated representatives from each state within the federal region, representatives from multiple federal agencies, and designated representatives of federally-recognized Tribes within the region, consistent with the NCP; Tribal participation is based on sovereign government representation and coordination, not on the availability of response resources.

The role of an incident-specific RRT is determined by the operational requirements of the response. An incident-specific RRT may be activated when the response exceeds the capabilities of the area where it occurs, transects state boundaries, or may pose a substantial threat to public health or the environment. An incident-specific RRT may also be activated upon request by the FOSC or any RRT representative. Generally, the RRT may be used to assist the FOSC in obtaining additional federal resources. If the assistance requested by an FOSC exceeds an RRT's capability, the RRT may request assistance from the NRT. When the RRT is activated for response actions, the chair shall be the member agency providing the FOSC/Remedial Project Manager (RPM) in accordance with 40 CFR

300.115(c). For incident-specific activations, participation by RRT member agencies will relate to the technical nature of the incident and its geographic location. When the RRT is activated, state government representatives and tribes have the same status as any federal member of the RRT. During an incident, additional federally recognized Tribes whose lands, resources, or treaty-protected interests may be affected are consulted and coordinated with through the FOSC and UC, as appropriate. EPA and the USCG co-chair the RRT, which does not respond directly to the scene, but instead responds to developments and requests from the FOSC in accordance with the Puget Sound ACP.

For further information visit RRT-10 website at: Region 10 RRT and Northwest Area Committees

Refer to the NWRCP and the NRT website for a list of federal agencies and their roles and responsibilities related to ACP planning, preparedness, and response.

3160 Federal Government

Nationally, the USCG designates its Captains of the Port (COTPs) as the predesignated FOSC within the Coastal Zone. In accordance with 40 CFR § 300.120, the USCG FOSC coordinates federal response efforts during incidents in the Coastal Zone, chairs the respective Area Committee, and oversees the development, maintenance, and implementation of the ACP for their COTP Zone.

The FOSC shall respond to all pollution reports and conduct preliminary assessments using available information to determine the severity and scale of the release. Based on these findings, the FOSC will take appropriate response actions. In many cases, the FOSC will allow the RP to take prompt and voluntary action to contain and remove the discharge while monitoring response efforts. If the RP fails to respond adequately, the FOSC will take necessary action.

During a pollution event, the FOSC must promptly notify natural resource trustees and coordinate assessments, evaluations, investigations, and planning for removal actions.

The FOSC will promptly notify and consult with federal, state, local, and federally-recognized Tribal natural resource trustees at the earliest practicable time during a response, and will coordinate with those governments to ensure the care and rehabilitation of affected wildlife in accordance with the NCP and applicable federal and state laws.

In accordance with 40 CFR § 300.310 and 300.415, defensive actions shall be taken as soon as possible to prevent, minimize, or mitigate threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment. These actions will be in accordance with the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) and consistent with the NCP. The disposal of recovered oil or contaminated materials recovered during cleanup operations shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and requirements established in the RCP.

In parallel, EPA designates the FOSC for inland areas, including non-coastal waters and hazardous substance releases. The EPA FOSC collaborates with the USCG to ensure a unified and coordinated response to incidents that affect both inland and coastal environments. Both agencies align response strategies and incorporate their respective responsibilities in the development and implementation of the ACP, ensuring a comprehensive approach to spill response.

When an incident spans both Coastal and Inland Zones, a UC structure is activated under the ICS, where the USCG and EPA FOSCs, along with other key response agencies, collaborate to coordinate decision-making, allocate resources, and communicate on a case-by-case basis. A full and rapid response must be carried out by the appropriate agencies, including the RP, local, state governments, and Tribal entities. As outlined in the RCP, a swift "ramp-up" of resources is essential for effective source control, containment, and cleanup. Experience in the Pacific Northwest has shown that containment is more cost-effective and less damaging than removal. Therefore, response efforts must escalate quickly with the necessary resources and trained personnel for the worst-case release scenario, while excessive resources can be demobilized as needed to control costs for the RP and responding agencies.

3200 Natural Resource Trustees

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • DOI NRDA Primer • NOAA NRDA

CERCLA and OPA authorize the United States, individual states, and federally-recognized Tribes to serve as Natural Resource Trustees for natural resources under their respective trusteeships (CERCLA § 107(f)(1); OPA § 1006(c)). OPA also authorizes foreign governments to act as trustees (OPA §1006(b)(5)). Following a hazardous substance release or oil discharge, natural resource trustees have responsibilities for assessing resulting injury to the environment. NRDA is the process by which trustees collect, compile, and evaluate data to determine the extent of injury to natural resources. The information gathered is used to assess damages, determine the restoration required to compensate for the injured natural resources and lost use of resources, and seek recovery of those damages from the responsible party. NRDAs are typically initiated concurrently with response activities.

Initiation of an NRDA usually involves acquiring data both during and after a spill to document: (1) oil or hazardous substances in air, water, sediments, soil, and organisms; (2) effects on fish, wildlife, and/or their habitat; (3) exposure pathways; and (4) measures taken to prevent or reduce immediate migration of oil or hazardous substances onto or into a trust resource. To avoid duplication of response activities specified in an NRDA with other response activities, all sampling and field work by natural resource trustees should be coordinated with the lead response agency. If natural resources are injured by a discharge or release of a mixture of oil and hazardous substances, U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations apply. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations apply only in assessing damages that may result from discharges of oil.

Trustees often have information and technical expertise about the biological effects of hazardous substances, as well as locations of sensitive species and habitats, that can

assist in characterizing the nature and extent of site-related contamination and impacts. Coordination at the investigation and planning stages provides the trustees with early access to information they need to assess injury to natural resources.

For a list of agency contacts and stakeholders (to include environmental, economic, and political), see the Response Partner Roles and Contacts tool.

The following list outlines the trustees for natural resources designated in subpart G of the NCP and provides a brief description of the resources that may be potentially impacted as a result of an oil discharge or hazardous substances release. Natural resources include land, fish, wildlife, biota, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies, and other such resources. This list is provided for informational purposes and is not intended to be all-inclusive.

3210 Local

NRDA functions are the responsibility of state and federal trustee agencies. Trustee agencies seek to work cooperatively with local government, local organizations, and the RP to assess ecological injuries and human use losses caused by an oil discharge or hazardous material release.

3220 State

State trustees shall act on behalf of the public as trustees for natural resources, including their supporting ecosystems, within the boundary of a state or belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such state. Depending on the response, the appointed agency or agencies should designate a representative to serve as contact with the FOSC/UC. This individual should have ready access to appropriate state officials with environmental protection, emergency response, and natural resource responsibilities.

Upon notification of a discharge or release threatening natural resources, trustees are responsible for assessing potential damage, coordinating with the FOSC/RPM, and

developing plans for resource restoration, rehabilitation, or replacement, in accordance with applicable statutes, including CERCLA, CWA, and OPA. Trustees may also conduct damage assessments, share relevant data with the OSC, and, when necessary, request federal resources to support response efforts. Their authority includes seeking compensation for damages and engaging in negotiations with RPs for remediation and restoration. For more detailed procedures on damage assessments, trustees may see 40 CFR 300.615.

Washington State

Under state law (RCW 90.56.370), individuals or companies responsible for discharging oil into state waters are liable for damages resulting from injuries to public resources. In cases where the federal damage assessment procedures are not used, the state damage assessment procedures may be used. This process in Washington is defined in the Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Rule (Washington Administrative Code 173-183).

The state Resource Damage Assessment Committee oversees the protection and restoration of natural resources that are injured by oil discharges. The committee is made up of representatives from:

- Washington State Department of Ecology;
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources;
- Washington State Department of Health;
- Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; and
- Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation.

3230 Tribal

Tribal Nations are trustees for Tribal natural and cultural resources. The NCP requires the FOSC to notify any natural resource trustee when any resources for which they are the trustee may be impacted by a release. Although the FOSC is legally responsible for Tribal

notification, DOI may aid in identifying potentially impacted Tribes and locating appropriate contact information. When USCG responds to an emergency using its FOSC authority, the FOSC will, as soon as practicable, notify and offer emergency coordination to all affected tribes, through appropriate Tribal natural, cultural resources or environmental staff, or other individual designated by the Tribe, regarding oil discharges and hazardous material releases that could potentially affect tribal interests. On-scene coordination, either with the FOSC or via the UC, can be performed directly with tribal representatives.

Spill response activities may involve volunteers in addition to hired contractors; however, the acceptance, use, and management of volunteers must be conducted in accordance with applicable federal authorities and the emergency management and spill response laws, regulations, and administrative frameworks of Washington and Oregon, including requirements related to authorization, supervision, training, and safety. When a spill occurs on Tribal lands, decisions regarding whether volunteers will be utilized rest with the Tribal government with jurisdiction, consistent with applicable law. Nothing in this plan is intended to confer responder status, establish employment or agency relationships, or assign liability, workers' compensation coverage, or operational control for volunteer actions to the Tribe, the FOSC, or other responding agencies absent formal authorization.

The Tribal chairman (or heads of the governing bodies) of Tribes, or a person designated by the Tribal officials, shall act on behalf of the Tribes as trustees for the natural resources, including their supporting ecosystems, belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such Tribe, or held in trust for the benefit of such Tribe, or belonging to a member of such Tribe, if such resources are subject to a trust restriction or alienation.

Tribal representatives may choose to support the response as a SME in the Logistics, Planning, or Operations sections or the EU; or an agency representative under the Liaison Officer. If an NRDA is conducted, Tribes may also participate in that effort to help define the injury done by the release. NRDA is separate and distinct from the response effort. The level of Tribal participation will depend on a number of factors, including the individual circumstances of the incident and the level of training and/or experience the

representative(s) bring to the response. As with the TOSC role, the FOSC may facilitate the engagement of a Tribal Coordination Specialist (specialized Assistant Liaison Officer) who will assist tribal representatives in navigating NIMS/ICS.

The Secretary of the Interior may act as trustee for a Tribal Nation if requested by the Tribal Nation.

3240 Federal

Pursuant to the NCP (40 CFR 300, Subpart G), federal trustees are federal officials who are to act on behalf of the public as trustees for natural resources. The RRT is responsible for assisting the FOSC, who shall ensure that trustees for natural resources are promptly notified of discharges or releases. The FOSC shall coordinate all response activities with affected natural resource trustees and shall consult with affected trustees on appropriate removal action to be taken. In accordance with the NCP, FOSCs are required to contact DOI when a discharge may impact any natural resource including endangered species or their habitat.

United States Department of the Interior (through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement). This department is responsible for:

- Migratory birds and certain anadromous fish, endangered species, and marine mammals and their supporting ecosystems;
- Federally owned minerals;
- Federally managed water resources;
- Natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by DOI through its component bureaus;
- National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Landscape Conservation Areas, etc.; and

- Natural resources for which a Tribe would otherwise act as a trustee in cases where the United States acts of behalf of the Tribe.

United States Department of Commerce (through NOAA). This department is responsible for:

- Marine fishery resources and certain anadromous fish, endangered species, and marine mammals and their supporting ecosystems;
- National Marine Sanctuaries; and
- National Estuarine Reserves.

United States Department of Agriculture (through the Forest Service). This department is responsible for:

- Natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by the United States Forest Service.

United States Department of Defense. This department is responsible for:

- Natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by the DOD.

United States Department of Energy. (DOE) This department is responsible for:

- Natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by the U.S. Department of Energy.

3300 Support Available to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator/Unified Command

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH **General:** • Response Partner Roles and Contacts

Technical Specialists are advisors with specialized skills needed to support an incident and may be assigned anywhere in the ICS organization, including as a separate unit. The planning section will maintain a list of available Technical Specialists and will assign them where needed. This list can be found within the Tools and Resources Section of this plan.

Additional information for this position can be found in Chapter 8 and 20 of the USCG Incident Management Handbook.

3310 Federal Agency Scientific/Technical Support

3311 United States Coast Guard

3311.1 The United States Coast Guard National Strike Force

The NSF's mission is to provide highly trained, experienced personnel and specialized equipment to the Coast Guard and other federal agencies to facilitate preparedness and response to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents to protect public health and the environment. The NSF's area of responsibility (AOR) covers all Coast Guard Districts and Federal Regions.

3311.2 The National Strike Force Coordination Center

The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) manages the NSF, which is authorized as the National Response Unit under OPA, with responsibility for administering the USCG Strike Teams, and maintaining response equipment inventories and logistical networks. The NSFCC offers technical assistance and equipment for spill response, assistance in coordinating resources during oil discharge response, ACP or RCP review, coordination of spill response resources information, and inspection of Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) response equipment. Strike Teams provide trained personnel and specialized equipment to assist the FOSC in training for spill response, stabilizing and containing the spill, and monitoring or directing response actions of the RPs and/or contractors.

3311.3 United States Coast Guard Strike Teams (Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific)

The three U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Strike Teams are available 24 hours a day. If the Strike Team contacted is already committed, another Strike Team will be deployed. Each Strike

Team maintains trained personnel and specialized equipment to assist with training in responding to spills, stabilizing and containing spills, and monitoring and/or directing response actions of the RPs and/or contractors. The Pacific Strike Team, based out of Novato, California, provides response coverage for the Pacific Northwest.

3311.4 Public Information Assist Team

The Public Information Assist Team (PIAT) is an element of the NSFCC staff available to assist the FOSC to meet the demands for public information during a response or exercise. PIAT provides interagency crisis communication team(s) and technical expertise to assist ICs and FOSCs in meeting their objectives of truth and transparency of operations for the public. PIAT provides emergency risk communication support to ICs and FOSCs during incidents such as oil discharges, hazardous substance releases, hurricanes, floods, or other disasters. Its use is encouraged any time the FOSC requires outside public affairs support. Requests for PIAT assistance may be made through the NSFCC or National Response Center (NRC).

3311.5 Incident Management Assistance Team

The Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) was developed by the USCG to supply a ready-made team of highly trained individuals to assist the local IC in dealing with a major incident. The IMAT is located in Norfolk, Virginia. The team is trained for initial quick response to a regionally or nationally significant event. The team consists of ICS process experts that can quickly set-up and assist in transitioning from the initial emergency phase to a more sustained planning process. The IMAT deploys with a limited amount of equipment to ensure ICS functionality within an Incident Command Post (ICP).

3311.6 National Pollution Funds Center

National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) is responsible for implementing those portions of OPA Title I delegated to the Secretary of the Department in which the USCG is operating.

NPFC is responsible for addressing funding issues arising from actual and potential discharges of oil. Responsibilities of the NPFC include:

1) Issuing Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFRs) to owners and operators of vessels to pay for costs and damages incurred by their vessels as a result of oil discharges,
2) Providing funding to various response organizations for timely abatement and removal actions related to oil discharges,
3) Providing equitable compensation to claimants who sustain costs and damages from oil discharges when the RP fails to do so,
4) Recovering monies from persons liable for costs and damages resulting from oil discharges to the full extent of liability under the law, and
5) Providing funds to initiate NRDA activities.

3311.7 United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Center/Salvage Engineering Response Team

The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center, Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) provides immediate 24/7 naval architecture and salvage engineering support to USCG units in response to vessel casualties, including grounding, sinking, capsizing, collision/allision, fire, and structural damage. SERT also helps with PREP exercises, and assistance with casualty investigations, including technical review and independent analysis of vessel stability and structural integrity.

SERT should be contacted by USCG units as soon as practicable following a vessel casualty, so that pertinent technical information can be gathered and SERT can be integrated quickly into the early phases of the response. Initial contact with the SERT Duty Officer should be made by phone at (202) 327-3985. The Duty Officer will provide initial assessment of the casualty and guide requests for additional information. For many casualties, the SERT Duty Officer will request additional technical information be provided on the Rapid Salvage Survey Form (https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/MSC/SERT/SERT_Rapid_Salvage_Survey_Form.pdf).

This document serves as a basic "checklist" for many vessel casualties.

- Contact Information (24/7):
  - SERT Duty Officer Mobile Phone: (202) 327-3985
  - SERT Duty Officer Email: SERT.Duty@uscg.mil

3311.8 District Response Advisory Team

District Response Advisory Team (DRATs) assist the FOSC by providing technical assistance and personnel. Specifically, the USCG's Northwest DRAT and the Incident Management and Preparedness Advisor (IMPA) provide pollution planning, preparedness, and response policy guidance and assistance to a FOSC and staff on a regular basis.

3312 United States Environmental Protection Agency

3312.1 Environmental Response Team

In the event of a continuing release or discharge, the FOSC has access to EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT), stationed in Edison, New Jersey; Erlanger, Kentucky; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The ERT provides Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC) with expertise in treatment technology, biology, chemistry, hydrology, geology, and engineering. The ERT also has access to special decontamination equipment and can provide advice on a wide range of issues such as a multimedia sampling and analysis program, on-site safety (including development and implementation plans), cleanup techniques and priorities, water supply decontamination and protection, application of dispersants, environmental assessment, degree of cleanup required, and disposal of contaminated material. The FOSC may designate an SSC as principal advisor on scientific issues who also communicates with the scientific community and assists in requests to state and federal agencies.

3312.2 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Consequence Management Advisory Division

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Consequence Management Advisory Division (CMAD), present at five geographic locations, provides 24/7 scientific and technical expertise to the FOSC or response customer for all phases of consequence management. With a focus on operational preparedness, CBRN CMAD facilitates the transition of the latest science and technology to the field response community in order to provide tactical options for screening, sampling, monitoring, decontamination, clearance, waste management, and toxicological/ exposure assessment during decontamination of buildings or other structures following an incident involving releases of radiological, biological, or chemical contaminants. CBRN CMAD maintains critical partnerships with:

1) EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center and EPA's special teams;
2) Other federal partners including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), DoD, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and
3) International partners.

3312.3 Radiological Emergency Response Team

Radiological Emergency Response Teams (RERTs) have been established by EPA's Office of Radiation Programs (ORP) to provide response and support during incidents, or at sites containing radiological hazards. Expertise is available in radiation monitoring, radionuclide analysis, radiation health physics, and risk assessment. RERTs can provide on-site support including mobile monitoring laboratories for field analysis of samples as well as fixed laboratories for radiochemical sampling and analyses. Requests for support may be made 24 hours a day via the NRC or directly to the EPA Radiological Response Coordinator in the ORP.

3313 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NOAA provides scientific support for responses and contingency planning in coastal and marine areas, including assessments of the hazards that may be involved, predictions of movement and dispersion of oil and hazardous substances through trajectory modeling,

and information on the sensitivity of coastal environments to oil or hazardous substances. NOAA provides scientific expertise on living marine resources it manages and protects. It also provides information on actual and predicted meteorological, hydrologic, ice, and oceanographic conditions for marine, coastal, and inland waters, as well as tide and circulation data. The Secretary of DOC, through NOAA, also acts as trustee for natural resources managed or controlled by DOC, including their supporting ecosystems. NOAA is responsible for National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR). Padilla Bay is the one NERR located within the planning area.

3313.1 Scientific Support Coordinators

NOAA Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) are the principal advisors to the USCG FOSC for scientific issues, communication with the scientific community, and coordination of requests for assistance from state and federal agencies regarding scientific studies. The SSC leads a scientific team and strives for a consensus on scientific issues affecting the response but ensures opinions within the community are communicated to the FOSC. The SSC can also assist the FOSC with information relating to spill movements and trajectories. The NOAA SSC serves as the FOSC's liaison between damage assessment data collection efforts and data collected in support of response operations. The SSC leads the synthesis and integration of environmental information required for spill response decisions in support of the FOSC, coordinating with federal agency and state representatives, appropriate trustees, and other knowledgeable local representatives.

The SSC, in accordance with the NCP, will provide the FOSC scientific advice regarding the best course of action during a discharge or release response. The SSC will help facilitate consensus from the federal natural resource management agencies and provide spill trajectory analysis data, information on the resources at risk, weather information, tidal and current information, etc. The SSC will be the point of contact for the Scientific Support Team from NOAA's Hazardous Material Response and Assessment Division. The FOSC's Guide to NOAA Scientific Support outlines all of the products and services the NOAA SSC can provide for planning and response activities.

The NOAA SSC can provide training and technical expertise with Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT). The Shoreline Assessment Manual, updated August 2013 by NOAA/HAZMAT, outlines methods for conducting shoreline assessment after an oil discharge.

The NOAA SSC may be reached at (206) 526-6322, or cell (206) 348-2429. The NOAA HAZMAT Duty Officer can be reached at (206) 526-4911.

3313.2 National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS), a federal organization within NOAA, can provide various types of support to an IC/ UC operating in the Sector Puget Sound AOR through the Seattle Weather Forecast office. These requests should be made to and facilitated by the NOAA SSC.

3313.3 Office of Response and Restoration

The NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration Chemist provides support and guidance for oil and chemicals that enter the environment. They provide specialized information about where the spilled pollutant will travel in the air or water; how it will behave; whether it could react with other chemicals it is transported with or in the environment; and how it might affect people in the area or the environment. They also support the FOSC with the CAMEO and GNOME suite products.

- NOAA Chemist: (206) 526-4559

3314 United States Department of the Interior

DOI has jurisdiction over the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuges, fish hatcheries, and public lands. The Regional Environmental Officer (REO) manages the department's response programs for oil and hazardous substance spills and oversees the department's responsibilities as a trustee for natural resources. DOI may become involved

in spill response once contacted through the REO, who is a designated member of RRT10. The REO for Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) is located in Portland, Oregon.

3314.1 United States Fish and Wildlife Service

DOI acts as trustee for resources managed or protected by DOI Bureaus, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). USFWS, an office within DOI, is responsible for the management of migratory birds, federally-listed endangered and threatened species, and inter-jurisdictional fishes within SPS ACP planning area. National Wildlife Refuge lands established in/near the ACP planning area include:

- Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
- Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
    - Flattery Rocks National Wildlife Refuge
    - Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge
    - Copalis National Wildlife Refuge
    - Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
    - Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge
    - San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge

When a spill occurs, the appropriate USFWS office(s) will provide timely advice on measures necessary to protect wildlife from exposure, as well as priority and timing of such measures. Protective measures may include preventing the oil from reaching areas where migratory birds and other wildlife are located or deterring birds or other wildlife from entering areas by using wildlife hazing devices or other methods.

If exposure of birds and other wildlife to oil or hazardous substances cannot be prevented, an immediate decision will be made regarding rescue and rehabilitation of “oiled” birds and other wildlife. Decisions to rescue and rehabilitate “oiled” wildlife must be made in conjunction with other federal and state natural resource management agencies. Wildlife

rehabilitators will need federal and state permits to collect, possess, and band migratory birds and threatened/endangered (T&E) species.

For more information, see the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan (NWRCP Annex D).

3314.2 United States Geological Survey

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains expertise in water quality characterization, oil fingerprinting, submerged oil and oil-particle formation, transport and resuspension of oil in fresh waters, riverine two-dimensional particle transport/hydrodynamic simulations, ecotoxicology, time-of-travel studies for freshwater systems, and geospatial data collection of visible spill plumes applicable to spill response events in freshwater environments. In addition, USGS can provide biological survey assistance for natural resources and contaminants and contribute information about sensitive species (e.g., birds, invertebrates). USGS also provides extensive expertise and information for NRDAs (e.g., aerial surveys, abundance estimation, remote sensing, etc.).

3315 United States Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances. The ATSDR is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effects on public health of hazardous substances in the environment. These functions include public health assessments of waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency release of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

Public Health Technical Specialists from the DHHS (CDC) and ATSDR can assist with environmental health support.

3316 United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has scientific and technical capability to measure, evaluate, and monitor, either on the ground or by use of aircraft, situations where natural resources including soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation have been impacted by hazardous substances and other natural or man-made emergencies. The USDA may be contacted through the U.S. Forest Service emergency staff officers who are the designated members of the RRT.

USDA maintains trusteeship of national forest, wilderness areas, and wildlife within USDA-controlled forests, archaeological sites, range and farmlands, fisheries, and lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program. Additionally, the USDA plays a key role in closing and re-opening fisheries before, during, and after cleanup operations.

3317 United States Department of Energy

The Secretary of Energy has trusteeship over natural resources under its jurisdiction, custody, or control. DOE's landholdings include national research and development laboratories, facilities, and offices.

The DOE Office of Petroleum Reserves oversees the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil, which was established primarily to reduce the impact of disruptions in supplies of petroleum products and to carry out obligations of the United States under the international energy program.

3318 United States Department of Transportation

DOT provides response expertise pertaining to transportation of oil or hazardous materials by all modes of transportation. Through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety

Administration (PHMSA), DOT-PHMSA offers expertise in the requirements for packaging, handling, and transporting regulated hazardous materials.

3319 United States Department of Defense

3319.1 United States Army Corps of Engineers

The Secretary of the DoD has trusteeship over the natural resources on all lands owned by DoD or the Army (including lands and facilities managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Navy, Air Force, and Defense Logistics Agency). These lands include military bases and training facilities, research and development facilities, and munitions plants. USACE has trusteeship over natural resources under its jurisdiction, custody, or control. USACE landholdings include national research and development laboratories, facilities, and offices. USACE manages limited navigation infrastructure within the SPS AOR, most notably the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks (commonly known as the Ballard Locks), which connect Puget Sound with the Lake Washington Ship Canal system. In addition, USACE manages several flood-risk management and water-resource projects in western Washington that are riverine and inland in nature and do not lie directly on Puget Sound waterways. These include the Howard A. Hanson Dam on the Green River in King County and Mud Mountain Dam on the White River near Enumclaw, both of which support regional flood control objectives.

3319.2 United States Navy Supervisor of Salvage

The U.S. Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) has an extensive salvage/search and recovery equipment inventory, and the requisite knowledge and expertise to support these operations including specialized salvage, firefighting, and petroleum, oil, and lubricants offloading capability even in open sea response incidents. SUPSALV can also provide equipment for training exercises in support of national and regional contingency planning objectives. The FOSC may request assistance directly from SUPSALV. Formal requests are routed through the Chief of Naval Operations.

Example message template:
https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Portals/103/Documents/SUPSALV/ESSM/Sample%20CG%20ReqMsg.pdf

Refer to the Annex E Salvage and Marine Firefighting for more sources of technical support for salvage operations.

3319.3 National Guard Civil Support Teams

Civil Support Teams (CSTs) were created in 1999 to respond to terrorist incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, as well as other disasters and catastrophic events, both natural and manmade. There are 57 CSTs located throughout the United States, with at least one in each state and territory. The mission of a CST is to support civil authorities at a domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives incident site with responsibilities such as identification and assessment of hazards, advising civil authorities, and facilitating the arrival of follow-on military forces during emergencies and incidents.

CSTs normally operate as a state asset, under the command and control of the state governor, but upon deployment, the unit provides direct support to the IC. CSTs support local emergency responders (fire, police, and emergency management services), as well as state and federal agencies such as the DOE, FBI, EPA and Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Washington 10th CST is located in Tacoma, Washington.

3320 Nongovernmental Organization Technical Support

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • Response Partners and Roles • Volunteer Guidance Tool
EXTERNAL RESOURCES
• American Industrial Hygiene Association Directory • Find a Certified Marine Chemist

Science and Technology Advisors

S&T Advisors consist primarily of academia and represent specialized capabilities to provide knowledge, based on science and other technical experience, to supplement and strengthen that of the IMT.

The advisory capability may consist of individuals or institutions and may be identified during the preparedness phase or by incident-specific needs. The relationship may be as informal as a list of names and contact information in a directory, or a more formal pre-spill relationship defined through letter of agreement. These resources will be activated as necessary on an ad hoc basis.

The following entities represent S&T advisory resources available to support the IMT:

- Pacific Shellfish Growers Association: (360) 774-4853;
- Focus Wildlife: (800) 578-3048;
- International Bird Rescue: (707) 207-0380;
- Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN): (877)-823-6926;
- Cascadia Research Collective (360)-943-7325;
- Whale Museum (360)-378-4710; and
- SeaDoc Society (360)-376-3910.

Volunteers

In times of crisis, many members of the public may feel compelled to offer assistance or contribute their expertise to the response effort. Such support can be valuable when the demands of an incident exceed the resources readily available, or when specialized skills are required and are in short supply. Volunteers may assist with response efforts in a variety of roles, including conducting beach surveillance, providing logistical support, or potentially aiding in the care of affected wildlife. The decision to employ volunteers must carefully weigh the potential benefits against considerations of safety, liability, and operational effectiveness. In the early stages of the event and as the incident evolves, UC will decide whether volunteers will be employed and in which capacities they can serve.

For more information about the use of volunteers, please refer to NWRCP Section 4325 “Use of Volunteers to Assist in Oil Spill Responses”, the Volunteer Guidance Tool in the RRT10 Tools and Resources page, Annex G (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster [VOAD]) of this plan, and the National Response Team’s Use of Volunteers Guidelines for Oil Spills.

Product Specialist

A Product Specialist is an individual who works for a private enterprise and who is knowledgeable of the operating characteristics of specific materials spilled or released that may harm the environment. Specialists that can provide technical expertise on Hazardous Materials are as follows:

- CHEMTREC: 1-800-262-8200 (within the U.S.); +1 (703) 741-5500 (Worldwide);
- USCG-Pacific Strike Team: (415) 883-3311; and
- NOAA HAZMAT Duty Officer: (206) 526-4911.

Certified Marine Chemist (CMC)

The USCG and OSHA require a Marine Chemist certificate before conducting hot work or other fire-producing operations in certain spaces aboard a vessel. A Certified Marine

Chemist (CMC) promotes the science, and improves the methods of evaluating and eliminating health, fire, and explosion hazards in marine and associated industries.

In complying with both the USCG and OSHA regulations, the CMC applies the requirements contained in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 306. NFPA 306, Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels, describes conditions that must exist aboard a marine vessel. A survey by the Marine Chemist ensures that these conditions are satisfied. In addition, a CMC is able to perform similar evaluations where an unsafe environment exists for workers, or hot work is contemplated on a system that might contain residues of a flammable or combustible product or material.

CMCs are paid consultants with the equipment and expertise to obtain temperature readings, check for the presence and concentrations of gases and provide advice to the firefighting teams concerning the nature of chemical related hazards encountered.

Sources of CMCs:

- https://marinechemistassociation.com/find-a-chemist/

Certified Industrial Hygienist

An Industrial Hygienist (IH) is a professional evaluating the health effects of chemicals or noise in a workplace. The IHs use their knowledge to anticipate when hazardous conditions could occur and cause an adverse health effect on a worker or the environment.

Sources of IHs:

- https://marinechemistassociation.com/find-a-chemist/;
- CTEH Environmental Consulting Firm: (501) 801-8500;
- FACS: Environmental Consultants: 866-812-5578; and
- G2 Consultants: (503) 852-2911
- American Industrial Hygiene Association Directory (AIHA.org/consultants-directory)

Sampling

Technical Support for hazardous materials sampling can be obtained from OSROs. Additionally, the states of Oregon and Washington have technical support for sampling activities that may be obtained through the SOSC or Environmental Unit Leader. From a federal resource perspective, the Pacific Strike Team and EPA's Environmental Response Team can also provide sampling resources.

Toxicology Resources

Toxicologists study the safety and biological effects of chemicals, agents, and other substances on living organisms. They develop methods to determine harmful effects, the dosages that cause those effects, and safe exposure limits.

Sources of Toxicology Specialists:

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) – Western Branch – Region 10; https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r10.html;
- Washington State Patrol Toxicology Lab Division http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/toxicology.htm;
- NOAA SSC/NOAA NMPHS;
- Washington State Department of Health https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/ContactUs; and
- CTEH Environmental Consulting Firm: (541) 901-9000.

4000 PRE-SPILL RISK ANALYSES, CONSULTATIONS & RESPONSE STRATEGIES

This part of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) outlines emergency preparedness efforts within the Sector Puget Sound (SPS) ACP planning area including identification of Worst-Case Discharge (WCD) planning scenarios for all transportation modes, pre-spill consultations, the establishment of priority protection areas, and the development of response strategies for consideration in the initial stages of an incident.

4100 Worst Case Planning Scenarios

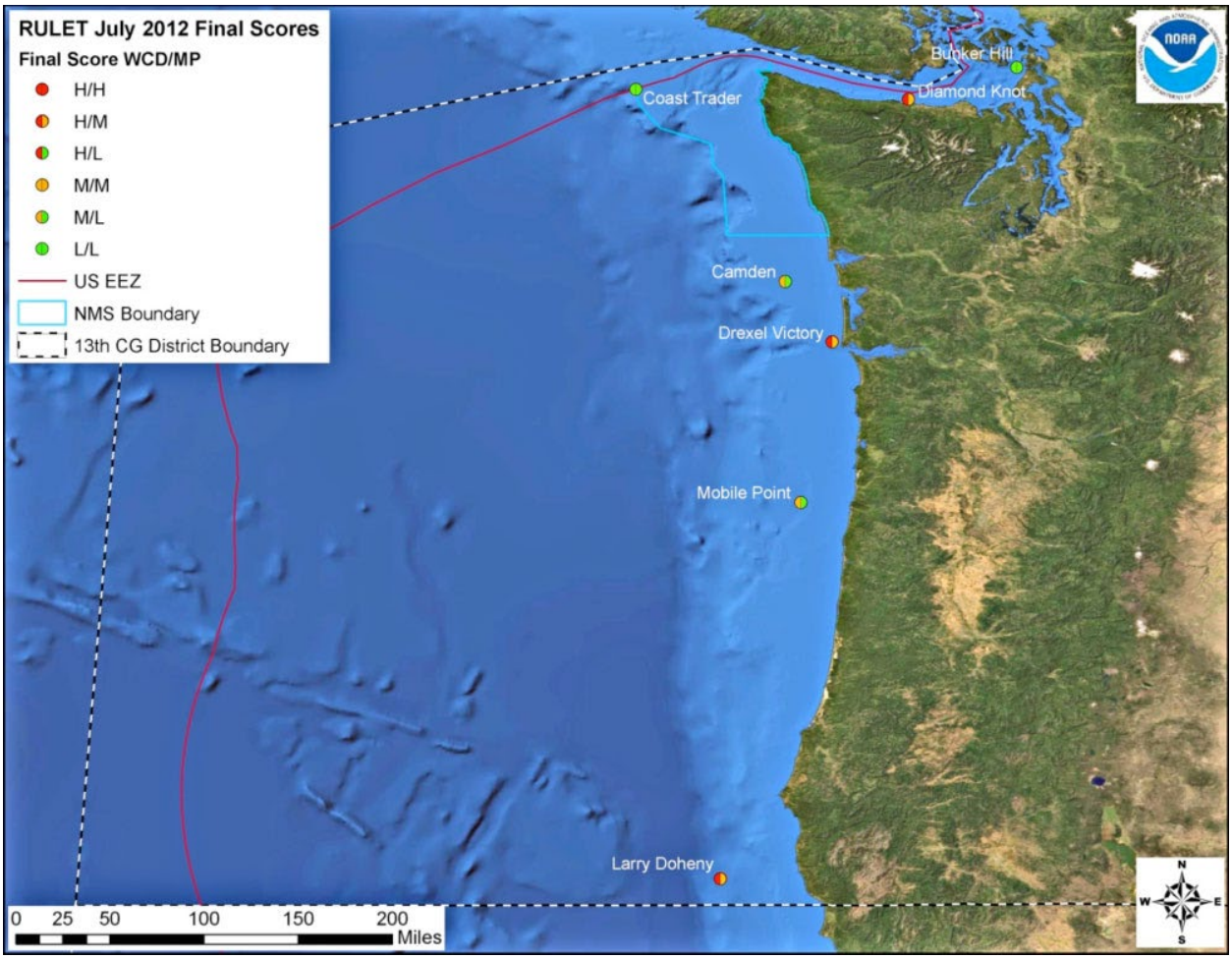
This section describes the WCD planning scenarios required under Section 311(j) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA). These scenarios support ACP preparedness by evaluating whether existing response capabilities are adequate to remove a WCD or to mitigate a substantial threat of discharge from vessels, onshore facilities, railroads, and pipelines.

Supporting data and assumptions for this section are provided in Annex B Risk Analyses/Risk Profile, which is not publicly available.

4110 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats (RULET) program addresses historic shipwrecks that pose ongoing or potential risks to the marine environment while also recognizing their cultural, historical, and archaeological significance. The SS *Bunker Hill*, *Diamond Knot*, and *Coast Trader* are examples of legacy maritime casualties in Washington waters that contain substantial quantities of petroleum products, creating long-term environmental concerns. These sites are also historically significant wrecks serving as gravesites requiring

compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the sunken Military Craft Act (SMCA), and related statutes. RULET activities balance environmental protection with preservation obligations that could compromise site integrity, accelerate environmental release, or disturb human remains. Together, these wrecks illustrate the complex intersection of environmental remediation, cultural resource protection, and maritime heritage stewardship.



Bunker Hill

The SS *Bunker Hill* was a T2-SE-A1 type tanker, built in 1942 by Sun Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Company. Owned by Keystone Tankship Corporation, the vessel was lost on March 6, 1964, in Puget Sound, Washington, approximately 3 miles from shore and at a depth of 280 feet. Its sinking was caused by a severe explosion and fire in the No. 9 cargo tanks while it was

sailing in ballast from Tacoma to Anacortes. The explosion caused the vessel to break in two and sink within an hour, resulting in the loss of five crew members, including the master. At the time of loss, the *Bunker Hill* had no cargo but carried approximately 1,713 barrels of heavy fuel oil (Bunker C) as bunker fuel. A spill response and cleanup operation occurred from March 6-11, 1964, and no signs of oil discharging from the vessel were reported after March 10. The wreck has been positively located and identified, resting on its side in two pieces. It is considered a technical dive site and is also a gravesite, making it potentially historically significant and requiring appropriate actions under the NHPA for any activities that might impact its integrity.

https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/bunker_hill.pdf

Diamond Knot

The freighter *Diamond Knot*, owned by the Alaska Steamship Company, was lost on August 13, 1947, after a collision with the freighter *Fenn Victory* in the fog-bound Strait of Juan de Fuca. The collision sliced the vessel almost halfway through, and it sank at 9:05 a.m. Despite the catastrophic damage, its $3,000,000 cargo of salmon was successfully salvaged in what was described as the largest operation of its kind at the time. The *Diamond Knot* had a bunker capacity of 6,516 barrels of medium fuel oil (diesel), with an estimated ≤6,500 barrels remaining on board when it sank. No other dangerous cargo or munitions were carried. The wreck is located approximately 1.5 miles from shore in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, resting on its starboard side in about 140 feet of water. Due to the cold waters, the wreck remains in extremely good condition despite the collision and salvage efforts, and it has become a popular shipwreck dive site and an artificial reef. The vessel is of historic significance and may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, requiring compliance with the NHPA before any actions that could affect its integrity.

https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/diamond_knot.pdf

Coast Trader

The freighter *Coast Trader* was built in 1920 and was chartered to the U.S. Army at the time of its loss. It was sunk on June 7, 1942, during World War II, by an act of war (torpedo) or internal explosion. En route from Port Angeles, Washington, to San Francisco, California, the vessel was attacked about 30 miles from the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with a torpedo blasting a six-foot hole in its starboard side. It sank stern first. The *Coast Trader* carried 1,250 tons of newsprint, munitions for onboard weapons, and had a bunker capacity of 8,088 barrels of heavy fuel oil (Bunker C). The wreck of the *Coast Trader* has never been located or surveyed. Its last known location suggests an approximate water depth of over 600 feet, placing it within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). The vessel is considered historically significant and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the SMCA.

https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/coast_trader.pdf

4200 Pre-Spill Endangered Species Act Consultations

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide • General ESA Section 7 Consultation Process • ESA Section 7 Emergency Consultation Form
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• MOA Regarding Oil Spill Planning and Response Activities under the FWPCA's National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and the ESA • Region 10 Biological Assessment • NMFS Biological Opinion for Region 10 • USFWS Biological Opinion for Region 10

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was established between United States (U.S.) Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to address required consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The MOA Regarding Oil Spill Planning and Response Activities, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act's

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and the ESA outline the actions to take for completing these consultations prior to and during an incident. Within the Coastal Zone, the USCG is the action agency, and, as such, it is the USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator's (FOSCs) responsibility to address any ESA Section 7 Consultation requirements by engaging the Services (USFWS and NMFS) on the potential affects for all potential response actions that may be implemented during the emergency response.

The Biological Assessment for the Northwest Area Contingency Plan for the Response to Spills of Oil and Hazardous Substances was prepared on behalf of the USCG and EPA to evaluate the potential for adverse effects on species and habitats protected under the ESA from oil discharge or hazardous substance release response actions. USFWS and NOAA/NMFS issued responding Biological Opinions on the implementation of future emergency response actions. The Biological Assessment and Biological Opinions can be accessed at: rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=consultation)

For further guidance on initiating an ESA consultation, see the RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide.

4210 Pre-Authorizations and Best Management Practices

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Oil Spill Best Management Practices

During the Biological Assessment and subsequently received Biological Opinions from the USFWS and the NOAA NMFS, review of the pre-authorization zones, decision-making procedures and best management practices (BMPs) for in situ burning (ISB), use of dispersants, and surface washing agents was completed. The opinions supported the use-case zones, and associated procedures and BMPs for these tactics in protecting ESA species during the initial phases of oil discharge response.

- ISB of Oil Products in Areas in Remote Areas;
- Dispersant Use Zones; and
- Surface Washing Agents on the Subpart J Product Schedule.

For BMPs, see the Oil Spill Best Management Practices tool.

The In Situ Burning Pre-Authorization Zone is described as follows:

- Any area more than 3 miles from a population center (defined as 100 people per square mile).

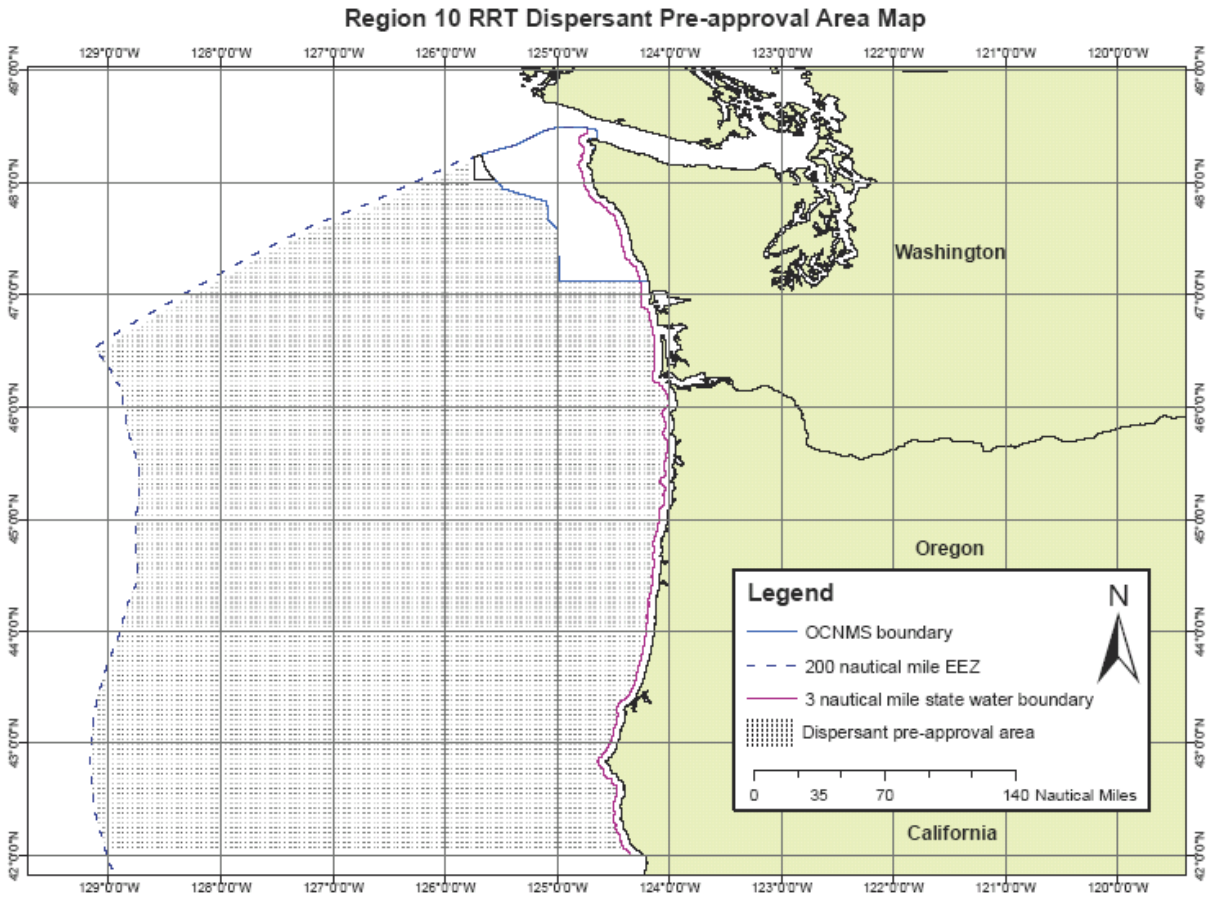
The FOSC has the authority and responsibility for managing oil spills in the pre-authorized area as part of a Unified Command (UC) structure. This In Situ Burning Policy and Plan authorizes the FOSC/UC to do the following without Regional Response Team (RRT) approval:

- Under proper conditions, ignite the discharged oil without using burning agents.
- Utilize burning agents, as appropriate, if the burning conditions are suitable.

The Dispersant Pre-Authorization Zone is defined as follows:

United States marine waters 3-200 nautical miles offshore, outside Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca or an island shoreline, excluding:

- National Marine Sanctuary waters;
- Makah Tribe U&A marine area;
- Waters within 3 nautical miles of the U.S.-Canada border; and
- Waters within 3 nautical miles of the Makah Tribe U&A marine area.



There is no additional guidance required from the RRT prior to the application of dispersants within a Pre-Authorization Zone. The FOSC Dispersant Standard Conditions Checklist in the Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools will be completed prior to use of dispersants. An Incident After-Action Report will be provided by the FOSC to all interested RRT members after the emergency response is over.

No surface washing agent pre-authorization zones exist in RRT Region 10.

Any application of surface washing agents that would result in their release into the environment requires that the FOSC obtain RRT authorization prior to initiating any such applications. RRT authorization is not required for use of surface washing agents when all effluents are recovered and properly disposed of (e.g., cleaning of boom in containment areas on land). All applications of surface washing agents will be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

4220 Threatened and Endangered Species within Area of Responsibility

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Wildlife: • RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide • Resources at Risk Response Tools • USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation **Command:** • Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills

Lists of all threatened and endangered (T&E) species and designated critical habitat for the Northwest Region are available in the USFWS and NMFS Biological Opinions and can be found on the RRT10 website (rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=consultation) and Information for Planning and Consultation site maintained by USFWS (https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/). A list of T&E species specific to the SPS area of responsibility (AOR) will be developed in the future.

As a best practice, the Incident Command (IC)/UC should include a statement within the Incident Objectives (ICS-202) regarding the protection of T&E species and habitat resources. Additionally, staff knowledgeable about the T&E species and habitat of the local area should be assigned to the Environmental Unit as the Resources at Risk (RAR) Specialist, even before consultation with the Services is initiated to minimize impacts or the potential for "take" of T&E species. Ideally, the RAR specialist will also be able to identify measures needed to protect T&E species until formal consultation can be initiated. This is usually done via an ICS-232 (Resources at Risk) document.

See the RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide.

Also see Section 5210, "Endangered Species Act," of this ACP for a brief explanation of the relationship between the Biological Assessment and corresponding Biological Opinions.

4300 National Historic Preservation Act

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties: • NHPA Compliance Guide • Federal Historic Preservation laws, Regulations, and Orders
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response Under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
EXTERNAL RESOURCES
• SHPO Directory

As outlined in Section 4313 of the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP), "National Historic Preservation Act", this section describes the obligations of state and federal responders to protect cultural and historic properties during an emergency response and the procedures for meeting those obligations. For the FOSC, this section and Section 5220, "Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act)", adopt the national Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response (PA) under the NCP. This section also fulfills the FOSC's responsibility to ensure that historic properties are appropriately considered in planning for an emergency response (Section IV. A. of the PA).

See the NHPA Compliance Guide and Section 5220, "Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act)" for emergency consultations.

The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers provides a directory of State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) and is available at: https://ncshpo.org/directory/.

The Tribal Resources page provides a directory of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and instructions for how to access the Tribal Liaison Contact Database at: www.rrt10nwac.com.

Responses Conducted Under National Contingency Plan Authority

The NHPA of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) requires agencies using federal funds to identify, evaluate, and, where significant, protect historic, archaeological, and traditional cultural properties. This act also established the National Register of Historic Places, expanding federal recognition to historic properties of local and state significance. The National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior administers both programs. Regulations for these programs are contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 60, National Register of Historic Places, and 36 CFR Part 65, National Historic Landmarks Program.

NOAA manages maritime heritage resources within national marine sanctuary boundaries (National Marine Sanctuaries Act, 16 United States Code § 1431 et seq.) and complies with Sections 106 and 110 under the NHPA.

Oil can contaminate archaeological, historic, and culturally-sensitive resources. Such contamination can prevent carbon dating, can damage the fragile artifacts, and can make restoration and preservation extremely difficult or impossible. In addition, oil spill response activities (e.g., mechanical cleanup and staging area construction) can physically disturb or destroy artifacts and sites.

Archaeological research and inventory in the Northwest Region are incomplete, and the data that do exist are not disclosed in order to prevent looting and vandalism. The primary contact for responders seeking information and expertise on local culturally-sensitive areas is the State Archaeologist in the SHPO for the state and the THPO for the affected tribal lands. It is important that responders be aware of the types of archaeological, cultural, or historic materials that they are likely to encounter while responding to an oil spill or hazardous materials release and that they immediately notify the FOSC/UC if these types of materials are discovered.

During Geographic Response Plan (GRP) development or revision, resource trustees and tribes are consulted to identify strategies that may adversely impact archaeological, cultural, or historic resources. These resources are protected under federal, Tribal, and

state laws. To avoid any inadvertent impacts on cultural and historic resources, responders are required to utilize existing, hardened access paths and paved areas when approaching shorelines, and cleanup teams should remain on beaches as directed.

An FOSC, as an agency representative, is required to follow the NHPA. Thus, during a response, the FOSC will need to identify, evaluate, and, where significant, protect historic, archaeological, and traditional cultural properties. Under the NHPA, the FOSC is to protect property from 1) oil, hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant that has been spilled or released and 2) damage due to the response itself.

The NHPA was written for planned actions and does not adequately address federal actions under an emergency response. To fill that gap for environmental emergencies, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and eight federal agencies, including the USCG and EPA, developed and signed the PA.

Note that circumstances of a response may involve a THPO. Not all Tribes have a formally designated THPO, and the FOSC may need to consult with a Tribal representative on cultural issues instead. Wherever this document refers to a THPO, this also implies a Tribal representative for Tribes with no THPO.

Before the PA can be used, an RRT needs to adopt the NHPA into its RCP or ACP (Section VII. C. of the NHPA). As such, RRT10 incorporates by reference the NHPA into the F. Subsequently, the adoption of the NHPA into the NWRCP will satisfy the USCG and EPA FOSC Section 106 responsibilities for all individual undertakings carried out in accordance with the NHPA and this plan, as allowed under 36 CFR 800.14(b), the implementing regulations for the NHPA.

It is necessary to define the term “emergency response” because, as stated in the title, the NHPA is an agreement regarding protection of historic properties during an “emergency response” under the NCP. The NHPA states that “an ‘emergency’ shall be deemed to exist whenever circumstances dictate that a response action to a release or discharge must be

taken so expeditiously that normal consideration of the Section 106 process is not reasonably practicable." Note that "emergency response" is not defined in the NCP, and instead all cleanups of a discharge or a release are regarded as a "removal," whether an emergency or planned. A planned removal will follow the requirements under 36 CFR 800.

Nevertheless, the term "emergency response" is widely used to distinguish a planned response from an unplanned response for administrative purposes, particularly within EPA. With few exceptions, most oil responses under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 are unplanned and, thus, considered emergencies. The USCG deals almost exclusively with oil discharges, and so almost all responses performed by the USCG are emergencies. However, with hazardous substances responses under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, many are planned and indeed require an action memorandum (approval and funding mechanism) before a removal can begin.

For consistency with FOSC practices, an emergency response will be considered a response performed in the context of all oil discharges and any hazardous substance release that does not require an action memorandum before initiating a removal. In these types of responses, normal consideration of the Section 106 process is deemed not reasonably practicable. However, this does not preclude following the Section 106 process, if the FOSC determines in consultation with the SHPO that conditions of the response allow for it.

In the context of this section, an emergency response shall be deemed complete using the same determination process as for a removal in the NCP under 40 CFR 300.320(b) – "Removal shall be considered complete when so determined by the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) in consultation with the governor or governors of the affected states."

4310 Pre-Authorizations and Best Management Practices

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties: • Inadvertent Discovery Plan Template for WA • NHPA Compliance Guide **Command:** • Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills

Pre-authorizations and/or BMPs provided during consultation for the federal actions during actual response activities will not be incorporated into the individual GRP. Specific information on sensitive cultural resources is confidential and should not be recorded in public documents.

As a best practice, the IC/UC should include a statement within the Incident Objectives (ICS-202) regarding the protection of historic properties or cultural resources. Additionally, the Historic Properties Specialist should be assigned to the Planning Section or EU as the Historic/Cultural Resources Technical Specialist. In Washington, it is best practice to develop an Inadvertent Discovery Plan and/or a Cultural Resources Protection Plan for significant responses.

It is recommended to engage early with any questions regarding response activities involving NHPA requirements. Additionally, for guidance on consultations with THPOs see the NHPA Compliance Guide.

4400 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • NOAA Environmental Sensitivity (ESI) Maps • General ESA Section 7 Consultation Process • ESA Section 7 Emergency Consultation Form

The COTP zone includes numerous environmentally sensitive areas important to fish, wildlife, and habitat. During a response, responders will determine which areas are affected, may be affected, or not threatened. When T&E species, designated critical habitats, or historic/cultural properties may be affected by response actions, consultations with the appropriate agencies must be initiated.

Washington provides geographic information system (GIS) data on sensitive areas, and the GRPs and Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs) to offer essential narrative information and maps that highlight key habitats and species of concern. GRPs have been developed for all marine waters of Washington as well as many inland waterways.

Interactive maps and detailed descriptions in the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Indexes (ESIs) identify these sensitive areas across the COTP Zone. These ESIs, along with associated GIS data, can be accessed and downloaded at https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/pacific-northwest-erma

See the complete list of GRPs.

4500 Economically Sensitive Areas

As required by 40 CFR 300.210(c)(3)(i), areas of special economic or environmental importance shall be identified for protection from the impacts of a spill. Considerations include each location's significance, sensitivity to oil, anticipated impacts, and the extent to which potential losses can be recovered, restored, or compensated. Economically sensitive

areas include water intakes, high tourism coastal areas, significant port/industrial facilities, marinas, aquaculture sites, and fishing grounds.

Washington State has a GIS database that captures the water intakes in the SPS AOR, which can be accessed by the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC). Additionally, most of the economically sensitive area types have specific GRSs created for their protection. The information on potentially impacted economically sensitive areas, and the measures to be taken for their protection, are fully described in the GRP for the incident area. Note that water intakes from the ocean (including bays) are not required to obtain a state water right, and therefore not all saltwater/brackish water intakes are known. Finally, Tribal water systems are likewise not subject to state water right permitting, and information on these systems (if available) is through EPA who administers federal drinking water program requirements.

Additional areas of economic importance can be found in Annex B, Risk Analyses/Risk Profile Annex, of this ACP.

4600 Geographic Response Strategies

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Geographic Response Plans Guidance **Mapping and GIS:** • Washington GRPs • NOAA ERMA
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• GRP Booming Strategy Points – Standardized Data Format

GRPs describe geographic areas where significant oil discharges could occur. They identify RARs in those areas and provide detailed instructions for GRSs that have been designed and pre-vetted by resource trustees to protect those sensitive resources. GRPs and GRSs have two main functions:

- Planning: GRPs document sensitive biological, cultural, and socioeconomic resources to support compliance with 40 CFR §300.210(c)(3)(i), which requires ACPs to identify areas of special economic or environmental importance that may be affected by an oil spill. They also support compliance with the NHPA by addressing the protection of historic and prehistoric resources.
- Operations: During the initial stages of a spill response—typically before UC is established—GRPs guide responders by providing prioritized lists of GRSs with detailed instructions to deploy those strategies.

Once UC is established, additional operational strategies and tactics can be designed and communicated through ICS 204 work assignment sheets. Because GRPs are designed for early response stages, and are broad in scope, they are not intended to address every sensitive area that could be affected, nor do they serve as an exhaustive list of all possible response strategies.

GRPs and GRSs for this planning area can be accessed on the RRT10 website at https://rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans.

The GRSs are also available via the Pacific Northwest Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) platform, which can be accessed at https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/pacific-northwest-erma.

For additional information, see NWRCP Section 4400 “Geographic Response Plans”

4700 Places of Refuge

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • Places of Refuge

A ship in need of assistance may require a temporary place of refuge with adequate water depth for lightering or repairs in order to protect the marine environment. Ships may need to be brought into a harbor, anchored or moored in protected waters, or temporarily beached in order to safely make repairs and stop the loss of oil or other hazardous

substances. Disabled ships need to be repaired in order to resume safe navigation and prevent an incident resulting in the loss of fuel or cargo. If leaking ships are not repaired, spilled oil and hazardous substances may affect health and human safety, natural resources, and shorelines.

There is no single place of refuge for all ships and all situations. Decisions relating to places of refuge encompass a wide range of security, environmental, social, economic, and operational issues that vary according to each situation, including the environmental sensitivity and protected status of the areas within or adjacent to a potential place of refuge. The initial decision to permit a ship to seek a place of refuge, as well as the decisions and actions implementing that decision, are inherently based on an assessment of the risk factors involved and the exercise of sound judgment and discretion.

Places of refuge are sites that could potentially be used for a disabled or damaged ship needing shelter for repairs. While information on potential sites may be pre-surveyed, this does not imply that any of these sites will be the location of choice in a future event. Selection of a place of refuge by the USCG COTP, in consultation with the RRT and other federal agencies, states, Tribal and local governments, and other stakeholders will always be made on a case-by-case basis. If time allows, the COTP will activate a UC under ICS to address a request for a place of refuge.

When a place of refuge incident occurs that involves, or may involve, the international border, a response will be activated per the Joint Canada/United States Pacific Response Plan. Similarly, if a place of refuge incident is likely to involve more than one ACP, existing cross-jurisdictional protocols will be activated.

This section incorporates a decision-making process and recommended procedures for appropriate authorities and vessel masters when requesting a place of refuge. These guidelines incorporate the International Maritime Organization’s Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance and assume use of ICS to manage the incident.

When safety of life is involved, existing search-and-rescue conventions and protocols should be used.

When a ship needs assistance but safety of life is not involved, the guidelines in the Places of Refuge tool should be followed to evaluate whether a ship should remain in the same position, continue on its voyage, be brought into a place of refuge, be taken out to sea, or be intentionally scuttled in deep water.

See the Places of Refuge tool.

4710 Jurisdiction for Places of Refuge Decisions

Under 33 CFR 6.04, the USCG COTP has authority to order ships into and out of ports, harbors, and embayments to protect the public, the environment, and maritime commerce. The COTP is the designated FOSC for the U.S. Coastal Zone per the NCP (40 CFR 300) (a)(1). There may be some maritime homeland security situations where the COTP, acting as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, may have access to sensitive security information and/or classified information—not readily shareable with other stakeholders—that may impact the final disposition of a vessel requesting "Force Majeure" or permitting a vessel to seek a place of refuge or approval of a salvage plan. These circumstances are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and information is shared with other agencies on a “need to know” basis.

Washington State has authority to represent and protect state interests for incidents within state waters. Each state has jurisdiction over state-owned shorelines and in nearshore waters out to three miles. In Washington, SOSCs are pre-designated by The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Local governments or port authorities may have authority over nearshore waters, including ports and harbors. If so, a local government or port representative may serve as a local On-Scene Coordinator per the NWRCP.

Resource agencies have authority to manage their lands, marine areas, wildlife, habitat, and resources as mandated in their laws and regulations. Resource agencies fill positions in the ICS and provide resource information to the UC. In addition, resource agencies are members of RRT10.

Tribal governments may own land and have fishing rights in marine areas that could be impacted by a ship seeking a place of refuge. If so, a Tribal government representative(s) may fill positions in the ICS or may serve as a Tribal On-Scene Coordinator per the NWRCP.

The master of the ship has control of the ship and is responsible for requesting a place of refuge from the COTP. The master provides details on the status of the ship and justification for needing a place of refuge per the International Maritime Organization Guidelines on Places of Refuge.

5000 RESPONSE

This Part of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) provides information outlined in the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.300 Subpart D.

Response protocols are guidelines for the response community to ensure success in meeting all legal and statutory requirements before, during, and upon completion of an oil discharge or hazardous substance release incident. The NCP (40 CFR 300.317) lists three broad national response priorities:

- Safety of human life;
- Stabilizing the situation; and
- Use of all necessary containment and removal tactics in a coordinated manner.

Note: These national priorities do not preclude the consideration of other priorities that may arise on an incident-specific basis. Although removal actions will primarily consist of mechanical means (boom, skimmers, etc.), Subpart J of the NCP (Use of dispersants and other chemicals) provides additional techniques for consideration to mitigate oil discharges. See Part 7000 of this ACP for information on specific techniques and processes pre-authorized within this ACP planning area.

5100 Initial Reporting, Notification, and Preliminary Assessment Procedures

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
96 Hour Plan: • Incident Notification Matrix • Notification List

If oil is discharged, a hazardous substance is released, or there is a threat of a discharge or release - including vessel emergencies that could result in a discharge - the responsible party (RP) must **immediately** notify:

- **National Response Center (NRC):** 800-424-8802
- **State Oil Spill Hotline (WEMD):** 800-OILS 911 (645-7911)
- **State-approved Vessel Contingency Plan Holder** (for vessels enrolled in an umbrella plan)

The National Response Center (NRC) is the national communications center for pollution incidents. It serves as the main federal contact point for reporting oil discharges and hazardous substance releases. Notification must be made immediately if the amount released meets or exceeds the reportable quantity defined under federal law (Clean Water Act [CWA] – 33 CFR Part 153, Subpart B; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) – 40 CFR Part 302). Discharges or releases on Tribal lands should also be reported to the NRC. Once the NRC receives a report, it will quickly forward the information to the appropriate Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC). **Reporting to the NRC does not replace the requirement to notify the state.**

The state oil spill hotline will connect you with the appropriate state agency. In Washington State, the RP may call the Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) directly at 800-258-5990.

Important: Reporting to state agencies **does not** replace the requirement to notify the NRC.

The NRC functions as the federal government's central reporting and notification point for oil discharges and hazardous substance releases under the NCP. Upon receipt of a report, the NRC disseminates incident information to appropriate federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies in accordance with established geographic notification protocols for the affected area.

Important: Agencies and organizations seeking inclusion in NRC distribution lists must coordinate directly with the NRC to ensure proper routing of notifications.

In addition to federal dissemination through the NRC, the Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) maintain state-level emergency coordination centers that may further distribute discharge and release information to applicable entities within their respective jurisdictions.

Companies whose vessels transit Washington or Oregon waters for arrival in Washington State or Oregon ports must be enrolled in a state-approved contingency plan. Each company may have its own plan, or it may enroll its vessels in a Washington- or Oregon-approved multi-vessel contingency plan (depending on where the vessel is transiting). Vessels enrolled in a multi-vessel/umbrella plan must use the notification placard provided by the state-approved vessel contingency plan holder for notifications.

5110 Preliminary Assessments

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH

Upon notification of a discharge or release, the FOSC is responsible for conducting a preliminary assessment to evaluate the threat to human health and the environment, determine the feasibility of removal or mitigation actions, and assess the RP's capacity to conduct the cleanup.

The FOSC shall, to the extent practicable, collect pertinent facts about the discharge or release, such as its source and cause; the identification of potential RPs; the nature, amount, and location of discharged or released materials, the probable direction and time of travel of the discharged or released materials; the pathways to human and environmental exposure; the potential impact on human health, welfare, and safety and the environment; the potential impact on natural resources and property that may be affected; priorities for protecting human health and welfare and the environment; and appropriate cost documentation. These efforts shall be coordinated with other appropriate Federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies. The FOSC also shall promptly notify the

appropriate trustees for natural resources of discharges or releases that are injuring or may injure natural resources under their jurisdiction.

When the FOSC determines any of the following, contact the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) SSC:

1) For petroleum product discharges, or hazardous substance releases, greater than 500 gallons.
2) When the release or discharge impacts known marine sensitive resources, such as:
    a. Marine threatened and endangered (T&E) species; and
    b. Areas that have been identified as a sensitive site.
3) For incidents that have the potential to release more than 500 gallons or the FOSC deems it appropriate to alert the NOAA SSC, such as vessel groundings.
4) For any discharge or release, or threat of a discharge or release, that could potentially impact the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.
5) When scientific support or expertise of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) natural resource trustee (or any other natural resource trustee) is needed, regardless of the reason

When the FOSC determines any of the following, contact the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Regional Environment Officer (REO) who will notify the appropriate DOI bureaus. No further action to contact DOI for notification purposes is required.

1) For all oil discharges greater than 500 gallons; and
2) For all major potential incidents such as vessel groundings.

For oil discharges less than 500 gallons and all chemical releases, the FOSC should exercise best professional judgment in determining whether the incident has the potential to impact trust resources. When in doubt, please err on the side of over-notification.

5120 Cleanup Assessment Protocol

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

When discharged oil contaminates shoreline habitats, responders survey the affected areas to determine the appropriate response. Although general approvals or decision tools for using shoreline cleanup methods can be developed during planning stages, responders' specific cleanup recommendations utilize field data on shoreline habitats, type and degree of shoreline contamination, and spill-specific physical processes. Cleanup endpoints should be established early so that appropriate cleanup methods can be selected to meet the cleanup objectives.

Area-Specific Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) may be found at:
https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans

Additionally, the following tools provide guidance on the applicability of various cleanup methods for typical shoreline habitats found in the Pacific Northwest.

- Characteristics of Coastal Habitats: Choosing Spill Response Alternatives;
- Characteristics of Response Strategies: A Guide for Spill Response Planning in Marine Environments; and
- American Petroleum Institute (API) report on Tidal Inlet Protection Strategies (TIPS) (Note: File is too large to load on USCG network).

When conducted, shoreline surveys should be done systematically because they are crucial components of effective decision-making. Also, repeated surveys may be needed to monitor the effectiveness and effects of ongoing treatment methods (changes in shoreline oiling conditions, as well as natural recovery), so that the need for changes in methodology, additional treatment, or constraints can be evaluated.

NOAA's Shoreline Assessment Manual outlines methods that can be used to plan and conduct shoreline assessments after an oil discharge. It also provides considerations that should be incorporated into assessing the effectiveness of the Unified Command's (UCs) shoreline cleanup decisions.

Shoreline Assessment Job Aid is a supplement to NOAA's Shoreline Assessment Manual. It contains visual examples of many of the terms you would use during shoreline assessments. In addition to these tools, the NOAA SSC is a valuable resource to help coordinate shoreline cleanup assessments and establish shoreline cleanup protocols.

For additional guidance on establishing a shoreline assessment program, conducting a net environmental benefit analysis, and selecting cleanup endpoints appropriate for the incident, as well as plan templates (i.e. Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique [SCAT] work plan), see the SCAT Tools.

In some instances, the FOSC might conclude that the response cleanup is adequate in accordance with 40 CFR 300.320(b); however, the state could impose more stringent requirements and may continue with the cleanup activities. The RP remains obligated to stay involved in the cleanup efforts and will be liable for costs associated with the continued response efforts.

5200 Emergency Consultations

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide • General ESA Section 7 Consultation Process • ESA Section 7 Emergency Consultation Form **Cultural Resources & Historic Properties:** • NHPA Compliance Guide

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultation directs all federal agencies to work to conserve T&E species and to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act. Section 7 of the Act, called "Interagency Cooperation," is the mechanism by which federal agencies ensure the actions they take, including those they fund or authorize, do not jeopardize the existence of any listed species. Additionally, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (Section 106) (Public Law 89-665) requires agencies using federal funds to identify, evaluate, and, where significant, protect historic, archaeological and traditional properties.

For more specific information in Washington and Oregon see the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP) Section 4314 and the RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide.

5210 Endangered Species Act

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide • General ESA Section 7 Consultation Process • ESA Section 7 Emergency Consultation Form
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• MOA Regarding Oil Spill Planning and Response Activities under the FWPCA's National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and the ESA • Region 10 Biological Assessment • NMFS Biological Opinion for Region 10 • USFWS Biological Opinion for Region 10

Response activities during oil spills or hazardous substance release may impact animals and their habitats, separate from the impacts of the pollutant itself. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402) require federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), collectively referred to as the Services, regarding any federal actions that may affect listed species. In the Northwest Region, the Services have developed a procedure to initiate the Emergency ESA Consultation and to incorporate measures into the response to minimize or avoid impacts to T&E species and their habitats that may be caused by response activities.

For significant incidents (e.g. federal responses lasting more than 96 hours, or when the RRT is activated to approve the use of chemical countermeasures in navigable waters under NCP Subpart J), or for incidents that may affect listed species or critical habitats outside the action area of the Service's programmatic Biological Opinions (See Resources below), the FOSC is responsible for initiating an Emergency ESA Consultation with the Services. The RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide has been developed to document this process. NOAA's SSC and DOI's REO should facilitate the consultation process and coordinate subject matter expertise on listed species, as appropriate. Ultimately, the FOSC is responsible for ensuring the consultation is initiated, and that

mitigation measures provided through the consultation process are incorporated into the response.

Resources

RRT10 Endangered Species Action Compliance Guide

Programmatic Biological Opinion Addressing Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill/Release Response Activities in Selected Areas of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon (01E00000-2015-F-0001)

USFWS Biological Opinion

Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Response for the Northwest Area Contingency Plan for the Response to Spills of Oil and Hazardous Substances (WCRO-2018-00065)

NMFS Biological Opinion

The national inter-agency memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Services. This MOA provides guidance on how the USCG, EPA, USFWS, and NMFS work collaboratively before, during, and after an emergency and provides templates for required documentation and processes. https://www.nrt.org/sites/2/files/ESAMOA.pdf

5220 Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties: • NHPA Compliance Guide • Federal Historic Preservation laws, Regulations, and Orders
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response Under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
EXTERNAL RESOURCES
• SHPO Directory

Determining Presence of Historic Properties/Cultural Resources

The FOSC must first determine if there are any historic properties or cultural resources to consider during an emergency response. The FOSC may not be trained to recognize such properties or resources, or the resources may be buried and not visible. Therefore, the FOSC should assume that the emergency response location contains historic properties and cultural resources and should notify the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) at the beginning of the response to ascertain the status of the response location. Even if the FOSC is given the "all clear" from the SHPO OR THPO, they should proceed cautiously, especially if the response involves excavations.

To reduce the burden of notifying the SHPO OR THPO of all emergency responses, the FOSC can consult the list of types of locations and spills/releases that are categorically excluded, provided in NHPA Compliance Guide. However, there are four overriding factors noted in this list that would still require consultation with the SHPO OR THPO. Therefore, the most prudent path is to notify the SHPO OR THPO of all emergency responses.

SHPO OR THPOs can help the FOSC by monitoring National Response Center (NRC) emails for any potential concerns. SHPOs should note that EPA and USCG do not respond to all NRC notifications and can verify if an FOSC was dispatched by calling the phone duty officer.

Federal On-Scene Coordinator Obligations

The FOSC will consider historic properties and cultural resources, as defined by the NHPA during an emergency response.

Once the FOSC has determined that a response location involves historic properties or cultural resources, he or she consults with the SHPO OR THPO to make informed decisions. By means identified in this plan, the FOSC will inform the SHPO OR THPO of the location and nature of the emergency response and actions to take for all emergencies to which the FOSC responds. The SHPO OR THPO can respond to the FOSC's notification by telephone or in person.

The FOSC may make emergency response decisions that adversely affect historic properties, but those decisions must take historic property information into account prior to authorizing actions that might affect such property.

An informed decision is one in which the FOSC has:

- Notified, consulted, and taken into account comments of the SHPO, federal ocean land-managing agencies (e.g., OCNMS, Olympic National Park, Wildlife Refuge), and Tribes;
- Consulted with a Historic Properties Specialist;
- Reviewed cultural information contained in the GRP for the area; and
- Determined whether a categorical exclusion applies.

The FOSC will notify the SHPO OR THPO when an emergency response has been completed. Where an emergency response decision has adversely affected historic properties, the FOSC will consult and discuss restoration and mitigation options with the SHPO or THPO.

Cultural and Historic Property Specialist

Activating a historic property specialist is an important decision that should be made in consultation with the SHPO OR THPO. The size and complexity of the response and the

degree to which a historic property is involved may warrant one or more specialists. Note that any action that adversely affects historic property without having activated a historic property specialist against the recommendation of the SHPO OR THPO during the consultation process may be considered an uninformed decision and inconsistent with the NWRCP.

Under ICS, the Historic/Cultural Resource Specialist will be placed in the Environmental Unit (EU) within the Planning Section. This position is referred to as the “Historical/Cultural Resources Technical Specialist” in the USCG Incident Management Handbook and the “Historical/Cultural Resources Specialist” in the EPA Incident Management Handbook. This position coordinates on technical matters with the SHPO OR THPO on behalf of the FOSC.

If the SHPO or THPO responds to an incident in person or visits the Incident Command Post (ICP), the visit would typically be a short one, meant to assess the situation and provide any needed advice to the FOSC. The SHPO OR THPO should not serve in the UC as a Historic/Cultural Resource Specialist since that person reports to the FOSC and the FOSC consults with the SHPO OR THPO.

Even if the response is led by the potential RP, the obligation to meet the Section 106 requirements of NHPA remains with the FOSC in UC.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) requires agencies using federal funds to identify, evaluate, and where significant, protect historic archaeological, and traditional cultural properties. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic and archaeological sites that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register.

The EU contacts the appropriate state historic resources entity to request a finding of presence/absence determination of cultural and historic resources in the spill vicinity or impacted area. If resources are present, the EU will recommend that the FOSC contract with a historic properties specialist from one of the federal or state agencies, or if they are

not available, through a contractor that is designated to advise the FOSC. It is important that responders be aware of the types of archaeological, cultural, or historic materials that they are likely to encounter while responding to an incident and that they will immediately notify the FOSC/UC if these types of materials are discovered.

National Register of Historic Places

Tribal Contacts

Oil spills that occur on or near Tribal land may have the potential to impact cultural resources on traditional ancestral lands. When it is determined that an oil discharge has the potential to impact cultural and natural resources, Tribal leaders and/or representatives will be contacted and invited to participate in the response for the purpose of cultural and natural resource protection. Section 106 of the NHPA requires Tribal consultation in all steps of the process when a federal agency project or effort may affect historic properties that are either located on Tribal lands, or when any Tribal Nation attaches religious or cultural significance to the historic property, regardless of the property's location. When an oil discharge response occurs on Tribal land, the federal agency must notify appropriate Tribal Nations of the undertaking and give those Tribal leaders and/or representatives the opportunity to consult. In the event of an oil discharge that may impact Tribal resources, the federal agency is responsible for notifying and consulting with Tribal representatives. In the absence of an FOSC, the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) will ensure appropriate notification of and coordination with Tribal Nations. Contact information for local or regional Tribal leaders/representatives may be obtained from the Tribal Liaison Contact Database.

5300 General Hierarchy of Response Priorities

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Command: • Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills

The NCP establishes three priority levels for the dedication of emergency oil discharge response resources:

- Protection of human health and safety;
- Protection of environmental resources; and
- Protection of economic resources.

Response protocols are also set in place to ensure the established priorities are met during an incident.

More specifically for the Northwest, the general hierarchies of response priorities are:

- Ensure the safety of the public and response personnel.
- Control the source of the spill.
- Maximize protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Contain and recover spilled product.
- Recover and rehabilitate injured wildlife.
- Manage a coordinated response effort.
- Remove oil from impacted areas.
- Minimize damage to economically sensitive areas.
- Keep the trustees, stakeholders, and public informed.

Response protocols are also set in place to ensure the established priorities and objectives are met during an incident.

Best Response Concept – the term “Best Response” means that a response organization will effectively, efficiently, and safely respond to oil discharges, minimizing the

consequences of pollution incidents and protecting national, environmental, and economic interests.

“Best Response” equals a successful response based on achievement of certain key success factors as follows: human health, natural environment, public communication, and interested party support.

5310 Safety

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Command: • EPA Safety Officer Toolbox • Hazard Assessment Worksheet • Health and Safety Job Aid • Safety Office Job Aid **Operations:** • Emergency Response Community Air Monitoring
REFERENCE LIBRARY
• Safety and Health Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers

As noted in the priorities outlined in the NCP, the health and safety of the responders and the public are of primary importance. To ensure that this priority is successfully met every time, personnel involved in oil discharge response activities must comply with all applicable worker health and safety laws and regulations. The primary federal safety regulations for responders are established by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and can be found in 29 CFR 1910.120; these set the safety standard for hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER). Incidents also may pose threats to those communities where the incident occurred, creating significant health safety threats, which must be addressed as part of the response.

All response activities must comply with applicable federal, state, local and facility or vessel specific safety and health requirements, whether managed through Unified Command or by a single agency, organization, or facility. For more details about the establishment of safety protocols for responders and how to safeguard public health

during a response, see the Health and Safety Job Aid and Emergency Response Community Air Monitoring tools in the RRT10 Tools and Resources site.

5320 Priority Identification and Protection Strategies

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Federal Agency Guidance: • USCG IMH **Command:** • Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills

UCs are responsible for providing direction and guidance to the Incident Management Team (IMT). The UC must analyze the overall requirements of the incident and determine the most appropriate direction for the management team to follow during the response. This is accomplished by making key decisions, setting management team priorities, developing response objectives, and assigning work tasks to primary staff within the IMT. To aid the Incident Command (IC)/UC, the Incident Management Handbook (IMH) has pre-approved initial generic UC objectives under the categories of Safety, Oil Spill, Environmental, and Management.

The priorities of response objectives must be carefully considered since they vary from case to case, but generally they are as follows in accordance with the NCP:

- Ensure the safety of the public and response personnel.
- Control the source of the discharge.
- Manage response effort in a coordinated manner.
- Protect environmentally, culturally, and historical-sensitive areas.
- Contain and recover spilled material.
- Recover and rehabilitate injured wildlife.
- Cleanup product from impacted areas.
- Keep the public and stakeholders informed of response activities.
- Minimize economic impacts.

- Terminate the response (demobilization).

Additional information regarding this section can be found in Chapter 4 of the USCG Incident Management Handbook: INCIDENT MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK, COMDTPUB 3120.17C. The Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills tool may also be referenced for response objectives.

5330 Risk Assessment for Sensitive Area Prioritization

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties: • Inadvertent Discovery Plan Template for OR • Inadvertent Discovery Plan Template for WA **Planning:** • Resources at Risk Response Tools

Risk assessments and priority tables for specific locations are discussed in individual GRPs. A general site risk assessment is to be documented via ICS-232 (Resources at Risk).

In an oil pollution event, sensitive area protection prioritization should be determined by three considerations:

1) Which sites are at risk (how soon the oil product will get to each sensitive site);
2) The predefined hierarchy of protection priorities (GRPs); and
3) The time and response resources available to implement a specified protection strategy.

If operating in an archaeologically- and/or culturally-sensitive area, take measures to protect cultural resources. The EU should develop an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (using templates found in the Tools & Resources section) for any response that could encounter or threaten historical or cultural resources. Notably, this includes any responses that require digging, or in-water work that takes place in areas with known subsurface resources. In areas with known cultural/historic resources, or where early response actions identify such resources, a Cultural Resources Protection Plan should be prepared

to provide adequate oversight and best work practices before work begins. When in doubt, assume any suspect material is a cultural resource. Promptly notify the EU of any discoveries. EU should consult with the SHPO and THPO from local affected Tribes when planning response activities.

See the Inadvertent Discovery Plan tool.

The GRPs utilize priority tables to identify which strategies should be implemented for a given release scenario/location. Although there are not priority tables designed for every possible release scenario, all the potential locations of defined Worst-Case Discharges have priority tables designed for efficiency and expediency for time-critical responses. Priority tables can be found in Response Strategies and Priorities section of the GRPs at https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans

5340 Environmentally-Sensitive Areas

During a response, all of the appropriate environmentally-sensitive areas will be referenced, and a determination will be made as to which areas will be directly affected, which areas could potentially be affected, and which areas have no threat of being affected. The previously referenced Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs)/GRPs in Section 4600 can be used for guidance, taking into account any special response considerations that will need to be addressed (such as seasonality or river stage/flow conditions). Additionally, when T&E species, designated critical habitats, or historical/cultural properties may be affected by response actions, consultations with the appropriate agencies and Tribes must be initiated. Specific guidelines and requirements for environmentally- and economically-sensitive resources, to include wildlife rescue and recovery, can be found in Annex C (Fish and Wildlife) of this plan.

5350 Wildlife Rescue & Recovery

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Wildlife: • Northwest Wildlife Response Plan • Managing Impacts to Fisheries • NOAA Guidelines for Assessing Exposure and Impacts of Oil Spills on Marine Mammals • Resources at Risk Response Tools • RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide • RRT10 Southern Resident Killer Whale Deterrence • USFWS Best Practices for Migratory Bird Care during Oil Spill Response • USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation

Oil discharges present significant risks to wildlife and their habitats. Federal and state laws require the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of wildlife impacted by oil discharges. The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 requires ACPs to include a Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Protection Plan to ensure timely, coordinated, and effective protection and recovery actions for wildlife and sensitive habitats.

Wildlife rescue and recovery operations require early and sustained coordination among agencies and organizations with the appropriate statutory authority, technical expertise, and operational resources. These activities are conducted under a UC structure and must be fully integrated with overall incident objectives, strategies, and tactics. Wildlife response operations are complex, highly visible, and require close coordination with other response functions.

Wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and recovery activities are managed by the Wildlife Branch within the Operations Section. The Wildlife Response Plan provides the operational framework for Wildlife Branch activities, including mission, roles and responsibilities, organizational structure, policies and procedures, activation criteria, and key planning and operational considerations. Reporting live, oiled wildlife and the collection of impacted carcasses is a specialized process that field staff should familiarize themselves with before

entering the field. Additional operational guidance is provided in the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan, located in Annex D of the NWRCP.

The primary objectives of the Wildlife Branch during an incident are to prevent or minimize wildlife and habitat contamination where feasible; reduce injuries associated with oil exposure and response operations; provide the best achievable capture, stabilization, treatment, and care for affected wildlife; and document impacts to wildlife resulting from both the spill and response actions.

5360 Aligning of Natural Resource Damage Assessment with Response

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
General: • DOI NRDA Primer • NOAA NRDA

Under OPA and CERCLA and various state statutes, RPs are liable for damages for injury to, destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of, natural resources from a hazardous substance release or oil discharge as well as damages from the response to the release or discharge (or substantial threat of discharge/release). The measure of damages includes the cost to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resource; the decline in value of resources pending restoration; and the reasonable cost of assessing the damages. Natural Resource Damage Assessment (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.

Designated federal, state, and Tribal natural resource trustees are responsible for assessing damages through the NRDA process.

Section 6002 (b) of OPA provides that the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) Emergency Fund is available “to initiate the assessment of natural resource damages”

(Initiate/Initiation). Initiate/initiation activities are defined as the Pre-assessment activities, as outlined in 15 CFR 990, Subpart D.

Executive Order 12777 limits funding for Initiation to the federal trustees, who are as follows:

- U.S. Department of the Interior;
- U.S. Department of Commerce;
- U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- U.S. Department of Defense; and
- U.S. Department of Energy.

Executive Order 12777 introduced the Federal Lead Administrative Trustee (FLAT) concept to provide a focal point for addressing natural resource issues associated with a specific incident. The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) will only accept requests for Initiation from, and, normally, works directly with, the FLAT. State and Tribal trustees must work through a FLAT. State and Tribal Trustees acting in the event of a spill may join with the designated federal trustees to name a FLAT.

NRDA activities generally do not occur within the structure, processes, and control of the ICS; however, many NRDA activities overlap with the environmental assessment performed for the spill response. The NRDA team coordinates and communicates their actions through the NRDA representative via the Liaison Officer. Therefore, NRDA representatives should remain coordinated with the spill response organization via the Liaison Officer and may need to work directly with the IC/UC, Planning and Operations Sections, and SSC to resolve any issues and prevent duplicative efforts. While NRDA resource requirements and costs may fall outside the responsibility of the Logistics and Finance/Administrative Sections, coordination is important. Guidance for coordinating NRDA with response activities is located under Section 2240 of the NWRCP.

Criteria for Initiation

Initiation of an NRDA can be performed in response to an OPA incident, (i.e., a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil into or upon the navigable waters or the adjoining shorelines or the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States).

NOAA regulations (15 CFR 990) guide trustees in assessing natural resource damages from oil discharges under OPA. These regulations provide a blueprint that enables natural resource trustees to focus on significant environmental injuries, to plan and implement efficient and effective restoration of the injured natural resources and services, and to encourage public and RP involvement in the restoration process. The regulations divide the NRDA process into three phases:

- Preassessment: The trustees evaluate injury and determine whether they have the authority to pursue restoration and if it is appropriate to do so.
- Restoration Planning: The trustees evaluate and quantify potential injuries and use that information to determine the appropriate type and scale of restoration actions.
- Restoration Implementation: The trustees and/or RPs implement restoration, including monitoring and corrective actions.

Washington State Damage Assessment Procedures:

Under state law (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 90.56.370), individuals or companies responsible for discharging oil into state waters are liable for damages resulting from injuries to public resources. In cases where the federal damage assessment procedures are not used, the state damage assessment procedures may be used. This process in Washington is defined in the Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Rule (Washington Administrative Code 173-183). The state's Resource Damage Assessment Committee oversees the protection and restoration of natural resources that are injured by oil discharges.

Under the state's process, the spiller may be able to reduce the damages by acting quickly to contain and recover the spilled oil from the water.

Following an oil discharge, the committee will decide to proceed with a formal damage assessment, work with the spiller to develop an acceptable restoration or enhancement project or study, or use the state's oil spill compensation schedule from the Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Rule. The compensation schedule helps to determine a monetary value (damages) for injuries to public resource caused by the oil discharge. The compensation schedule allows the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to collect damages based on a mathematically adjusted dollar-per-gallon charge. For spills of less than 1,000 gallons, the calculated damage range is $1 to $100 per gallon. For spills of 1,000 gallons or more, this calculated range is $3 to $300 per gallon.

Ecology deposits damages collected through the compensation schedule into the state Coastal Protection Fund. The Resource Damage Assessment Committee authorizes expenditures from this fund after consulting with impacted local agencies and tribal governments. The monies are usually used for restoration projects or studies related to resources damaged and spent in the area where the damages occurred.

5400 National Incident Management System

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

Section 4201 of OPA amended Subsection (c) of Section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) to require the FOSC to "in accordance with the NCP and any appropriate ACP, ensure effective and immediate removal of a discharge, and mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge, of oil or a hazardous substance – (i) into or on the navigable waters; (ii) on the adjoining shorelines to the navigable waters; (iii) into or

on the waters of the EEZ, or; (iv) that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States."

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is the recognized standard with which spill management teams must demonstrate compatibility, and is the measure by which regulatory agency plan reviewers, exercise evaluators, and spill responders will gauge the adequacy of response actions. Sector Puget Sound (SPS) ACP will manage spill incidents in accordance with the NIMS version of the ICS. This system allows for considerable operational flexibility and includes a collaborative planning process that delineates key management position responsibilities, common use of forms, essential Incident Action Plan (IAP) elements and response personnel and equipment resource tracking methods.

Emergency responders at all levels of government use ICS structures to manage response operations. ICS integrates facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications into a common organizational structure. The Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook (IMH) assists personnel in applying NIMS ICS during both planned events and emergency response operations.

5410 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 Tribal On-Scene Coordinators(s) (TOSC, as appropriate; and
- The Local On-Scene Coordinators(s), as appropriate.

The UC can be established "virtually" as deemed necessary. To be considered for a UC position, the involved organization:

- Must have jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility under a law or ordinance for the incident.
- Must have incident or response operations impact on the organization's Area of Responsibility.
- Must be specifically charged by law or ordinance with commanding, coordinating, or managing a major aspect of the incident response.
- Should have full organization authority to make decisions and execute all of the tasks assigned to the IC on behalf of their organization.
- 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, considering:

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

Federally recognized Tribes may elect to send a TOSC for any incident over which they have governing interests. Governing interests are defined within each treaty or Executive Order. The FOSC(s) should defer to a tribe's interpretation of their governing interests if there is doubt.

Unified Commanders must be able to:

- Agree on incident objectives and priorities;
- Have the capability to sustain a 24/7 commitment to the incident;
- Have the authority to commit agency or company resources to the incident;
- Have the authority to spend agency or company funds;
- Agree on an incident response organization;
- Agree on the appropriate Command and General Staff position assignments to ensure clear direction for on-scene tactical resources;
- Commit to speak with "one voice' through the Public Information Officer (PIO) or Joint Information Center (JIC), if established;

- Agree on logistical support procedures; and
- Agree on cost-sharing procedures, as appropriate.

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, approval of 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.

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

5420 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Decision Authority

The FOSC works in coordination with UC members to ensure a unified and effective response strategy. However, when UC members are not present, timely consensus cannot be reached, or the responsible party is unable to effect appropriate pollution mitigation actions, the FOSC holds authority to direct all response activities. Though the emergency response phase under 40 CFR 300.320, and federal involvement and Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) support concludes, the RP remains obligated to satisfy any ongoing cleanup or restoration requirements imposed by state and/or tribal law.

5430 Responsible Party

Each RP for a vessel or a facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses a substantial threat of a discharge, into or upon the navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or the EEZ of the United States, is liable for the removal costs and damages specified in OPA. Any removal activity undertaken by a RP must be consistent with the provisions of the NCP, the RCP, this ACP, and the applicable vessel or facility response plan required by OPA. If

directed by the UC at any time during removal activities, the RP must act accordingly. Specific responsibilities and requirements for the RP during a pollution incident can be found in the NCP, 33 CFR 154 Subpart F, and 33 CFR 155 Subpart D.

The RP, or a designated representative, will fill the role in the UC. In addition, their staff will be expected to fill part of the UC's response organization within the Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Admin/Finance sections.

Specific responsibilities of the RP include but are not limited to:

- Assess discharge or release.
- Robustly staff the response with a spill management team.
- Establish a command post, in concurrence with the other On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs).
- Document/identify the type and quantity of oil discharged or hazardous substance released.
- Contain the oil discharged or hazardous substance released and protect the environment, with a particular emphasis on sensitive areas.
- Provide input relative to cleanup priorities (i.e., waste minimization).
- Perform timely and effective cleanup.
- Dispose of oil, oily waste, and hazardous substances.
- Restore damaged environment/natural resources.
- Communicate with local, state, Tribal, and national response agencies and organizations.
- Communicate with media in conjunction with UC.
- Pay for damages.
- Take steps to prevent reoccurrence of spills or releases.
- Collect and care for wildlife, in conjunction with responsible state, tribal, local, and federal agencies.

The RP may be provided the opportunity to participate in damage assessment activities, as appropriate and subject to the direction and oversight of federal, state, and federally recognized Tribal natural resource trustees, and consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

See Section 1540 of the NWRCP, for information on "Requirements for a Full and Rapid Response."

5440 Common Operating Picture

When a response is managed solely by the Coast Guard, the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Geographic Information System (GIS) tool may be used. Additionally, when UC is established, the best tool available will be agreed upon. ERMA is a web-based program designed to assist both emergency responders and environmental resource managers in dealing with incidents that may adversely impact the environment. ERMA integrates and synthesizes various real-time and static datasets into a single interactive map, thus provides fast visualization of the situation and improves communication and coordination among responders and environmental trustees and stakeholders. Within a UC construct the best GIS tool available will be considered.

SPS and Washington have demonstrated the capacity to collect field data through mobile surveying tools (geo-referenced surveys on mobile phones) that fed live data to an incident-specific common operating picture (COP) stood up to support the response. That field collected data included shoreline observations (with photographic images), the scheduling of task forces for shoreline cleanups, the cleaning of beaches, and the status of beach cleanups. These GIS-based tools are effective for incidents covering large geographic areas with numerous partnering agencies and staffing. The system can be stood up within the first several hours of a response to feed the COP and gain early situational awareness for all responders.

GRSs are located on RRT10 site.

To access GRSs via ERMA, go to https://erma.noaa.gov/northwest/erma.html

5450 Incident Command Post

During responses to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases, many different local, state, and Tribal agencies may be involved as part of the UC. When a UC is used, an ICP and Joint Information Center (JIC) shall be established. The ICP shall be as near as practicable to the spill site unless a "virtual" ICP is established to facilitate a distributed response structure. All responders (federal, state, Tribal, local, and private) should be incorporated into the response organization at the appropriate levels through a physical or virtual incident command post.

A virtual ICP has several advantages and should be considered early in a response, before a physical ICP can be established. However, the UC will determine the appropriate ICP type on a case-by-case basis, particularly for incidents in areas with limited communications or data connectivity and for large or geographically dispersed responses where a single ICP would not be advantageous.

5460 Public Information

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

Public Information Officer

The RRT and NWACs prefer that the responsible party not fill the Public Information Officer (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. Additional information regarding this position under ICS can be found in Chapter 6 of the USCG IMH.

Media access to spill sites may become an issue during emergencies. In general, the UC should allow media access when public resources are involved, subject to reasonable guidelines that protect personal safety and prevent interference with response activities.

The PIO must work through and seek permission from the UC before allowing media access to the emergency scene or ICP. The PIO should obtain permission and legal counsel before releasing photographs or video footage on private property, both for purposes of conserving legal evidence and potential violation of owners' rights.

The general public's opinion of response efforts is not always based upon what action has been taken, but upon what information they received. Supplying information to the media is a critical component of spill response and is a primary function of the FOSC. Early and accurate news releases serve to minimize public apprehension and to enhance their faith in the response community. The first release should be issued within 30 minutes of the initial notification and not longer than two hours after notification is received, as mentioned in Section 2000-5 of the NWRCP. The National Response Team (NRT) provides risk communication guidance for oil spill response and additional information regarding

risk communications. This can be found at:
https://www.nrt.org/main/Resources.aspx?ResourceType=Public%20Information&ResourceSection=2

The following general guidelines are provided:

- Timely and accurate information should be provided to protect public health and obtain public cooperation, and to assist in guarding against further environmental damage.
- Clear communication by spill response authorities is essential for the delivery of accurate information to avert misinformation or rumors sometimes engendered by an emergency.
- It is the role of the UC—through the designated PIOs—to deliver public statements regarding the effects of a spill. Public statements regarding spill size, extent, risks to public health or resources, response actions, and anticipated impacts shall be coordinated and released through the Unified Command. This role does not rest with the RP or other non-UC entities.
- When a spill occurs, the FOSC must immediately open communications with local government officials of affected communities, conveying facts needed by residents for their own response activities and protection of public health and resources. Initial phone calls to establish communication channels with local governments and appropriate organizations, such as fishermen, should be followed by regular updates through spill bulletins, press releases, and briefings.
- When a spill occurs, the FOSC must immediately open communications with Tribal government officials of potentially affected Tribes, conveying facts needed for their own response activities and protection of natural and cultural resources. Initial phone calls to establish communication channels should be followed by regular updates through spill bulletins, press releases, and briefings.

Joint Information Center

A Joint Information Center (JIC) is a location where public information staff from incident-response organizations co-locate to coordinate on critical emergency information, crisis communications, and public-affairs functions. Typically, an incident specific JIC is established at a single, on-scene location, in coordination with federal, state, federally

recognized tribal governments and local agencies depending on requirements of the incident. An incident specific JIC develops, coordinates, and disseminates unified news releases. News releases are cleared through IC/UC, to ensure consistent messages, avoid release of conflicting information, and prevent negative impact on operations. A JIC may be established within or near the ICP where the PIO and staff can coordinate and provide information on the incident to the public, media, and other agencies.

Liaison Officer

One of the primary incident objectives is to keep government officials, agencies, the public and other interested parties informed during a spill incident. Liaison staff are responsible for meeting this objective by ensuring that elected officials and other key stakeholders are well informed of the status of the incident, the decisions made, and the actions planned and taken by the UC.

The Liaison Officer identifies agency, elected official, stakeholder, and public perceptions and concerns regarding the response. This is important feedback that might alter the Liaison Plan in order to better meet the needs for communication. To do this, the Liaison Officer must continually evaluate the effectiveness of the dialogue and communication with stakeholders.

As stated in Section 2220 of the NWRCP, it is the policy of the RRT10 and NWACs that the Liaison Officer position be filled by a qualified representative from a federal, state, tribal, or local agency. If no agency representative is initially available, qualified, or willing to serve, the UC may, at its discretion, authorize a RP representative to fill the position. The UC must concur for a transition to an RP-designated Liaison Officer. The RRT10 and NWACs also encourage responsible parties to designate an Assistant Liaison Officer to fully participate in the meetings and briefings alongside the Liaison Officer. Further responsibilities are outlined in the Liaison Manual Annex B of the NWRCP.

The Liaison Officer should combine efforts with the PIO and their staff through the use of targeted press releases generated by the PIO. The Liaison Officer should also consider

community outreach through public information meetings, open houses, and door-to-door contact in the immediate areas affected. Local elected officials may be a valuable resource to help organize these outreaches to stakeholders.

5470 Environmental Unit

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • Environmental Unit Job Aid • Emergency Response Environmental Sampling Plan • RRT10 Permit Summary Table

Other than protecting human life and safety, reducing impacts on natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources is the key motive in responding to oil discharges or hazardous substance releases. The EU is the central point within the Planning Section for determining how to best protect those resources.

5470.1 Environmental Unit Leader

The EU, led by the Environmental Unit Leader, works closely with the Operations Section to plan activities that achieve Unified Command's objectives while minimizing their impacts on the environment. EU and EUL responsibilities are described in USCG IMH, and the Tools and Resources in the RCP provide additional guidance.

It is regional policy that the EU be led by a representative of a government natural resource trustee or environmental agency, if available. If no such agency representative is initially available or willing to lead the EU, an RP representative may fill that role. At the discretion of the UC, the RP may be asked to lead the EU as the incident evolves.

It is encouraged that the RP designate a Deputy EUL or a co-EUL, who will participate in all the meetings and briefings attended by the EUL. As the response matures, a transition to an RP-designated EUL may occur with the concurrence of the UC.

It is regional policy that the EUL be invited to all relevant meetings and briefings, including but not limited to the initial ICS 201 briefing, Command and General Staff meetings, Tactics meetings, Planning meetings, Operations meetings, UC briefings, and press conferences.

All trustee resource agency staff with environmental information or expertise should initially report to the EU. This includes technical specialists, such as the SSC, who may be identified elsewhere within the ICS organization. It is recognized, however, that the SSC serves as an independent advisor to the FOSC. Other technical specialists may include sampling specialists, response technology specialists, trajectory analysis specialists, weather forecast specialists, resources-at-risk specialists, and shoreline cleanup assessment specialists.

For additional information on regional guidance on the EU, see NWRCP Section 4213, "Environmental Unit," and the Environmental Unit Job Aid.

5500 Oil Spill Containment and Cleanup

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • Oil Spill Best Management Practices • Oil Response in Fast Water Currents • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies • Response Tools for Oil Spills

The goal of most oil spill response activities is to contain and recover the discharged oil and to minimize the impacts to natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources.

All containment and cleanup operations should be conducted in accordance with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) found in the NWRCP Annex C Oil Spill Best Management Practices to minimize additional damage to the environment, maximize operational efficiency, and protect worker safety.

In emergency response, GRPs, GRSs, and GRP priority tables are pre-approved for rapid deployment. These tools are further described in Section 4600, Geographic Response Strategies. Because GRPs and GRSs are designed for early response stages, and are broad in scope, they are not intended to address every sensitive area that could be affected, nor do they serve as an exhaustive list of all possible response strategies. Additional strategies must be approved by the OSC. Once UC is established, additional operational strategies and tactics can be designed and communicated through ICS 204 work assignment sheets.

5510 Containment

Before discharged oil can be effectively recovered, its spread must be controlled using containment boom. Booms create a floating barrier on the water surface while extending a skirt below to prevent further spread. The appropriate boom size depends on local conditions.

However, booming has limitations. Oil can escape due to splash-over from breaking waves or be carried under the boom (entrainment) when currents exceed 0.7 knots and impact the boom perpendicularly. Since tides and currents shift over time, boom positioning must be adjusted as needed, requiring personnel to monitor and reposition the boom for maximum effectiveness of the on-water containment.

Various booming strategies can help prevent oil spreading and facilitate recovery by skimming or vacuuming. When deploying boom, several factors must be considered, including weather conditions, winds, tides, currents, vessel requirements, containment capacity, and skimming capabilities.

Sorbent booming is useful for smaller spills, areas with minimal tidal movement, or when shorelines require protection. Heavier oils can be recovered using adsorbent snare booms, while lighter fuels are typically recovered with absorbents like sausage boom, sweep, or

pads. Additionally, sorbent booming can serve as an interior barrier to recover oil within the containment boom.

As oil escapes containment, recovery becomes increasingly difficult, particularly in high-wind, wave, or strong-current conditions. To mitigate this, response efforts should include preplanning for potential boom failure points and implementing measures to prevent oil from escaping.

See the GRPs for detailed containment and protection options. GRPs/GRSs present pre-identified containment, exclusion, deflection, or collection strategies for oil discharges in the Northwest Region.

Gasoline and other flammable liquids should generally **not** be boomed due to the risk of concentrating flammable vapors, which could create a fire or explosion hazard. In most cases, allowing gasoline to naturally evaporate is the safer approach. If booming is necessary for protection, it must be done with full awareness of the risks and proper vapor monitoring. For more details, see section 5595, Non-Standard/Unconventional Emergency Removal Action Scenarios.

5520 Shoreline Protection Options

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

Pre-Impact Beach Cleanup

Pre-impact beach cleanup should be evaluated and conducted if deemed necessary under the guidance of the EU. Pre-impact beach cleanup will likely include removal of debris, trash, and the like, prior to impact, to limit the amount of contamination requiring proper disposal. Pre-impact beach cleanup can be a very effective way to lessen disposal volume. Removal of debris may be more harmful under some circumstances. Pre-impact cleaning operations will necessitate the development of a Pre-Impact Cleaning Plan or its incorporation into an existing response plan.

Shoreline Protection

Under certain conditions, it will be appropriate to take actions to remediate the effects of oil on shorelines. Other conditions may dictate that no actions should be taken. The primary goal of any shoreline countermeasure is the removal of oil from the environment with no further injury or destruction to that environment, ideally to help enhance the treated area's ability to recover. To best assess and determine the appropriate treatment options for affected shoreline, the SCAT provides a comprehensive program of assessment, monitoring, and treatment recommendations for affected shorelines. On USCG spills, SCAT is typically run from the EU within the Planning Section. Once a spill occurs, typically the EU will begin to develop a SCAT plan within the first day of a response, and the Operations Section will need to coordinate with the SCAT Coordinator to ensure appropriate interaction of the shoreline assessments and treatment recommendations with the shoreline cleanup tactics being used. The SCAT program and process typically leads the development of the Treatment Endpoints for shorelines, which will guide the Operations Section when their work on shorelines is complete.

5530 On-Water Recovery

5531 Open Water

Oil removal and recovery in open water is accomplished through the use of skimming devices once the oil has been contained. Skimmers can be freestanding, in which the

skimmer is a separate piece of equipment which pumps the oil-water mixture from the contained surface into tanks on a vessel. These skimmers are usually driven by hydraulic units on board a vessel. Self-propelled skimmers have a skimmer as an integral part of the vessel. The skimming vessel positions itself at the head of a concentrated or contained pool of oil and recovers the oil into tanks on board the vessel. There is also a type of skimmer in which the weir or collection zone of the skimmer is an integral part of the boom, which is close to the skimmer.

Vessels of Opportunity (VOO), such as fishing vessels, may be used to deploy or tow boom and, depending on the size of the vessel, may be equipped with skimming equipment. VOOs need to have adequate deck space and lifting cranes to carry the necessary equipment. The Coast Guard's Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) can be deployed on a variety of vessels.

5532 Nearshore

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

5532.1 Shallow Water

Oil recovery techniques and equipment are different in near-shore/shallow water locations than in open water locations. Shallow draft vessels and smaller boom and skimmers are used in these situations. These vessels can maneuver into tight places behind and under wharfs or in sloughs and can actually skim next to shore in many near-shore locations.

Strategies for near-shore cleanup or coastal shallow water can differ depending on the depth of the water and the location. Near-shore operations, within a bay or inlet, will also require shallow draft vessels, workboats, and skimmers. However, the vessels may only be operable at high tide. At or near low tide, the operation may evolve into a shoreline cleanup operation. Any boom towing boats or skimmers must be able to withstand going aground without sustaining major damage. Washington's rocky coast can make near-shore operations difficult and even dangerous during high surf and winter conditions.

5532.2 Fast Water Spill Response

Oil discharges in fast moving water above 1 knot require special tactics and can be difficult to control and recover due to the ease with which oil mixes with water and entrains under booms and skimmers. Fast currents also make deploying equipment and maneuvering on the water very difficult and dangerous due to the high forces exerted on boats and recovery equipment. Fast water accelerates many spill processes, necessitating quicker and more efficient responses compared to stagnant water or slow-moving current conditions. More experience and skill are needed to successfully complete responses.

In RRT Region 10, "fast water" is defined as any current above 1 knot. Oil may begin to entrain under a boom at 0.7 knots; however, it is unrealistic and unnecessary to be that exact when responding to an oil discharge, so the more generalized measure of 1 knot is used. Areas of fast water exist throughout the Northwest, including in Puget Sound especially but not only during large tidal exchanges, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Columbia River, Haro Strait, and most rivers.

In general, fast water spill response uses the same equipment as slow water spill response, but it is deployed in ways that account for the current. Examples include setting the boom on angles such that the oil flows along the boom rather than under it. The faster the current, the steeper the angle the boom must have to prevent boom failure. By setting up cascading booms, oil can be diverted away from sensitive areas or to containment or recovery devices near shore where currents are slower due to bottom frictional effects.

Rigging the angled booms can be time consuming. Additionally, the pressure put on the booms by the currents is substantial and creates safety hazards. To conduct these operations safely and efficiently, it is critical that experienced responders lead the deployment.

There are known "best practices" for responding in fast water, especially in challenging currents exceeding 2 knots. For example, a 10-inch boom with a 4-inch skirt and 6-inch freeboard works best in fast water, and anchoring boom in fast water requires anchors and lines that can withstand 3,000 pounds of force. Additional fast water techniques and practices are applied as well. There are some specialized pieces of equipment that are intended to improve fast water response, as described in Oil Spill Response in Fast Currents, A Field Guide and Oil Spill Response in Fast Water Currents.

5533 On-Water Recovery Equipment

Skimmers

Weir skimmers recover oil by aligning a barrier just below the surface of the water and having oil floating on the water surface pass over the weir into a recovery box or into a pump. Weir skimmers are not the most efficient recovery systems because a large amount of water is usually collected along with the recovered oil. They do not function well in uneven seas or whenever currents exceed 0.7 knots.

Vortex skimmers use a turbine-like fan, mounted below the surface, to create a current which draws in oil floating on the water. It is then pumped to a collection tank. The device is mounted on a vessel or floats at the water surface.

Oleophilic skimmers use materials that will retain a high percentage of oil minimizing the amount of water collected with the oil. Skimming devices can be belts, ropes, brushes, or discs that contact the oil. The device then will either wring or scrape the oil from the material into a collection point for removal to a storage tank. Some belt or brush skimmers are very effective in currents exceeding 2 knots and slight to moderate sea conditions.

Suction skimmers operate in conjunction with a pump that draws liquid into the skimming device. The skimmer head generally floats on the water with an oil/water mixture being drawn into the skimmer. A typical application would include a skim head used with a truck mounted vacuum system.

On water recovery options will likely include small oil recovery systems (SORS), small boat skimming systems and sorbent materials. The major recovery systems for the Puget Sound area are described in the following link: https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Technical-manuals.

Vacuum Trucks

Vacuum trucks are frequently essential equipment for cleanup of oil discharges. A hose is extended from the truck to the oil collection or containment site to pick up the oil. If the oil is floating on water, the suction hose can be connected to a “duck bill” nozzle that has a long horizontal slot to allow the oil to be picked up while minimizing the amount of water collected. A weir-type skimmer can also be connected to the suction hose to suck the thin layer of oil from the surface and minimize the amount of water collected at the same time. Both methods require a full-time attendant to adjust the equipment and clear debris.

Vacuum trucks work best when the oil layer is thick. If there is only a thin layer of oil on the water, much more water will be collected than oil. Recovery of a large quantity of water can make a vacuum truck operation very inefficient because the tank will quickly fill with water and little oil.

Dredges

Suction dredges are rarely used to recover oil or oiled sediments from the bottom of a water body. If dredging is considered as a recovery technique, there must be provisions for containment and storage of large quantities of recovered water along with the oil or oiled sediment. A large quantity of oil-contaminated water can present significant storage, transport, and disposal problems, which must be resolved before the activity has begun.

These problems can be diminished if oil/water separation is provided, and decanting of water back to the containment area is allowed by state and federal agencies.

For additional information, see NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies document.

5534 Storage

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)

To expedite removal of discharged oil, refined products, and contaminated materials from marine waters during an emergency response, containment activities (to include temporary waste storage) may be conducted at appropriate on-shore locations.

Storage of recovered oil during on-water recovery operations will likely consist of tankage on board recovery vessels, barges, oil bladders (dracones, sea slugs, etc.), and 55-gallon barrels to small portable tanks. Oil-contaminated debris collected on water can be placed in containers, which should be lined to prevent further contamination. The Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) will likely be tasked with ensuring proper temporary storage is available for and during recovery operations. Storage of recovered oil is often challenging on responses and requires active oversight by UC. Response equipment in the Northwest Region is listed in the Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL).

5535 Decanting Policy

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Decanting Response Tool **Planning:** • Decanting Approval Plan and Memo

The decanting policy is described in the NWRCP Section 4621 "Decanting Policy" with additional details in the Decanting Response Tool. Review the tool for required decanting plans and the approval process.

When oil is discharged on the water, mechanical recovery of the oil is the principal approved method of responding. However, the mechanical recovery process requires placing vessels and machinery in a floating oil environment, which can lead to incidental returns of oil and excess water into the response area. The process of decanting, or separating excess returned oil from water, can play a vital role in the efficient mechanical recovery of discharged oil because it allows maximum use of limited storage capacity, thereby increasing recovery operations.

Decanting is currently recognized as a necessary and routine part of response operations that is appropriately addressed in ACPs (see National Contingency Plan Revisions, 59 Federal Register 47401, Sept. 15, 1994). In addition, some activities, such as those associated with oil recovery vessels, small boats, and equipment cleaning operations may result in incidental discharges. These activities may be necessary to facilitate response operations on a continuing basis, and all of these activities are considered to be "incidental discharges."

The Decanting Response Tool addresses "incidental discharges" associated with spill response activities. "Incidental discharge" means the release of oil and/or oily water within the response area in or near the area where oil recovery activities are taking place. Incidental discharges include, but are not limited to, the decanting of oily water, oil and oily

water returns associated with runoff from vessels and equipment operating in an oiled environment, and the wash down of vessels, facilities, and equipment used in the response. “Incidental discharges,” as addressed by this policy, do not require additional permits and do not constitute a prohibited discharge. See 33 CFR 153.301, 40 CFR 300, RCW 90.56.320(1), WAC 173-201A-110, Oregon Revised Statutes 468b.305 (2)(b).

Oils Pre-Approved for Decanting and Associated Conditions:

Pre-approval for on-water decanting is authorized when pumping recovered oil and water ashore is not practical during the first 24 hours after the initial spill discovery. Decanting authorization is granted for the oil products listed below:

- All crude oils;
- Vacuum gas oils;
- Atmospheric gas oils;
- Recycle oils not containing distillates;
- Bunker fuels;
- No. 6 fuel oils;
- Cutter stocks; and
- Coker gas oils.

Decanting of the listed oils is pre-approved if the following conditions are met:

- Pre-approval applies to the first 24 hours after spill discovery. Decanting requests for all remaining operational periods will need to be completed and submitted to UC. The RP must fill out the Decanting Approval Plan and Memo and seek UC approval prior to any additional decanting approvals from the second operational period on.
- The UC must be notified within one hour after decanting begins.
- The RP assures the UC that they are quickly obtaining adequate oil storage and skimming capacity within the first 24 hours and that the responders are expeditiously getting sufficient storage and skimming capacity on-site to alleviate the need for prolonged decanting.

Shore-side container decanting (i.e., vacuum truck, portable tanks) is not authorized for pre-approval under this policy. Decanting in areas where vacuum trucks, portable tanks, or other collection systems are used for shore cleanup will be subject to filling out the decanting form in the Decanting Response Tool prior to authorization and must comply with the same rules as vessels.

Oils Requiring Approval by Unified Command Prior to Decanting

During a response, when decanting has not been pre-approved for lighter oils, which are not listed above, it will be necessary for response contractors or the RP to request from the UC written authority to decant while recovering oil so that response operations do not cease or become impaired. The UC will consider each request for decanting of lighter oils on a case-by-case basis. Prior to approving decanting, the UC should evaluate the potential effects of weather, including the wind and wave conditions, the quantity of oil discharged, and the type of oil, as well as available storage. The UC should also take into account that recovery operations as enhanced by decanting will actually reduce the overall quantity of pollutants in a more timely and effective manner to facilitate cleanup operations.

The following criteria should be considered by the UC in determining whether to approve decanting unless circumstances dictate otherwise:

- All decanting should be done in a designated “Response Area” within a collection area, vessel collection well, recovery belt, weir area, or directly in front of a recovery system.
- Vessels employing sweep booms with recovery pumps in the apex of the boom should decant forward of the recovery pump.
- All vessels, motor vehicles, and other equipment not equipped with an oil/water separator should allow retention time for oil held in internal or portable tanks before decanting commences.
- When deemed necessary by the UC, or the response contractor, a containment boom will be deployed around the collection area to minimize loss of decanted oil or entrainment.

- When using decanting tank systems, tanks with baffles should be used as a best practice to speed up oil/water separation and prevent remixing.
- Visual monitoring of the decanting area shall be maintained so that discharge of oil in the decanted water is detected promptly.

Approval Process

Decanting is an option based on exclusions granted to the FOSC and SOSC related to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and under NPD authorized state discharge programs. 40 CFR §122 provides exclusions to NPDES permits to the OSC providing the discharge is in compliance with the instructions of the FOSC pursuant to 40 CFR §300. Furthermore, the state of Washington is provided exceptions to discharges of oil pursuant to RCW 90.56.320, the state of Oregon is provided exceptions to discharges of oil pursuant to ORS 468B.305 and the state of Idaho is provided an exemption pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.25.102.05.d.

All proposals to utilize decanting must be presented to the UC. The UC will include appropriate FOSC, SOSC, TOSC, LOSC, RP and other appropriate applicable entities. Using the Decanting Response Tool, the proposal should include a brief description of the area for which decanting approval is sought, the decanting process proposed, the prevailing conditions (wind, weather, sea state, etc.), and protective measures proposed to be implemented. The decision of each UC member should be documented. Authorization to decant is provided by the FOSC in all cases, and SOSC authorization is required in addition for decanting in state waters.

The FOSC and/or SOSC will review and provide directions and authorization as appropriate to requests to wash down vessels, facilities, and equipment to facilitate response activities.

This policy does not cover other activities related to possible oil discharges associated with an oil spill event, such as actions to save a vessel or protect human life, which may include such actions as pumping bilges on a sinking vessel.

5540 Non-Floating Oil Recovery and Protection

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Non-Floating Oils Spill Response Tool • Oil Spill Best Management Practices

In the Northwest Region, non-floating oils and Group V oils are moved over the water, over highways and rail corridors, in pipelines, and stored in aboveground storage tanks. Non-floating oils refer to heavy oils and Group V oils that exhibit qualities which could, due to the oil characteristics, weathering, environmental factors or how they are discharged, potentially cause the oils to submerge or sink. Examples of these types of oils include, but are not limited to, Diluted Bitumen (dilbit), Group V Residual Fuel Oils, Low American Petroleum Institute Oil, Asphalt and Asphalt Products.

Non-floating oil that is discharged and transported in the subsurface usually remains suspended in the water column or is deposited on the seabed, usually after interaction with suspended sediments or sand. Different strategies for containing these oils can depend on the location of the oil.

The expectation of the SPS Area Committee is that non-floating oil will be identified in the initial report of an oil discharge to the NRC. With knowledge that oil discharged is a non-floating oil, professional oil spill responders will identify specialized submerged oil equipment and personnel and bring it to the scene. Unified Commanders must concern themselves with writing response objectives aimed at underwater detection, containment, and recovery. See the Non-Floating Oil Spill Response Tool for details on response techniques, equipment capabilities, and considerations for non-floating oil spill response. Non-floating oil response options and considerations are further covered in detail in the GRPs.

Discharges of non-floating oil pose a substantial threat to water-column and benthic aquatic resources, particularly where significant amounts of oil have accumulated on the

substrate. When oils sink or become suspended in the water column, traditional oil recovery methods (booms, skimmers, etc.) are no longer effective. Specialized equipment and techniques can be used to detect and recover non-floating oil. Because some of these techniques have the potential to cause more damage than the original oiling, it is important to consider the benefits and trade-offs associated with a particular method when selecting a response option.

Prior to recovery operations, consider conducting a Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA). The NWRCP's Non-Floating Oils Spill Response Tool provides more information on NEBA and specific impacts to RAR during a non-floating oil response.

Best Management Practices for Non-Floating Oil Detection and Recovery

- Give priority to preventing, minimizing, and containing non-floating oils.
- Respond rapidly and aggressively to recover oils when on the surface (if safe to do so) before the oils start to sink.
- Design and operate systems to minimize incidental water and sediment collection.
- Avoid activities that spread oil deeper into sediments or move it farther off-site (e.g. foot access through soft sediments or creating sediment plumes that leave site).
- Minimize operations of suction systems through the water column until the inlet is close to the surface of the bed to reduce potential for fish entrainment.
- Prevent equipment drive mechanisms (wheels, tracks, tires, etc.) from entering the water.
- Discharge water from the treatment plant back into the environment in a manner that minimizes erosion of bank and bed sediments.
- Conduct a NEBA to determine if recovery techniques have the potential to cause more damage than the original oiling.
- Determine whether permits are required for the selected method (see the RRT10 Permit Summary Table).
- Protect cultural resources when operating in an archaeologically- and/or culturally-sensitive area. Understand what cultural resources might look like. When in doubt, assume the material is a cultural resource. Promptly notify the EU of any

discoveries. EU should consult with the SHPO and local, affected Tribes when planning response activities.

- Follow best management practices (BMPs) for decanting, as appropriate.
- Follow appropriate cleaning and waste disposal protocols and regulations.
- Follow BMPs for use of vehicles and heavy equipment, as appropriate.
- Follow BMPs for the use of vessels, as appropriate.
- Follow BMPs for foot traffic, as appropriate.
- Follow BMPs for wildlife, as appropriate.

The recovery of sunken oil has proven to be very difficult and expensive because the oil is usually widely dispersed. Several of the most widely used recovery methods are manual removal, pump and vacuum systems, nets and trawls, dredging, and onshore recovery.

Detection:

Detection Types (Examples):

1) Sonar Systems;
2) Underwater Visualization Systems;
3) Diver Observations;
4) Sorbents;
5) Laser Fluorosensors;
6) Visual Observations by Trained Observers;
7) Bottom Sampling; and
8) Water-Column Sampling.

Recovery:

Recovery Types (Examples):

1) Suction Dredge;
2) Diver-Directed Pumping and Vacuuming;
3) Mechanical Removal;
4) 4Sorbent/V-SORs;
5) Trawls and Nets;

6) Manual Removal; and
7) Agitation.

Containment:

OSROs may choose to keep containment equipment on hand, but it is not a condition of becoming a classified OSRO for non-floating oil. OSROs will have non-floating oil procedures that connect their inventory, personnel and contractual assets in their ability to respond to an incident. Response times for non-floating oil Facility Response Plan's and Vessel Response Plan's slightly differ, but the National Strike Force Coordination Center has made the determination that the stricter standard will be utilized when evaluating OSRO's response capability. Classified non-floating oil OSROs must be capable of responding within 24 hours of discovery of a discharge. See the Non-Floating Oil Spill Response Tool for details on response techniques, equipment capabilities, and considerations for non-floating oil spill response.

5550 Shore-Side Recovery and Natural Collection Points

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

Sound cleanup decisions depend on accurate information about the types of habitats that the oil affects, the degree of oiling, and the location of oiling. NOAA's *Characteristic Coastal Habitats: Choosing Spill Response Alternatives* illustrates typical physical and biological attributes of North American coastal habitats at risk from oil discharges. The

document describes each habitat, explains how oil is likely to behave in those environments, and discusses key considerations for responding to oil discharges in those areas.

While consultation with the NOAA SSC is essential, the On-Scene Coordinator should, whenever practicable, also draw on the valuable knowledge of local responders, harbormasters, and mariners. These individuals often possess firsthand insight into natural oil collection points and site-specific conditions that may not be captured in broader planning efforts. Leveraging both scientific expertise and local experience can help validate response strategies and significantly improve oil recovery operations. GRPs incorporate these natural collection points into their strategic frameworks. There are predictable shoreline areas where oil recovery can be optimized. Oil collection efforts should be prioritized in two key situations:

- Where oil naturally accumulates along the shoreline due to prevailing winds and currents.
- Where oil can be diverted and captured as it moves along or past the shoreline, particularly in areas with lower environmental sensitivity.

5560 Shoreline Cleanup

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

5560.1 Shoreline Cleanup Assessment

SCAT teams include people trained in the techniques, procedures, and terminology of shoreline assessment. Teams should include people with knowledge and experience in oil and oil cleanup techniques, geomorphology, ecology, and in some cases, archaeology. Members of a SCAT team may include federal representatives (usually from the NOAA Scientific Support Team or U.S. Coast Guard), state representatives, Tribal Representatives, a representative of the RP, and possibly the landowner or other stakeholders. A SCAT coordinator directs the activities of the SCAT teams from the command post and coordinates with people working on other aspects of the response.

SCAT teams use a collaborative, consensus-building approach to collect data. SCAT team members also prepare field maps and forms detailing the area surveyed and make specific cleanup recommendations designed to meet cleanup goals and objectives. Later, SCAT teams verify cleanup effectiveness, modifying guidelines as needed if conditions change. Although they coordinate with division supervisors in the area, they do not direct cleanup workers. The SCAT team works in the Environmental Unit.

For more information, contact the NOAA SSC or see the below website:

https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/shoreline-cleanup-and-assessment-technique-scat.html

In addition, the states of Oregon and Washington have SCAT teams that may be utilized through arrangements by the SOSC or Environmental Unit Leader.

See the SCAT Tools for additional reference.

5561 Shoreline Cleanup Options

Under certain conditions, it will be appropriate to take actions to remediate the effects of oil on shorelines. Other conditions may dictate that no actions should be taken. The primary goal of any shoreline countermeasure is the removal of oil from the environment

with no further injury or destruction to that environment, ideally to help enhance the treated area's ability to recover.

To best assess affected shorelines and identify appropriate treatment options, the SCAT program provides a comprehensive shoreline assessment and monitoring, along with treatment recommendations. For USCG spills, SCAT is typically managed from the EU within the Planning Section. The EU should also ensure that cultural resources are protected when they may be affected during an incident.

Once a discharge occurs, typically the EU will begin to develop a SCAT plan within the first day of a response, and the Operations Section will need to coordinate with the SCAT Coordinator to ensure appropriate interaction of the shoreline assessments and treatment recommendations with the shoreline cleanup tactics being used. The SCAT program and process typically leads the development of the Treatment Endpoints for shorelines, which will guide the Operations Section when their work on shorelines is complete.

For additional guidance, see the Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices, SCAT Tools, and Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) tools.

5562 Access to Shorelines for Cleanup

Access to shoreline areas may be accomplished from the water, land, or air. Deployment from the water usually involves using shallow water platforms such as landing craft and skiffs. Access from a land-based response utilizes trucks, all-terrain vehicles, or other four-wheel drive vehicles, while access from the air may be possible by helicopter. For coastal spills in the Pacific Northwest, access by air to some remote regions may be the only option. In some cases, permission for entry onto private property must be obtained first.

For spills on Reservation lands, Tribes must be notified and engaged when responders need to access shorelines. Tribal representatives can help ensure access, protect the

safety of responders, and prevent damage to natural/cultural resources associated with response as most if not all culturally sensitive sites are only shared in a prioritized manner.

5563 Passive Oil Recovery

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • Disposal and Waste Management Guidance • Incident Waste Management and Disposal Plan Template

Shoreline cleanup is usually carried out in stages, starting with the removal of the heaviest accumulations of oil, which reduces the risk of recontamination by floating oil. Passive recovery can be applied to shorelines that have already been oiled to help keep the re-mobilizing oil from refloating and migrating to other non-impacted shorelines. Passive recovery can be deployed along shorelines prior to shoreline assessment occurring. Passive recovery can also be used to line the inside of a containment, diversion, or exclusion boom as an effective collection technique.

Shoreline cleanup operations can produce a significant solid waste stream; all wastes generated must be measured, stored, and disposed of according to the approved Disposal Plan. See the Disposal and Waste Management Guidance tool.

5570 Decontamination

Decontamination is the process of removing or neutralizing contaminants that have accumulated on personnel and equipment during an oil discharge response. Effective decontamination procedures protect responders from having unnecessary contact with oil that contaminates and permeates the protective clothing, respiratory equipment, tools, vehicles, and other equipment used during the response. It also protects people and the environment by minimizing the transfer of oil into clean areas of the response site and prevents the uncontrolled transportation of contaminants from the site into a community.

Personnel, vehicles, vessels, etc. responding to oil and hazardous substances incidents may become contaminated in several ways. This includes contact with oil products, vapors, gases, or particulates in the air; being splashed by materials while sampling, walking through puddles of liquid or contaminated soil; or through using/handling contaminated equipment. Decontamination consists of physically removing contaminants or changing their chemical nature to innocuous substances. How extensive decontamination must be depends on several factors, the most important being the type of contaminant impacting personnel and equipment.

A Decontamination Plan should be developed (as part of the Site Safety Plan) and set up before any personnel or equipment may enter areas where the oil recovery or cleanup is taking place. The decontamination plan should at a minimum:

- Determine the number and layout of decontamination stations.
- Determine the decontamination equipment needed;
- Determine appropriate decontamination methods;
- Establish procedures to prevent contamination of clean areas;
- Establish methods and procedures to minimize responder contact with oil during the removal of personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE), and;
- Establish methods for disposing of clothing and equipment that are not completely decontaminated.

Response operations should, to the maximum extent practicable, incorporate measures to minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), which may include decontamination. Operators of vessels and equipment should follow applicable state AIS guidelines (RCW 77.135.110); contractors and vessel owners remain responsible for ensuring their vessels and equipment comply with applicable requirements. AIS measures must not delay actions needed to protect life or property or contain a spill. The FOSC may modify or waive these measures as response priorities require. This guidance does not create a legal duty, liability, or standard of care for the FOSC.

The plan should be revised whenever the type of personal protective clothing or equipment changes, the site conditions change, or the site hazards are reassessed based on new information.

For more information about recommended decontamination procedures and practices, see the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Decontamination Site.

5580 Waste Management and Disposal

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Planning: • Disposal and Waste Management Guidance • Incident Waste Management and Disposal Plan Template • RRT10 Permit Summary Table
EXTERNAL RESOURCES
• EPA Criteria for the Definition of Solid Waste and Solid and Hazardous Waste Exclusions

During the course of most oil discharge responses, it becomes necessary to address the proper management and disposal of oil and materials contaminated by oil. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, applies to the management and disposal of waste generated under most cleanup operations. RCRA directs that the generation of hazardous waste is to be reduced or eliminated as expeditiously as possible and that when wastes are generated, they are treated, stored,

and/or disposed of to minimize the threat to human health and to the environment in accordance with all applicable regulations, including local, state, federal, and Tribal requirements.

A waste is any solid, liquid, or contained gaseous material that is not of any further use, and either is recycled or thrown away. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a hazardous waste is a solid waste that because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristic, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness; or pose a substantial hazard or potential hazard to human health and the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed. A hazardous waste also must be a "solid waste" as defined in RCRA such as "garbage, refuse, or sludge or any other waste material." A solid waste under RCRA can be a solid, semisolid, a liquid, or a contained gas. Presently there are two ways a material may be classified as a "hazardous waste". If the waste is "Listed" under RCRA regulations (40 CFR 261.30 – 261.35) or if it has one of the following four characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity, as listed in 40 CFR 261. See Figure 5580-1 below that presents how to identify if a solid waste is also a hazardous waste under federal/state regulations and whether the material may additionally be subject to RCRA landfill disposal regulations. Further explanation of the hazardous waste identification process can be found at EPA's web page "Criteria for the Definition of Solid Waste and Solid and Hazardous Waste Exclusions".

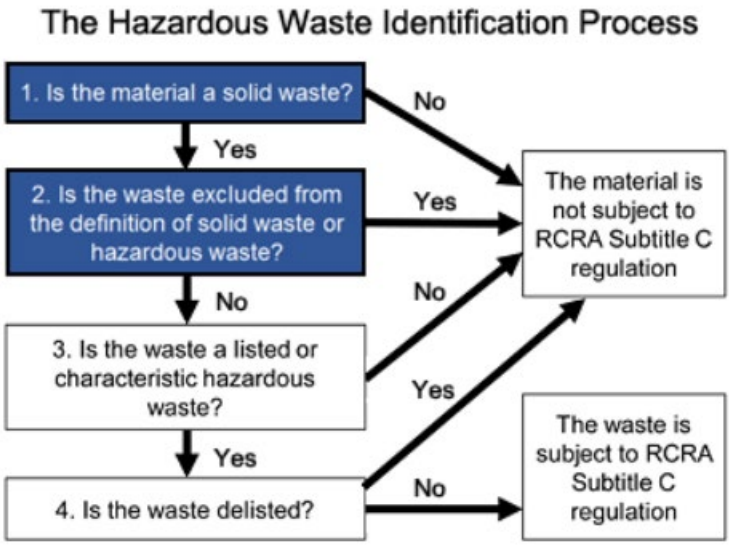


Figure 5580-1. Hazardous Waste Identification Process

Most recovered petroleum oils and oily wastes do not exhibit characteristics necessary for classification as hazardous wastes, but a hazardous waste determination based on a waste profile must be made for each waste stream that originates from an incident. It is generally beneficial to keep waste streams segregated to facilitate waste determination, waste management and proper disposal. Keeping wastes separated typically reduces waste management and disposal costs and simplifies regulatory review and approval by applicable local, state, federal, and Tribal authorities.

Determining whether a solid waste (including oil wastes and liquids) is regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA depends largely on “knowledge of process”—information about how the waste was generated. That information helps identify what analytical data may be needed to determine whether the waste exhibits a hazardous characteristic or is subject to RCRA land-disposal restrictions. When knowledge of process is available at the time of the incident, it can streamline waste-management decision-making. When the waste source is unknown, additional sampling and analysis will be required to determine whether the waste is classified as hazardous under state and/or federal law.

5580.1 Management and Disposal of Incident-Generated Wastes

It is critical for the lead agency in an immediate removal operation to recognize that contaminated soils, dredge spoils, drums, tanks, refuse, water, or other associated materials are to be considered potential hazardous wastes and must be handled and disposed of in accordance with RCRA, as well as all applicable local, state, and Tribal regulations governing the management and disposal of hazardous wastes. Many of the removal actions employed by the lead agency will create a situation in which the lead agency has assumed the responsibility as a generator of hazardous wastes. These wastes then become subject to the "cradle to grave" manifesting procedures currently in effect under the governing RCRA regulations. The lead agency must ensure that the hazardous waste generated from removal actions is transported by an approved hazardous waste hauler to an approved hazardous waste facility. The lead agency should consider the possibility of employing on-site treatment (e.g., incineration, biological treatments, chemical treatments, waste stream treatment methods, etc.). Approved and effective on-site treatment often resolves the problem of simply transporting the waste to another location.

It is imperative that the planning and setup for the management of wastes be initiated before oil recovery or cleanup operations (and especially the generation of wastes) begin. Establishing waste staging areas, staging area management, a waste tracking system, and staffing of waste management positions needs to be pre-planned to safely and properly manage incident generated wastes prior to the transfer to recycling or waste disposal facilities in coordination with applicable local, state, federal, and Tribal governments, as appropriate. A template for developing an incident-specific Waste Management and Disposal Plan (and waste tracking system) is provided, along with the Permit Summary Table on the RRT10/NWACs Tools and Resources website. If wastes generated by the response are determined through their waste profiles to be classified as hazardous wastes under state or federal RCRA law, then a Hazardous Waste Generator ID (HWG ID) Number will be required for the response. The HWG ID Number can be issued by the states or EPA

or, where applicable, by a federally recognized Tribe with authorized hazardous waste program authority.

Disposal facility information is available in the Oregon and Washington Disposal Facilities tabs of the Waste Management and Disposal Plan template available from the Tools and Resources section of the RRT10 website.

5580.1.1 Washington Disposal Guidelines

Disposal practices in the state of Washington shall be performed in accordance with state disposal guidelines. Guidelines are available from Ecology and can be found in the RRT Region 10 Disposal and Waste Management Guidance tool.

5580.2 Decanting Policy

For information on decanting in the SPS planning area and the Northwest Region, see Section 5535 Decanting Policy.

5590 Terminating Cleanup Operations

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • NOAA Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives • NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies **SCAT:** • Establishing a Shoreline Assessment Program • Example Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team Work Plan • NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid • Northwest Area Shoreline Countermeasures Manual and Matrices • SCAT Response Tools • Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for SCAT

Cleanup endpoints are the agreed-upon level of cleanliness or condition that must be reached before Unified Command considers the cleanup complete. Endpoints are site-specific and describe the point in a response when further cleanup would cause more

harm than good – or when no significant oil remains. Cleanup endpoints can be qualitative or quantitative but should be selected to meet the response objectives. Refer to NOAA's Shoreline Assessment Manual, 4th Edition, Section 5.3 for a comprehensive discussion on developing spill-specific cleanup endpoints. Additional resources can be found in the SCAT Tools.

In accordance with 40 CFR 300.320, "Removal shall be considered complete when so determined by the FOSC in consultation with the Governor(s) of the affected state(s). When the FOSC considers removal complete, the OSLTF removal funding shall end." The FOSC's efforts should be coordinated with state, local, and private response agencies. State and local governments, however, are not authorized to take actions under Subparts D and E of the NCP that involve expenditures of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund or CERCLA funds unless an appropriate contract or cooperative agreement has been established in accordance with Section 5600.

While federal response may conclude at this point, the responsible party may have additional long-term cleanup responsibilities to meet state requirements, such as cleanup and restoration requirements. The FOSC will support a coordinated transition to ensure these obligations are clearly communicated and enforced.

5595 Non-Standard/Unconventional Emergency Removal Action Scenarios

5595.1 Flammable Liquids Response Considerations

Spills of gasoline and other flammable liquids, including many crude oils, present significant challenges for both response operations and public safety. Gasoline-range products, including straight-run naphtha, alkylate, reformate, and other volatile hydrocarbon fractions, possess flashpoints below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (37.8 degrees Celsius [°C]) and can create substantial fire and vapor hazards when spilled into the environment. Immediate actions are necessary to control the source of the release

(where safe), eliminate ignition sources, establish isolation distances, make required notifications, and initiate a preliminary safety plan.

In response to gasoline and similar volatile liquids, booming is generally not recommended due to the risk of concentrating flammable vapors, potentially creating a fire or explosion hazard. However, under specific circumstances, booming may be employed as a deflection or exclusionary measure, particularly in areas where vulnerable infrastructure (e.g., piers) may be at risk. Any booming activity must be done with full awareness of the vapor hazard and under strict safety conditions, ensuring that vapor monitoring is in place to monitor for flammable, toxic, and reduced oxygen levels.

While containment may seem like an effective response option, it is important to consider the broader environmental and safety implications. In most cases, the more prudent course of action is to allow gasoline to evaporate naturally, especially if the spill is dispersed over a large area. If booming is deemed necessary by the FOSC or UC, it should be limited to deflection booming to guide the liquid away from sensitive areas, or protection booming to shield critical infrastructure, but only before the gasoline reaches these areas.

Foam application may be considered in cases where gasoline is threatening public safety or causing an imminent fire risk, but it should be applied only after assessing vapor concentrations. Foam can effectively suppress vapors but should be used carefully to avoid unnecessary disruption of the local environment and waterways. All response actions must prioritize safety, ensuring that responders are not exposed to unsafe conditions and that the risks associated with gasoline and other flammable liquids are minimized.

For additional guidance on gasoline and other flammable liquids response policy, see NWRCP Section 4622.

5595.2 Operational Safety Issues Associated with Bakken Crude Oil

Because of the presence of up to 30 percent (by volume) light volatiles in Bakken Crude oil, the potential for fire and explosion is the single largest risk to responder and public health regarding this type of oil. Accordingly, extreme caution should be exercised during the initial stages of response. Operations should refer to the general response guidelines in the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation – Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and Transport Canada.

5600 Oil Spill Response Funding and Cost Recovery

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Finance/Cost: • National Pollution Funds Center: The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund • NPFC User Reference Guide

The FOSC is authorized to access the OSLTF for oil discharges to fund federal response actions. The FOSC will establish a federal project number (FPN) utilizing NPFC's current guidance and management systems.

RPs are liable for damage claims and removal costs resulting from discharges or substantial threats of discharges of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States. If the RP is unknown, OSLTF will fund immediate actions to initiate recovery actions. When the RP is known but is either unable or unwilling to act, the OSLTF can be used to fund recovery operations. NPFC may seek cost recovery from all responsible parties.

5610 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Access to Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

The OSLTF is available to the FOSC for the payment of removal costs determined by the FOSC to be consistent with the NCP as a result of, and damages resulting from a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil impacting the navigable waters of the United

States. The OSLTF was established by Section 311(k) of the FWPCA and is administered by the USCG National NPFC. In the event of an oil discharge, an FOSC, state, claimant, or trustee can obtain access to these federal funds through the processes outlined in the following sections.

The FOSC has been delegated the authority to ensure effective and immediate removal of a discharge, and mitigation or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge of oil into the navigable waters of the United States (including the EEZ).

The prerequisites that must be met before a removal cost incurred by a FOSC can be paid from the OSLTF are:

a. The removal costs must result from an OPA incident. OPA defines an "incident" to mean "any occurrence or series of occurrences having the same origin, involving one or more vessels, facilities, or any combination thereof, resulting in the discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil."
b. The removal costs must result from removal of an oil discharge or the mitigation of a substantial threat of an oil discharge: (1) into or on the navigable waters of the United States; (2) on the adjoining shorelines to navigable waters of the United States; (3) into or on the waters of the EEZ; or (4) that may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States.
c. The action giving rise to the removal costs must be consistent with the NCP.

For RP-led responses, the OSLTF is available for FOSCs to monitor response actions to ensure proper removal actions are taking place in accordance with the NCP, RCP, and ACP. For cases where the source or responsible party is either unknown, or is unable or unwilling to meet this obligation, the OSLTF is available to pay for removal costs and claims.

The following funding limitations exist in accessing the OSLTF:

- The maximum, per incident, is $1.5 billion, or the balance in the OSLTF, whichever is less.

- Removal funding (including response to a substantial threat of discharge) and initiate request funding are limited to the funds available in the OSLTF Emergency Fund.
- There is a maximum of $750 million per case to satisfy Natural Resource Damage claims and assessments.
- Initiation of NRDA costs may be paid out of the Emergency Fund, subject to its availability and the process through which funding was requested.
- The discharge (or substantial threat of discharge) must impact navigable waters of the United States (including the 200-mile EEZ).

5620 Funding Authorizations for Other Agencies

Access to the OSLTF for reimbursement of removal costs incurred by state, local (political subdivisions of a state), and Tribal entities is now primarily governed by Cost-Reimbursable Agreements (CRAs).

State, local, and Tribal entities seeking reimbursement for removal actions consistent with the NCP should coordinate with the FOSC and follow established procedures for entering a CRA with the USCG. Specific requirements and application processes for these agreements will be outlined in forthcoming guidance and regulations. While the details are still being developed, entities should be prepared to demonstrate:

- That proposed actions are consistent with the NCP, including 40 CFR 300.305(c) (requiring a reasonable effort by the RP to perform removal actions);
- That the proposed level of response, actions, and amounts requested are appropriate for the circumstances;
- That the entity has the means to complete the proposed removal actions; and
- The FOSC will provide initial coordination of CRA requests and subsequent coordination and oversight.

Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations

Federal, state, local, and Tribal governments assisting the FOSC during a response may receive reimbursable funding through a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA).

The NPFC can be consulted regarding PRFAs, but authorization to establish and use this funding source is provided by the FOSC. The decision to utilize another agency for assistance in the response must be documented (including Statement of Work) and signed by the FOSC. After the PRFA has been approved, the assisting agency must follow the documentation requirements outlined in the PRFA. Request for additional or increased funding must be submitted to the FOSC.

Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

When an FOSC makes the determination that a DoD asset or DoD resources are necessary to conduct a response (i.e., U.S. Navy SUPSALV), a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), vice a PRFA, must be established.

5630 Trustee Agency Access to the OSLTF

Section 6002 (b) of OPA provides that the OSLTF Emergency Fund is available "to initiate the assessment of natural resource damages" (Initiate/Initiation). For the purpose of this agreement, initiate activities have been defined as the pre-assessment activities as outlined in 15 CFR 990, Subpart D.

Executive Order 12777 limits funding for Initiation to the federal trustees, who are as follows:

- U.S. Department of the Interior,
- U.S. Department of Commerce,
- U.S. Department of Agriculture,
- U.S. Department of Defense, and
- U.S. Department of Energy.

Executive Order 12777 introduced the Federal Lead Administrative Trustee (FLAT) concept to provide a focal point for addressing natural resource issues associated with a specific incident. The NPFC accepts requests for Initiation-only from, and normally works directly

with, the FLAT. State and Tribal trustees must work through a FLAT. State and Tribal trustees acting in the event of a discharge may join with the designated federal trustees to name a FLAT.

Together, the NPFC Natural Resource Damage Claims Manager and the FLAT will execute a request and authorization for obligation of funds through an Interagency Agreement (IAA). For more information about the process of initiating a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and for the regulations and procedures for making a Natural Resource Damage claim, see NPFC Natural Resource Damage Claims.

Criteria for Initiation

Initiation of an NRDA must be performed in response to an OPA incident, (i.e., a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil into or upon the navigable waters or the adjoining shorelines or the EEZ of the United States).

5640 State Funding for Oil Spill Response

For Washington state, the Oil Spill Response Account (OSRA) is provided to "pay for costs associated with the response to spills of crude oil or petroleum products into the navigable waters of the state" (RCW 90.56.500). The state may use the OSRA for costs associated with responses to oil discharges to water that are likely to exceed $50,000. Ecology uses its appropriation from the OSRA to pay for NRDAs, response costs, containment, cleanup and disposal costs, wildlife rescue, contracts, and equipment costs during large oil discharge incidents. All state costs recovered (not including penalties or NRDA assessments) are deposited back into the OSRA.

5700 Hazardous Substance Spill Response

5710 Introduction

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Hazardous Substances: • CAMEO • Chemtrec • Emergency Response Guidebook • EPA List of Lists • EPA Radiological Emergency Response Plan • Hazard Assessment Worksheet • Initial Hazmat Incident Objectives • Response for Chemical Spills **General:** • Response Partner Roles and Contacts

This section of the ACP provides guidelines for initial actions to control, contain, and remove released hazardous substances and addresses unique issues associated with their release. Hazardous substance response is outlined in Subpart E of the NCP (40 CFR Part 300 Subpart E), which sets methods and criteria for determining the appropriate response authorized by CERCLA, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and defines hazardous substances as "hazardous wastes" under the RCRA, as well as hazardous substances regulated under the Clean Air Act, CWA (Section 311(c)), and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This includes:

- Releases of hazardous substances into the environment; or
- Releases of pollutants or contaminants that pose an imminent and substantial danger to public health.

Hazardous substance releases can present immediate threats to human health, even in small quantities. A **Hazardous Substance** is any substance designated as such by EPA under CERCLA, CWA Section 311(c). A **harmful quantity** is any release that may harm public health or the environment or pose an imminent danger to public welfare.

Petroleum products such as diesel and gasoline are specifically excluded from CERCLA and are not considered to be “hazardous substances” under federal statute. State environmental statutes may, however, consider these materials hazardous substances. This chapter does not specifically deal with issues related to response to petroleum products.

Other potential environmental regulations may constrain the response to, and management of, certain hazardous substances encountered in active incident responses. The Substance Registry Services hosted by EPA can be searched for information on the regulatory applicability of specific chemicals under environmental laws such as the TSCA or the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

For many hazardous substances, EPA’s Consolidated List of Lists provides the threshold quantities that require reporting of releases to the environment under the applicable federal hazardous substance laws. The states typically rely on these same threshold reporting quantities for their reporting requirements. These threshold quantities do not constitute cleanup levels, but may provide information relative to the potential that releases constitute de minimis releases.

While the ICS/UC system is the same for both oil and hazardous substance incidents (including weapons of mass destruction [WMD] events), hazardous substance releases present unique challenges. This chapter provides guidance for responding to hazardous substance incidents, including WMD events.

Many Region RRT10/Northwest Area Committee agencies have specific roles during a hazardous substance release, including chemical, biological, or radiological incidents. This document serves as a general guide for interagency coordination and resources. If the incident triggers the National Response Framework (NRF), hazardous substance response will follow ESF-10 and may reference this plan. See NWRCP, section 7120 (Authorities) and subsequent subsections for additional information on federal and state authorities. For an

inclusive list of federal and state agencies, see the Response Partner Roles and Contacts tool.

5720 Environmental Support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator

The FOSC and UC can expect environmental support from the agencies listed in Section 3300 Support Available to the FOSC/UC.

The NOAA Scientific Coordinator is staffed 24/7 and can be reached at (206)-526-4911 or via email: ssc.northwest@noaa.gov.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency Operations Center is staffed 24/7 and can be reached at (770)-488-7100 or via email: eocreport@cdc.gov.

- Primary agency for oil (CDC/National Center for Environmental Health [NCEH])
- Primary agency for hazardous substances (ATSDR)

Ask the CDC Watch Stander to connect you with the ATSDR or NCEH Duty Officer. Although environmental health support can be provided remotely, the USCG FOSC has the option to request on site CDC and/or ATSDR presence. This request is formalized via a PRFA. The primary CDC team role included inviting the local health authority and State Health Authority, reviewing environmental data, developing public messaging, and collaborating with the Poison Control Center.

5730 State Policy (State Hazardous Substances Response Systems)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
By State: • Washington Oil and Hazardous Materials Response ESF10 Plan **General:** • Response Partner Roles and Contacts

State and local public safety organizations are anticipated to initiate emergency public safety measures that are necessary to protect public health and welfare. These safety measures are consistent with containment and cleanup requirements in the NCP and are responsible for directing evacuations pursuant to existing state and local procedures.

The Washington State Response System is designed to provide coordinated state agency response, in cooperation with federal agencies, for effective cleanup of oil discharge or hazardous substance releases. In Washington State, Ecology acts as the state Incident Commander for oil or hazardous substance spills or threatened spills to waters of the state. Ecology provides 24-hour response to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases when any amount of regulated waste or hazardous substance is released to the air, land, or water, or whenever oil is discharged on land or to state waters. As needed, Ecology deploys SOSCs to an incident. The agency maintains spill response teams in Olympia, Seattle, Bellingham, Vancouver, Spokane, and Yakima that provide round-the-clock response service to emergencies that pose an immediate threat to human health and the environment.

The Washington Oil and Hazardous Materials Response ESF-10 Plan is available in the Tools and Resources.

Washington State

For Washington phone numbers, see the Response Partner Roles and Contacts tool. Notification requirements for spills in Washington State are as follows:

- For discharges of oil or releases of hazardous substances to surface or groundwater, any person who is responsible for a spill or non-permitted discharge must immediately notify the WEMD and the NRC. (RCW 90.56.280)
- Releases of dangerous waste or hazardous substances to water, ground, or air that threaten human health or the environment must be immediately reported to the Ecology regional office. (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 173-303-145)
- Spills of oil or hazardous substances to the ground that create a human health or environmental threat must also be reported to Ecology, in writing, within 90 days of discovery. (WAC 173-340-300)
- Leaking underground storage tanks must be reported to Ecology within 24 hours of discovery. (WAC 173-340-450)

Additionally, for discharges of oil or releases of hazardous substances and dangerous waste that threaten human health and the environment, immediate notification is required to all local authorities in accordance with the local emergency plan.

For releases or discharges that result in emissions to the air, notify all local authorities in accordance with the local emergency plan. Notification is also required to the local Clean Air Agency, where one exists, and the Ecology Regional Office.

Performing federal notifications does not satisfy Washington State notification requirements. Notification of federal and state agencies does not guarantee notification of local responders. Notify local authorities in accordance with the local emergency plan.

If radioactive materials are involved in any type of release, the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Radiation Protection should be notified at 206-NUCLEAR - (206) 682-5327.

5800 Hazardous Substance Spill Response Funding and Cost Recovery

CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad

federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

The law authorizes two kinds of response actions:

- Short-term removals, where actions may be taken to address releases or threatened releases requiring prompt response.
- Long-term remedial response actions, that permanently and significantly reduce the dangers associated with releases or threats of releases of hazardous substances that are serious, but not immediately life threatening. These actions can be conducted only at sites listed on EPA's National Priorities List.

5810 Federal On-Scene Coordinator Access to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Funding

Federal

An MOU between the USCG and EPA authorizes the USCG to access the Hazardous Substance Trust Fund (Superfund) when it undertakes response activities pursuant to CERCLA, Executive Order 12316, and the provisions of Subpart E of the NCP. A Coast Guard FOSC has the authority to approve the expenditure of these funds to prevent or mitigate immediate and significant harm to human life or health or to the environment from the release or potential release of hazardous substances. The process through which a Coast Guard FOSC accesses these funds is outlined below (FOSC Access to the Federal Funds). The NPFC is responsible for the administration of the USCG's portion of the Superfund, while EPA retains overall responsibility for the fund's general administration.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act Fund

When EPA provides the FOSC, the FOSC has the authority to spend up to $200,000 in emergency situations. The EPA Regional Administrator has authority to approve Trust Fund expenditures not to exceed $6,000,000. Expenditures exceeding $6,000,000 must be approved by EPA Headquarters. When the USCG provides the FOSC, the USCG FOSC has

authority to approve Trust Fund expenditures not to exceed $50,000. USCG FOSCs can receive approval for CERCLA Trust Fund expenditures up to $250,000 through the Commander, Coast Guard Northwest District. For additional expenditures, approval from the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management is necessary. To access the fund, an account number must be obtained from EPA Headquarters.

Other federal agencies have authority to expend Trust Fund money in accordance with IAAs and MOUs with EPA. Agency expenditures will be reimbursed in accordance with the procedures specified in these IAAs and MOUs. CERCLA statute allows states and federally recognized tribes access to Superfund monies only through a Cooperative Agreement between EPA and the state or Tribe.

In accordance with 40 CFR 300.415(b)(2), the Trust Funds may be used to undertake immediate removal actions when the agency providing the OSC determines that such action will prevent or mitigate immediate and significant risk of harm to human life or health or to the environment from such situations as:

- Human, animal, or food chain exposure to acutely toxic substances;
- Contamination of a drinking water supply;
- Fire and/or explosion; and
- Similar acute situations.

In the event of a hazardous substance release or imminent threat of a release, the FOSC can obtain access to federal funds through CERCLA.

- The FOSC determines if federal funds are required and requests a spending ceiling and CERCLA Project Number from the NPFC Case Officer/Regional Manager. The FOSC can fund USCG resources contracts, other government agencies, and contractor costs through the CERCLA Project Number (NPFC User Reference Guide, Chapter 3).

CERCLA Access Criteria and Limitations:

- The release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant must impact the environment. “Environment” is defined in CERCLA as

waters of the United States, other surface waters, groundwater, drinking water supply, land surface or subsurface, or ambient air.

- Removal funding is limited to no more than $2,000,000 or 12 months duration. EPA may grant incident-specific waivers to this requirement.
- FOSCs may only obligate less than $250,000 for an incident without an approved Action Memorandum. (See NPFC User Reference Guide, Chapter 3, Section entitled "EPA Superfund Removal Procedures-Action Memorandum Guidance.").
- There is no provision for state access.
- There is no provision for funding pre-assessment phase activities of NRDA.
- Compensation to claimants damaged by hazardous substances is not available.
- The substance must not be oil as defined by 33 United States Code Section 2701(23) (NPFC User Reference Guide, Chapter 3)

Releases of CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances in quantities equal to or greater than their reportable quantity are subject to reporting to the National Response Center (800) 424-8802 under CERCLA (40 CFR Part 300.125(c)). Such releases are also subject to state and local reporting under Section 304 of SARA, Title III (Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)). CERCLA-regulated hazardous substances, and their reportable quantities, are listed in 40 CFR Part 302, Table 302.4.

CERCLA and EPCRA-reportable quantities may also be found in EPA's "List of Lists" at: http://www2.epa.gov/epcra/epcracerclacaa-ss112r-consolidated-list-lists-march-2015-version. Radionuclides listed under CERCLA are provided in a separate list, with Reportable Quantities in Curies.

While there are no statutory reporting requirements for releases of "pollutants or contaminants" for terrorist-related threats, the National Response Center will accept all reports of potential terrorist incidents and pass the report along to the appropriate agencies. All emergencies should also be immediately reported to 911 to activate local law enforcement and response resources.

5820 Funding Authorizations for Other Agencies

Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations

As when responding to oil incidents, the FOSC is encouraged to utilize other agencies and participants within the NRS. FOSCs may fund these authorized activities using PRFAs and other incident-specific funding tools that cite the CERCLA reimbursable funds provided to the FOSC by the NPFC. Some federal agencies receive funding directly from EPA for certain case-specific activity. The FOSC should advise the NPFC case officer of any PRFAs issued to federal agencies to ensure that the Coast Guard is not issuing duplicate funding.

State Access to the CERCLA Fund

Expenditures of Trust Fund money by a state must be performed in accordance with a contract or cooperative agreement between EPA and that state.

Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

When an FOSC makes the determination that a DoD asset or DoD resources are necessary to conduct a response (i.e., U.S. Navy SUPSALV), a MIPR, vice a PRFA, must be established. For more information about establishing a MIPR please refer to NPFC Technical Operating Procedures - Chapter 5 (MIPR).

5830 Trustee Agency Access to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Finance/Cost: • EPA Local Governments Reimbursement Program

States are not eligible for reimbursement from the Superfund and no state may request reimbursement on behalf of political subdivisions within the state.

The EPA will make all decisions regarding the recovery of expenditures from the Superfund. If a federal agency is performing work during a CERCLA emergency response, that work can be funded through an Emergency Funding Authorization (EFA). EFAs require a scope of work and estimates on expenditures and must be submitted to the EPA OSC in advance of costs being incurred.

All agencies expending Superfund money must submit an itemized account of all funds expended in accordance with provisions of contracts, Interagency Agreements (IAA), or Cooperative Agreements with EPA. All EFAs will eventually need to have an IAA established, even after the work is completed.

These agreements must be in place prior to the expenditure of funds. For more information on the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program, please refer to EPA Local Government Reimbursement Program.

5900 Response Documentation Requirements

The NCP outlines broad documentation and cost recovery requirements and can be found for hazardous substance releases in 40 CFR 300.160 and for oil discharges in 40 CFR 300.315. During significant and complex pollution responses, it is encouraged to establish Documentation Unit Leaders to oversee all facets of incident-related documentation.

5910 Incident Action Plans and Incident Documentation

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
ICS Resources: • FEMA ICS Forms • IAP Cover Sheet Template

For pollution incidents, the ACP is the primary spill response plan approved and implemented by the Coast Guard. However, many pollution incidents are part of larger multi-contingency, all-hazard responses, requiring the ACP to be executed concurrently and in coordination with other response plans. Given the all-hazards environment associated with the Maritime Transportation System (MTS) and the Coast Guard's designation as the lead federal agency responsible for protecting the MTS, synchronization of response operations is vital to rapid recovery and national resiliency. Any incident response requires rapid identification of applicable response plans and implementation of relevant strategies, tactics, and procedures. If an IAP is developed, such information must be captured in that plan.

Units must develop and document an IAP for each operational period of a Type 1 and Type 2 incident. Units should document response actions during a Type 3 incident on an IAP, particularly for significant or complex responses, including medium or major discharges/releases. For more guidance on developing the IAP, refer to COMDTINST M3010.24 (series).

The IAP is a foundational tool used in managing spill responses under the ICS. The IAP outlines incident objectives, operational period goals, and the tactical strategies necessary to manage the incident effectively.

The IAP is developed for each operational period by the UC using the standard ICS planning process. It provides clear direction and ensures that response activities across federal, state, Tribal, local, and private entities are coordinated and aligned with established priorities.

An IAP typically includes the following components:

- Incident objectives;
- Organization assignments;
- Operational resources;
- Communications plan; and
- Site map and other relevant documentation.

UC will develop and approve the IAP during incidents requiring a multi-agency response. The UC ensures integration of federal, state, Tribal, local, and RP interests. When consensus cannot be reached, the FOSC retains final decision-making authority.

The IAP ensures:

- All responding agencies work toward shared objectives.
- Tactical resources are deployed efficiently.
- Public messaging is coordinated (e.g., through the JIC when established).
- Logistical and safety considerations are integrated into the response.

All IAPs developed during an incident must remain consistent with the overall objectives established by the UC and any applicable contingency or response plans. Documents and operational records generated by third-party contractors or response organizations in support of incident operations shall be shared with federal, state, and Tribal governments, as appropriate. This ensures transparency, supports unified situational awareness, and facilitates accountability across all participating agencies throughout the response.

5911 Northwest Region Naming Conventions

5911.1 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 discharges:

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.
4. **Date:** May be optional if the spiller has had previous oil spills.

5911.2 Naming Convention for Divisions

ICS Divisions are established to divide an incident into geographical areas of operation. Divisions are determined by the needs of the incident. The most common way to identify Divisions is by using alphabet characters (A, B, C, etc.). Other identifiers may be used as long as the assigned responders know Division identifiers.

NWRCP best management practice naming conventions for Divisions:

- Name the incident/source location Division A.
- Mainland divisions are named with a single alpha character (B to Z) and a three-letter regional identifier (City or County). For example, SKG-B for Skagit County.
- Island divisions are named with double alpha characters (BB to ZZ) proceeded by a three-letter island code. For example, the convention would be SJI – BB for San Juan Island.

Riverbank Divisions are marked on the right descending bank or the left descending bank. Riverbank Divisions typically should not cross rivers. For example, B-L or B-R looking to the mouth of the river. For larger spills the name may be proceeded by a regional identifier.

If a spill occurs at a facility that has pre-designated Divisions for their area of potential impact, those Divisions should be utilized. Pre-identifying Divisions based on the considerations listed above is a best practice under the NWRCP.

5911.3 Naming Convention for Shoreline Segments

Shorelines may be segmented for SCAT programs and other activities supporting a spill response. The segment naming convention should be standardized based on the state, county, local geographic name, segment number, and sub-segment, to include:

- Two-digit alphabetical state code;
- Four-digit alphabetical county code;
- Three-digit alphabetical geographic code;
- Four-digit numeric code for segment number;
- Single-digit alphabetical code (typically lower case) for subsegment, if needed to support operations; and
- Example: WA-KITS-EGL-0015d
    - WA – state
    - KITS – county
    - EGL – geographic segment group = Eagle Harbor (ideally, this will be a unique statewide code, i.e., there will be no other "EGL" geographic codes in Washington; a 3-alpha system allows for [26x26x26] 17,576 alphanumeric options)
    - 0015 – segment number
    - d – operations sub-segment

See the Shoreline Segmentation Guidance for Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) tool for additional guidance.

5911.4 Naming Convention for Task Forces

Task Forces are composed of a combination of mixed resources with common communications operating under the direct supervision of a Task Force Leader. Task Forces are recommended as the initial tactical units to establish in operations. As additional resources and tactics are identified, Task Forces should be moved into Groups and Divisions as needed to maintain span-of-control.

Commonly used "Task Force" numbering conventions

- 1 – 19: Recovery Group
- 20 – 39: Protection Group
- 40 – 59: Shoreline Recovery Group
- 60+: Differentiate per the needs of the response

5920 Consultation Documentation and other Decision Memos

Decision memos should document significant actions, decisions, or non-concurrence during response operations to ensure accountability and informed decision-making. Key decision points to record may include, but are not limited to, marine firefighting strategies, decanting, whale deterrence, compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and no effect memos from the Services, health and human safety measures, the use of alternative technologies, high-risk operational decisions, clean up endpoint decisions, and places of refuge.

Ideally, all members of the UC should sign all decision memos.

5930 Cost Recovery Documentation and Claims

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Finance/Cost: • NPFC User Reference Guide

Through Executive Orders, certain functions of the FWPCA and CERCLA were delegated to EPA and USCG. CERCLA established the Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund for hazardous substance responses (excluding petroleum). Section 311 of the CWA, amended by OPA, created the OSLTF to support petroleum discharge responses, NRDAs, and damage/removal cost claims. Access to both funds is granted via EPA–USCG MOUs.

USCG Commandant Instruction 16465.1 (series) and the NCP outline cost recovery procedures. The Technical Operating Procedures (TOPs) provide guidance for documenting and submitting project financial reports and required forms to the NPFC.

FOSCs must notify NPFC of the discharge source (or unknown source) and any potential RPs as required under 40 CFR §300.315.

Examples of documentation include:

- Notice of Federal Interest (CG-5549);
- Notice of Federal Assumption;
- Notice of Designation;
- Administrative Order; and
- Incident Report and Transmittal.

Reports

- FOSC Reports: As required by the RRT;
- SITREP-POLs (coastal): COMDTINST 16000.14B; and
- POLREPs (inland): EPA Superfund Removal Procedures.

Timekeeping

- Personnel: Time reports must be established during the first operational period, updated daily, signed, and closed out upon demobilization.
- Equipment: Maintain daily logs, post tickets within 4 hours, prepare summary invoices within 12 hours of arrival, and verify usage with the operator.
- Meals: Deployed personnel must annotate reimbursed meals on orders.

Claims and Compensation

The Compensation/Claims Unit oversees all compensation for injury and claims (non-injury).

Claims Against the OSLTF

Except as noted below, all claims for removal costs or damages must be presented first to the responsible party or guarantor of the source.

If a claim is presented and each person to whom the claim is presented denies all liability for the claim; or the claim is not settled by any person by payment within 90 days after the date upon which (A) the claim was presented, or (B) advertising was begun pursuant to 33 CFR 139.306(d), whichever is later, the claimant may elect to commence an action in court against the responsible party or guarantor or to present the claim to the Fund.

Claims for removal costs or damages may be presented first to the Fund only -

- By any claimant, if the Director, NPFC, has advertised, or otherwise notified claimants in writing.
- By an RP who may assert a claim under section 1008 of the Act (33 USC 2708).
- By the governor of a state for removal costs incurred by that State; or
- By a U.S. claimant in a case where a foreign offshore unit has discharged oil causing damage for which the Fund is liable under section 1012(a) of the Act (33 USC 2712 (a))

Covered categories (as defined in 33 CFR Part 136):

- Removal costs;
- Property damage (real/personal);
- Loss of profits/earning capacity;
- Loss of subsistence use;
- Loss of government revenue;
- Increased public service costs; and
- Damages to natural resources.

More guidance is available in the NPFC Claimant's Guide.

5950 Post Spill Consultation

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Command: • Response Partner Rols and Contacts **Planning:** • NHPA Compliance Guide • Resources at Risk Response Tools **Wildlife:** • Northwest Wildlife Response Plan

For actions not covered by a pre-spill consultation that are used, or are considered for use during an emergency response, the FOSC must follow ESA and/or Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) emergency response procedures and complete ESA and/or EFH consultations in collaboration with the Services once the emergency phase of the response has ended. To the extent applicable, post-spill NHPA Section 106 consultations with the SHPO (and possibly others) would also need to be completed if not initiated or completed during the emergency phase.

The following annexes and tools contain more information regarding post spill consultations:

- Annex C: Fish and Wildlife;
- Response Partner Roles and Contacts tool;
- Northwest Wildlife Response Plan;
- NHPA Compliance Guide; and
- Resources at Risk Response Tools.

6000 RESPONSE RESOURCES

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Response Procedures and Equipment: • USCG Response Resource Inventory System • Ecology Spills Map • Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)

The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) to require the preparation and submission of response plans by the owners or operators of certain oil-handling facilities and for certain oil-carrying tank and non-tank vessels (referred to here as plan holders). These plan holders are required to submit response plans that identify and ensure, through contracts or other approved means (e.g., letters of intent), the availability resources (i.e., personnel and equipment) necessary to remove a worst-case discharge (WCD), including a discharge resulting from fire or explosion, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge. Additional response resources for marine firefighting and salvage are identified in Annex E, Salvage and Marine Firefighting.

6100 Oil Spill Removal Organizations and Equipment

OPA reaffirmed the principle that the primary source of oil discharge preparedness and response capability in the United States (U.S.) should be implemented and maintained by the private sector. It is not, nor should it be, the Coast Guard's intent to compete with the commercial oil and hazardous substances pollution response industry. USCG pre-positioned response equipment, other publicly-owned equipment, and related initiatives are intended to supplement the commercial response industry when private resources are not readily available and until the FOSC or UC releases those resources.

Sector Puget Sound (SPS) also partners with Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) who maintains one response trailer throughout the Puget Sound planning area. This trailer is located at the Department of Ecology's Headquarters in Lacey, Washington.

6110 Oil Spill Removal Organization Classification Program and State-Approved Primary Response Contractors

6110.1 Federal Requirements: OSRO Classification

At the federal level, the USCG has established a voluntary classification program Oil Spill Removal Organizations for (OSRO)s. This program allows plan holders to cite classified OSROs in their federal oil spill response plans instead of submitting detailed inventories of response equipment and personnel. A Coast Guard classification indicates that an OSRO has demonstrated the capacity to meet or exceed the federal response capabilities required under applicable statutes and regulations. Plan holders who rely on classified OSROs are considered to meet federal planning standards. For more details, see the USCG OSRO Guidelines.

6110.2 State Requirements: Primary Response Contractor Approval

Washington State approves Primary Response Contractors (PRCs) for inclusion in state-required oil spill contingency plans. PRCs are companies or cooperatives with trained personnel and equipment that respond to oil discharges. They maintain pre-staged equipment caches strategically located throughout the region to meet state-specific planning standards, which may exceed federal requirements in some cases. Visit Ecology's website for a list of state-approved PRCs.

6120 Response Resource Inventory Database

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Response Procedures and Equipment: • USCG Response Resource Inventory System • Ecology Spills Map • Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)

As part of maintaining their classification, OSROs may provide detailed lists of their response resources to the Response Resource Inventory (RRI) database. The National

Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) administers this database, along with the OSRO classification program. The RRI database is the backbone of the classification program and its capabilities are two-fold: a classification element and an inventory function. The classification element of the RRI database complements the Facility Response Plan and Vessel Response Plan development and review processes by systematically classifying OSROs' response capabilities to meet the plan holders' response capability requirements. An OSRO's classification levels (Maximum Most Probable Discharge and WCD Tiers 1, 2 & 3) are based on its ability to meet time delivery requirements for containment boom, temporary storage capacity, and skimmer capacity.

Once the OSRO enters data into the system, the RRI database translates the information into an estimated daily recovery capacity that determines an OSRO's level of classification for each of the six operating areas (Rivers/Canals, Great Lakes, Inland, Nearshore, Offshore, and Open Ocean) in a particular Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone.

The inventory function of the RRI database makes a great deal of information available to response and contingency planning personnel; it not only outlines the locations and amount of "core equipment" (boom, skimmers, temporary storage), but includes other important support equipment including vessels, dispersant application platforms, aerial oil tracking capabilities and personnel. Administrator login privileges are required to access the inventory functions of the RRI database. These privileges are issued by the NSFCC and are limited to members of the USCG and those OSRO members designated by their company to maintain the equipment inventory.

The publicly available site is NSFCC Response Resource Inventory Public Classification Reports (uscg.mil).

6121 Worldwide Response Resource List

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-182-800 requires PRCs to maintain a current inventory of response equipment by listing resources in the Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL), or by providing an equivalent electronic equipment list. The WRRL is a

centralized, web-based system that catalogs oil spill response equipment available throughout the Northwest Region, supporting rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response operations. Contingency plan holders in Washington State have access to this database to identify, evaluate, and mobilize response resources. The WRRL outlines various types of response equipment maintained by participating private and public response organizations.

State agencies and industry representatives use the WRRL database to support response and preparedness activities to:

- Locate and order response equipment during a drill or spill;
- Provide an overall picture of the region's response resources;
- Develop and review oil spill contingency plans; and
- Evaluate contingency plan adequacy through planning standards.

To access a map of response equipment in the Northwest, see this link: Response Resource Map

To access the WRRL database, see this link: WRRL

6130 Classified Oil Spill Response Organization Listings for the Area/Captain of the Port Zone

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
By State: • Ecology Approved Primary Response Contractors

The USCG NSFCC maintains a portion of the RRI database that provides open, public access to OSRO classification reports. To view OSROs classified within the SPS COTP Zone, see to the RRI: https://cgrri.uscg.mil/PublicClassificationReports.aspx Note: The RRI is not all-inclusive of every response organization available.

Separately, Washington State requires PRCs to be approved by Ecology for inclusion in state oil spill contingency plans and maintains a list of approved PRCs. This state-level

designation includes additional regulatory compliance, equipment standards, and response time requirements specific to Washington's spill prevention and response framework.

Washington State's site to view approved PRCs: https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/primary-response-contractors

6131 Basic Ordering Agreements

The USCG's Logistics Command (LOGCOM) maintains pre-established basic ordering agreements (BOAs) with OSROs nationwide. These contracts allow an FOSC to quickly activate pollution response services during oil or hazardous substance incidents. Use of BOAs is optional, and non-BOA providers may be used if necessary. LOGCOM contracting officers are available 24/7 to support response operations.

6140 Oil Spill Response Cooperatives and Consortiums

There are numerous industry-funded major oil spill response cooperatives and consortiums in the United States today. Unlike a classified OSRO, which is hired by a single plan holder to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, these organizations are formed to provide pollution response services to companies from the oil and gas industry that elect to become members and pay for the coverage or service. Each consortium or cooperative makes the decision about the type and quantity of equipment they offer to their member clients. This equipment is often highly specialized and tailored to allow them to internally meet WCD planning standards. Some local examples include the following:

- Washington State Maritime Cooperative; and
- Marine Spill Response Corporation.

6200 Hazardous Substances Response Resources

This segment of the ACP provides general guidelines for initial response actions necessary to abate, contain, control and remove the released substance and describes some of the unique issues associated with a hazardous substance release. Hazardous substance response is outlined within Subpart E of the National Contingency Plan. 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300 Subpart E establishes methods and criteria for determining the appropriate extent of response authorized by Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 311(c). These include:

- When there is a release of a hazardous substance into the environment; or
- When there is a release into the environment of any pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health and welfare of the United States.

Many hazardous substances have a potential to impact human health and their handling requires special training. In general, oil discharges are of great concern due to their potential to cause long-term damage to the environment. However, oil discharges do not routinely pose an immediate threat to human life. On the contrary, hazardous substance releases can pose an immediate danger to humans when released in even the smallest quantities.

The definition of a hazardous substance is: Any substance designated as such by the administrator of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to CERCLA (40 CFR Part 302), regulated pursuant to Section 311(c) of the federal CWA (40 CFR Parts 116 and 117 et seq.).

More information on area specific Hazardous Substance response can be found in Annex D, Hazardous Substances.

6300 Salvage and Marine Firefighting Resources

Contacts for Salvage References and Support:

The Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) can provide the services of naval architects, may provide the services of naval salvage vessels, and has access to contracts that will provide the services of commercial salvors and equipment. SUPSALV has developed and has available software for rapid analysis of longitudinal strength and intact/damaged stability; the software is known as Program of Ship Salvage Engineering (POSSE).

- Navy Supervisor of Salvage:
  - Supervisor of Salvage Operations (202) 781-2736
  - After hours and on weekends (NAVSEA Duty Officer) (202) 781-3889
  - Switchboard (202) 781-1731
  - Office of the Director of Ocean Engineering SUPSALV http://www.supsalv.org

The USCG Marine Safety Center Salvage Emergency Response Team can evaluate vessel stability, hull strength, and salvage plans and may be available to go on scene. The Marine Safety Center may be able to provide vessel plans, if the ship is U.S. flagged.

- USCG Marine Safety Center Salvage Team:
  - During business hours: (202) 327-3985 Duty email: SERT.Duty@uscg.mil
  - After hours, contact the USCG Headquarters Command Center: (202) 327-3985

The United States Army Corps of Engineers can respond to floating logs, debris, and navigational hazards, including derelict vessels up to 30 feet in length. A majority of this response work is conducted by the vessel PUGET, a 104-foot vessel with a 20-ton crane, typically moored at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle.

- United States Army Corps of Engineers:
  - Vessel PUGET Supervisor: 206-498-8795
  - Vessel PUGET Captain: 206-399-0358

Contacts for Firefighting and Support:

Location	Point of Contact	Phone No.	Name	Notes
Cap Sante Marina	Anacortes Police Department	360-428-3211	PD Boat	32 ft. inner harbor, 250 gpm
Shelter Bay	Swinomish Tribe	360-428-3211		32 ft. inner harbor, 250 gpm
Squalicum Harbor	Bellingham Fire Department	360-676-6814	Salish Star	38 ft., Draft 22 in., 30 gallons AFFF, 3,000 gpm
Station 3	Seattle, WA	206-386-1498	Chief Seattle	96 ft. Draft 7 ft., 700 gallons AFFF, 10,000 gpm
Station 3	Seattle, WA	206-386-1498	Fireboat 1	50 ft., Draft 26 in., 204 gallons AFFF, 6,000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	206-386-1498	Leshi	108 ft., Draft 10 ft., 8 monitors, 6,000 gallons Novacool, 22,000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	206-386-1498	Fireboat 2	50 ft., Draft 26 in., 204 gallons AFFF, 6,000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	206-386-1498	Rescue Boat 5	28 ft. High Speed Water Rescue
Friday Harbor Marina	San Juan Island Fire and Rescue	360-378-4141	Sentinel	38 ft., Draft 3.5 ft., Landing Craft, Available to Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties and the Canadian Gulf Islands, 1,500 gpm
Thea Foss Waterway	Tacoma FD	253-627-0151	Commencement	70 ft., Draft 3.5 ft On Cushion, 2 Monitors, 7,100 gpm
Des Moines Marina	Tacoma FD	253-627-0151	Defiance	50 ft., Jet Drive, 100 gallons AFFF, 7,000 gpm
PT Defiance	Tacoma FD	253-627-0151	Destine	30 ft., Jet Drive, 15 gallons AFFF, 1,750 gpm

AFFF = aqueous film-forming foam

ft = foot (feet)

gpm = gallons per minute

For additional information, see Annex E, Salvage and Marine Firefighting.

7000 RESPONSE TECHNOLOGIES

An effective response to environmental emergencies - particularly oil discharges and hazardous substance releases - relies heavily on the rapid deployment of appropriate response technologies. This chapter of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) provides a comprehensive overview of the methods and strategies available for mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of such incidents, as well as region-specific information regarding the use of these technologies. By outlining the capabilities, limitations, and operational considerations for various response technologies, this chapter serves as a key resource for responders and planners working to protect sensitive resources and restore affected areas.

7100 Response Technologies for Oil Spill Response

While mechanical methods—like booms and skimmers—are the primary tools for oil spill cleanup, other technologies such as chemical dispersants, surface washing agents, bioremediation products, and in situ burning (ISB) may also be used when appropriate.

The National Contingency Plan (NCP) requires Regional Response Teams (RRTs) and Area Committees to consider whether and how these alternative tools should be used as part of their planning efforts. Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) has developed policies to guide their approval and use. Many of these technologies may require RRT notification and/or approval prior to deploying the technology.

Under the NCP:

- Pre-Authorization Plans can be developed during planning, which outline when and how certain agents may be used. These plans must be reviewed and approved (or modified) by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and appropriate state, Tribal, and federal natural resource trustees.
- During a response, the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) can approve the use of certain agents—such as dispersants or bioremediation products—with the agreement of EPA and the appropriate state agency, and in consultation with natural

resource trustees from the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) through NOAA and the Department of the Interior (DOI).

- The FOSC will consult as early as practicable with Tribal governments whose treaty-reserved rights or other legally protected interests may be affected and, when conditions permit, before selecting or deploying the response technology. When immediate action is required, consultation will occur concurrently or as soon as conditions allow.
- In life-threatening emergencies, the FOSC can use these agents without prior approval if it's necessary to protect human life under a limited and temporary exception pursuant to 40 CFR § 300.910(d).

The use of these agents must follow federal rules:

- Products like dispersants and bioremediation agents must be listed on EPA's NCP Product Schedule. Burning agents are an exception and are not listed.
- The Product Schedule is not an automatic approval—authorization to use these products must still go through the appropriate decision-making process, unless urgent human safety is at risk.

In areas near the United States (U.S.)-Canada border, decisions must also involve the Joint Coastal Pollution Response Team through the involvement of the RRT.

For additional information, see the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP) Section 4600, Response Technologies for Oil Spills and the Oil Spill Best Management Practices Tool.

7110 Dispersant Use

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • FOSC Dispersant Standard Conditions Checklist • RRT10 Record of Dispersant Decision • Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools • NOAA Dispersant Application Observer Job Aid • Operations Section Dispersants Guidance Tool • RRT10 Record of Dispersant Decision • EU Dispersant Recommendation Memo to UC **Mapping and GIS:** • RRT10 Dispersant Policy Map

The preferred and most common technique for removing discharged oil from marine waters is the use of containment booming and mechanical skimmers. Chemical dispersants are an alternative to mechanical recovery. Dispersants are chemical agents, similar to soaps and detergents, that break up an oil slick into very small droplets that mix into the water column rather than remaining at the surface.

Once applied, dispersants chemically modify the oil so it disperses into the water. Dispersed oil is not recovered but removing it from the surface reduces risks to surface-dwelling and shoreline wildlife and ecological resources that are most at risk. Increased concentrations of oil in the water column may expose some resources not otherwise exposed, but dilution and biodegradation can quickly reduce toxic exposures. Naturally occurring hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria rapidly break down the small droplets of oil. Dispersants are not suitable for all situations; their effectiveness depends on oil type, ocean conditions, dispersant formulation, application strategy, and other factors.

Dispersants are usually sprayed onto spilled oil by specialized vessels or aircraft. Conditions favoring their use include rapid response to large offshore spills, incidents far from response equipment stockpiles, situations where conventional containment and recovery are insufficient given the spill scale or weather and sea conditions to adequately

prevent nearshore and shoreline impacts; or when severe weather makes mechanical recovery unsafe or ineffective.

The application of this chemical countermeasure can be a critical element in preventing significant oiling of sensitive habitats during an oil spill response. Before a dispersant can be used, it must first be listed on the NCP Product Schedule.

7110.1 Dispersant Use Approval

As identified by RRT10, the dispersant policy is subdivided into three authorization zones: Pre-Authorization Zone, Case-by-Case Authorization Zone, and No Use Zones. Additional clarification on the dispersant policy is in Section 4500 of the NWRCP. The RRT10/Northwest Area Committees (NWACs) Dispersant Use Zone Summary Table can be reviewed in Section 4614 of the NWRCP.

The dispersant authorization process and dispersant decision tools can be found in the Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools.

7110.1.1 Dispersant Pre-Authorization Zone

Within a designated Pre-Authorization Zone, the FOSC may authorize the use of dispersants without further concurrence or consultation with the RRT. Typically, the FOSC working in a Unified Command (UC) will trigger a process to evaluate the applicability of dispersant use by setting that as an objective, ideally during the initial UC Objectives meeting. It is expected that the FOSC Checklist will be completed by the technical specialists within the Environmental Unit, with input from appropriate members of the Operations Section, Liaison, and Information Officer, as needed. The RRT will be notified by the FOSC as soon as practicable following a dispersant use decision.

The Dispersant Pre-Authorization Zone is defined as follows:

United States marine waters 3-200 nautical miles offshore, outside Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca or an island shoreline, excluding:

- National Marine Sanctuary waters;
- Makah Tribe U&A marine area;
- Waters within 3 nautical miles of the U.S.-Canada border; and
- Waters within 3 nautical miles of the Makah Tribe U&A marine area.

For Dispersant Pre-Authorization Zones, there is no additional guidance required from the RRT prior to the application of dispersants within a Pre-Authorization Zone. The FOSC Checklist will be completed prior to use of dispersants. An Incident After-Action Report (AAR) will be provided by the FOSC to all interested RRT members after the emergency response is over.

7110.1.2 Dispersant Case-By-Case Authorization Zones

According to Section 300.910(b) of the NCP, in all areas outside the Pre-Authorization Zone, FOSC authorization to use dispersants requires the concurrence of EPA and state representatives to the RRT with jurisdiction over the waters threatened by the release or discharge, and consultation with the DOI and DOC representatives to the RRT. It is the policy of RRT10 to also consult with appropriate Tribal governments with off-reservation treaty rights in the navigable waters threatened by a release or discharge of oil, when practicable. The FOSC and UC should forward the completed Dispersant Recommendation Memo along with the RRT Record of Decision Memo to the RRT for consideration in their concurrence and consultation process. A decision from the RRT on dispersant use is expected within 2 hours of activation.

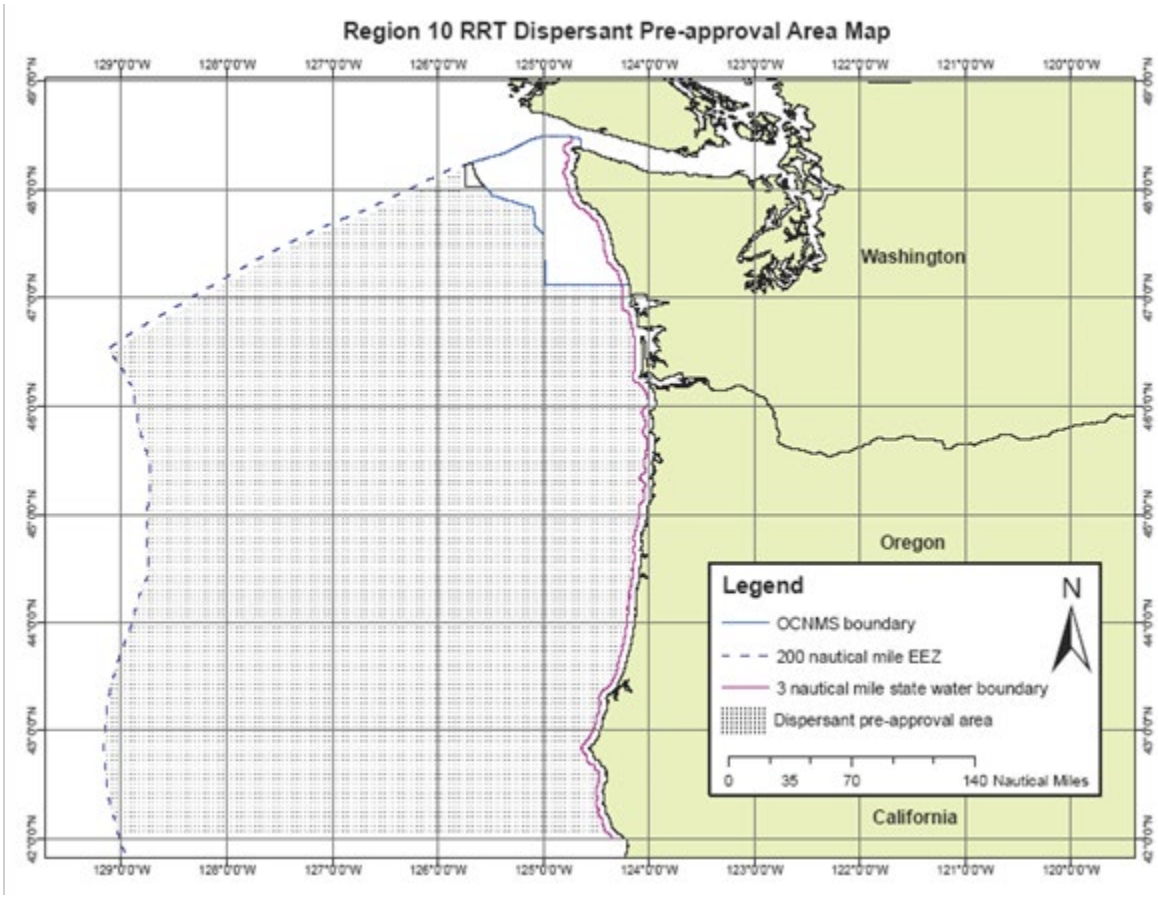


Figure 7110-1 Dispersant Pre-Authorization Zone

The Dispersant Case-by-Case Authorization Zones are defined as follows:

- All U.S. marine waters in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca that are both within 3 nautical miles of the coastline or an island shoreline and greater than 10 fathoms (60 feet) in depth, except any area located within a designated No Dispersant Use Zone (see Section 7110.1.3 below).
- Waters designated as a part of a National Marine Sanctuary that are also greater than 10 fathoms (60 feet) in depth.
- Waters designated as part of the Makah Tribe U&A marine area that are also greater than 10 fathoms (60 feet) in depth.
- Waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and North Puget Sound from Point Wilson to Admiralty Head and north, and greater than 10 fathoms (60 feet) in depth.
- Marine waters within 3 miles of the borders of the Makah Tribe U&A marine area and the Country of Canada. In consideration of the use of dispersants within 3 miles of

the Makah Tribe U&A marine area, RRT10 will consult with the Makah Tribal government. In considering the use of dispersants within 3 miles of the international border with Canada, RRT10 will consult with the Coastal Joint Response Team, composed of representatives of the United States and Canadian governments.

For areas in a Case-by-Case Authorization Zone, in order to authorize the use of dispersants, the FOSC will prepare a recommendation memo and request an activation of RRT10 for a decision. The purpose of the activation is for the FOSC to outline the basis for the request to authorize dispersant use, and pursuant to 300.910(b) of the NCP, seek concurrence from the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge. This activation will also serve as consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees. It is the policy of RRT10 to also consult with appropriate Tribal governments with off-reservation treaty rights in navigable waters threatened by a release or discharge of oil, when practicable. Oil trajectory, potential impact areas, and the respective sensitivities of the resources at risk in those areas should be considered. The RRT members will sign the Record of Decision memo and send it to the FOSC. An Incident AAR will be provided to all interested RRT member agencies after the emergency response is over. An outline of suggested information to include in an Incident AAR is provided in the Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools.

7110.1.3 No Dispersant Use Zones

Within the RRT10 and NWACs area of responsibility (AOR), there are locations where the RRT and NWACs have determined that dispersant use is not appropriate. In these areas, dispersants may be used only if, in the judgment of the FOSC, they are required to prevent or substantially reduce a hazard to human life. In such cases, the FOSC should document this determination. The FOSC will notify the RRT Co-Chairs as soon as practicable following a dispersant use decision and an AAR will be completed.

The No Dispersant Use Zones are as follows:

- Marine waters that are both less than three nautical miles from the coastline and less than or equal to 10 fathoms (60 feet) in depth; and

- Freshwater environments.

An Incident AAR, including relevant information on the spill and the dispersant application, will be provided to all interested RRT member agencies after the emergency response is complete. An outline of suggested information to include in an Incident AAR is provided in the Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools.

7110.2 Guidance When Using Dispersants

Approved dispersants are listed in the NCP Product Schedule (https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/ncp-product-schedule-productsavailable-use-oil-spills) as per Subpart J. In the Northwest, dispersant stockpiles are maintained by some of the Oil Spill Removal Organizations.

As a best practice, and if time allows, before dispersant applications proceed, a small test should be conducted in which dispersants are sprayed on a portion of the slick. Once dispersant operations are underway, a monitoring/observation program should be established to monitor the safety of operations, and observations of wildlife in the area, in addition to Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) protocols for the effectiveness of the application. SMART protocols are detailed in Section 7130.

(http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/SMART_protocol.pdf).

Operations will develop Daily Operational Plans using these guidelines as a minimum:

- Dispersant must only be applied by experienced spray applicators and in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- The persons applying dispersant are responsible for the calibration and operation of the spraying system and the safety and maintenance of the application platform.
- Droplet size is the key variable influencing dispersant effectiveness. Undersized droplets (e.g., fog or mist) will be lost through drift and evaporation. Oversized droplets will punch through the oil and be lost in the water column.
- Only undiluted concentrate dispersant is applied from an aircraft. Dispersant should, where possible, be applied into the wind and parallel with the slick.

- Dispersant should be applied in a methodical and continuous manner to ensure that the entire target area is treated.
- Spraying effort should concentrate on the thickest sections, and/or the leading edges, of oil that threatens sensitive areas. Use visual observation or remote sensing to locate the thickest concentrations of oil.
- Thick portions of the slick may require several applications. Oil sheen should not be sprayed with dispersant.
- In general, aerial application is preferred over vessel application. The altitude of the aircraft should be as low as possible.

Dispersant applications must be monitored to confirm whether their use is effective. The SMART protocols are accepted for monitoring dispersant applications and should be utilized. However, dispersant applications should not be delayed simply because monitoring is not in place. The policy of the RRT is that visual observation (Tier 1 of SMART) is the minimum level of monitoring during a dispersant application. Once a dispersant application operation is a potential option, the Operations Section should immediately request deployment of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Strike Team to the spill site if dispersant use is likely. The Strike Team maintains monitoring capabilities for SMART and can typically deploy a team within 2 hours of notification. The USCG FOSC will typically deploy the Strike Team.

A decision to end dispersant application due to poor effectiveness should ideally be based on SMART monitoring results. Review all aspects of the application and monitoring for possible reasons why dispersant application may be ineffective, including:

- Dispersant formulation;
- Application ratios (increase or decrease oil: dispersant ratio);
- Application methods;
- Monitoring methods;
- Interpretation of monitoring results;
- Oil weathering; and
- Weather conditions.

See Section 7130 (SMART Monitoring for Dispersants) of this ACP and NWRCP Section 4500 (Dispersants) for additional information.

7120 National Contingency Plan Product Schedule

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • NCP Subpart J Product Schedule

EPA prepares and maintains the NCP Subpart J Product Schedule, which lists dispersants and other chemical and biological agents that may be authorized for use on oil spills.

Sinking agents are not listed on the Product Schedule. Burning agents are addressed within the NCP but are not listed on the Product Schedule.

The Product Schedule includes the following categories of chemical agents or additives:

- *Bioremediation agents* are biological agents and/or nutrient additives deliberately introduced into a contaminated environment to increase the rate of biodegradation and mitigate any deleterious effects caused by the contaminant constituents. Bioremediation agents include microorganisms, enzymes, and nutrient additives such as fertilizers containing bioavailable forms of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
- *Dispersants* are substances that emulsify, disperse, or solubilize oil by promoting the formation of small droplets or particles of oil in the water column.
- *Herding agents* are substances that form a film on the water surface to control the spreading of the oil to allow for oil removal.
- *Surface washing agents* are substances that separate oil from solid surfaces, such as beaches, rocks, metals, or concrete, through a detergency mechanism that lifts and floats oil. Product and oil are generally to be collected and recovered from the environment with minimal dissolution, dispersion, or transfer into the water column.
- *Solidifiers* are substances that through a chemical reaction cause oil to become a cohesive mass, preventing oil from dissolving or dispersing into the water column. Solidifiers are generally collected and recovered from the environment.

Any of these chemical response measures may warrant consideration during a response, depending on conditions. All require approval in accordance with the NCP.

Per 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 300.920(e), the listing of a product on the Product Schedule does not mean that EPA approves, recommends, licenses, certifies, or authorizes the use of the product on an oil discharge. The listing means only that data has been submitted to EPA as required by 40 CFR 300.915. For the most current listing of approved substances for use, refer to the NCP Product Schedule.

Before any chemical countermeasure may be used, the FOSC must first seek RRT10 approval through the consultation and concurrence process or have its use preauthorized. The only temporary exception to this is when the FOSC determines use is necessary to prevent or substantially reduce a hazard to human life (the provision listed in 40 CFR 300.910(d)).

7130 Special Monitoring of Dispersants (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies Protocols)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) Protocols

Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) is a cooperatively designed monitoring program for ISB and dispersants. SMART relies on small, highly mobile teams that collect real-time data using portable, rugged, and easy-to-use instruments during dispersant operations. Data are channeled to the UC to address critical questions:

- Are dispersants effective in dispersing the oil?
- Having monitoring data can assist the UC with decision-making for dispersant operations.

It is the policy of the RRT10 and NWACs that the SMART protocols will be used, to the extent possible, for monitoring after the application of dispersants. Additional details on

the SMART protocols may be found at http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/smart. To monitor the efficacy of dispersant application, SMART recommends three options, or tiers, described below:

Tier I

A trained observer flying over the oil slick assesses dispersant efficacy and reports back to the UC. Tier I monitoring, at a minimum, must be conducted during any dispersant application.

Tier II

Tier II provides real-time data from the treated slick. A sampling team on a boat uses a fluorimeter to continuously monitor for dispersed oil 1 meter under the dispersant-treated slick. The team records and conveys fluorimeter data, with recommendations, to the UC. Water samples will be taken for later chemical analysis at a laboratory.

Tier III

By expanding the monitoring efforts in several ways, Tier III provides information on the dispersed oil movement and fate. (1) Two fluorimeters are used on the same vessel to monitor at two water depths; (2) Monitoring is conducted in the center of the treated slick at several water depths, from one to ten meters; and (3) A portable water laboratory provides data on water temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity.

SMART establishes a monitoring system for the rapid collection of real-time information to assist the FOSC and/or UC in assessing the efficacy, health, and safety of dispersant operations and decision-making during ISB operations. FOSC and/or UCs shall follow the SMART monitoring guidelines during dispersant operations. The FOSC and/or UC, in consultation with the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, may develop revised monitoring protocols to address incident specific needs. The Strike Teams have special capabilities and trained personnel to perform SMART monitoring. FOSCs are highly

encouraged to request National Strike Force assistance if applied response technologies are being considered as a response tactic.

For more information, see the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration webpage (https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/smart.html)

For additional information on SMART protocols for dispersant use, see the Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools.

7140 In Situ Burning

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • EU In Situ Burn Recommendation Memo • EU In Situ Burn Preauthorization Zone Worksheet • EU In Situ Burn Case by Case Zone Worksheet • In Situ Burning Operations Planning Tool • In Situ Burn Preliminary Operational Feasibility Worksheet **Mapping and GIS:** • RRT10 In-Situ Burning Policy Map

ISB removes oil from the water surface by burning it in place. This response technique converts floating oil into combustion gases and particulate matter (PM) that are dispersed into the atmosphere. Under specific conditions, ISB may provide a rapid, logistically simple, and effective means of reducing shoreline impacts and environmental damage from discharged oil, particularly when mechanical recovery or other response options are infeasible or would result in greater environmental harm. Because a significant portion of the oil is converted to gaseous combustion products, the need for collection, storage, transportation, and disposal of recovered material may be substantially reduced. While ISB reduces the threat posed by on-water oil, it introduces potential impacts associated with airborne emissions; therefore, public health, safety, and environmental considerations must be evaluated prior to use.

For ISB operations, oil floating on the water surface must typically be contained into slicks of sufficient thickness (generally 2–3 millimeters) to sustain combustion. Containment may be achieved using specialized fire-resistant boom ("fire boom") or natural barriers such as shoreline features. On land, oil may be burned on combustible substrates (e.g., vegetation, logs, debris); oil on non-combustible substrates may require the use of a burn promoter. Emulsified oils or oils with high water content may not ignite or sustain a burn. In certain circumstances, such as spills occurring in ice conditions, ISB may be the only viable response option.

For RRT10's ISB Policy and Plan, as well as additional guidance, see NWRCP Section 4617 (Region 10 In Situ Burning Policy and Plan) through section 4619 (Protocols for In Situ Burning Policy and Plan).

7140.1 ISB Authorization and Decision Framework

Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) provides that the FOSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) and the RRT representatives of the state(s) with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with DOC and DOI trustee representatives to RRT10, may authorize the use of burning agents on oil spills on a preauthorized or case-by-case basis (40 CFR 300.910(c)).

Federally-recognized Tribes will be afforded substantially the same treatment as states (40 CFR 300.5 *State*). Accordingly, Tribal representation will be required for pre-authorization concurrence or concurrence on a case-by-case basis for the application of burning agents in waters under tribal jurisdiction.

When ISB is being considered, the FOSC/UC shall follow the RRT10 In Situ Burning Decision Tree (Figure 4000-3), the Protocols for In Situ Burning (NWRCP Section 4619), and the guidance provided in the In Situ Burning Operations Planning Tool.

7140.2 In Situ Burning Zones

7140.2.1 ISB Pre-Authorization Zone

The ISB Pre-Authorization Zone is defined as areas located more than three (3) miles from human population centers. Human population is defined as 100 people per square mile. Within the Pre-Authorization Zone, the FOSC/UC is authorized by RRT10 to:

- Ignite spilled oil without the use of burning agents under appropriate conditions.
- Utilize burning agents, when conditions are suitable, in accordance with the RRT10 ISB Pre-Authorization Plan.

7140.2.2 ISB Case-by-Case Zone

The ISB Case-by-Case Zone includes areas within three (3) miles of human population centers, defined as 100 people per square mile. In this zone, the following applies:

Without RRT10 approval

- Ignite discharged oil without the use of burning agents under appropriate conditions.
- Use burning agents when, in the judgment of the FOSC, their use is necessary to prevent or substantially reduce a hazard to human life, pursuant to the requirements of 40 CFR 300.910(d).

7140.2.3 With RRT10 approval

- Use burning agents to initiate or sustain ISB operations, subject to any constraints established by RRT10.

For additional guidance on consultation requirements during an incident response, see NWRCP section 4618.2. (Open Water and Inland Zone Case-by-Case Zones for In Situ Burning).

7140.3 ISB Application and Documentation

Once the FOSC/UC determines that ISB should be considered, the In Situ Burn Preliminary Feasibility Analysis Worksheet shall be completed to assess operational and environmental suitability. If conditions are appropriate:

- For spills in the Pre-authorization Zone, the ISB Application (short form; Section 9407, Tool 3) shall be completed after or concurrent with burn operations and submitted to RRT10 members for documentation and informational purposes.
- For spills in the Case-by-Case Zone, the ISB Application (long form; Section 9407, Tool 4) shall be completed and submitted to RRT10 for authorization prior to initiating burning operations, unless no burning agents will be used and ignition only is proposed.

For additional information, see NWRCP Section 4619 (Protocols for In Situ Burning Policy and Plan).

7140.4 Equipment Requirements

Typical equipment required for ISB operations includes, but is not limited to:

- Fire-resistant boom (minimum 500 feet);
- Ignition source;
- Two vessels capable of deploying and towing fire boom;
- Tow lines (minimum 300 feet for crew safety); and
- Air monitoring equipment.

7150 Special Monitoring of In Situ Burning (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies Protocols)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) Protocols

SMART is a cooperatively designed monitoring program for ISB and dispersants. SMART relies on small, highly mobile teams that collect real-time data using portable, rugged, and easy-to-use instruments during operations. Data are channeled to the UC to address effectiveness or if airborne particulate concentrations at sensitive locations exceed the level of concern. Having monitoring data can assist the UC with decision-making for operations. The USCG National Strike Force maintains qualified personnel and equipment to perform SMART.

SMART **should not** be construed as a regulatory requirement, but has been well-established as a best practice available for the FOSC or UC to assist in decision-making. While every effort should be made to implement SMART, or parts of SMART, in a timely manner, **ISB operations should not be delayed solely** to allow the deployment of the SMART teams. This is particularly the case where ISB operations are authorized or approved by the FOSC in accordance with applicable regulations in the NCP; or regional contingency plans; or where other incident- or location-specific monitoring protocols have been established for ISB operations.

General Considerations

In general, SMART is conducted when there is a concern that the general public may be exposed to smoke from the burning oil. Accordingly, monitoring should be conducted when predicted smoke plume trajectories indicate that smoke may reach population centers, and when ground-level particulate concentrations may exceed safe levels. Monitoring is not required when such impacts are not anticipated.

Execution of ISB has a narrow window of opportunity. It is imperative that the monitoring teams are alerted of possible ISB and SMART operations as soon as burning is being considered, even if implementation is not certain. This increases the likelihood of timely and orderly SMART operations.

Team Deployment

The UC–led monitoring teams will collect air monitoring/sampling data using the RRT10–Modified SMART Protocol. These data will be shared with the state, local, and/or tribal air agencies responsible for the areas with regulatory monitors/samplers potentially impacted by smoke plumes resulting from ISB operations.

Monitoring locations are dictated by the potential for smoke exposure to human and environmentally sensitive areas. Taking into account the prevailing winds and atmospheric conditions, the location and magnitude of the burn, modeling output (if available), the

location of population centers, and input from state and local health officials, the monitoring teams are deployed where the potential exposure to the smoke may be most substantial (sensitive locations). Precise monitoring locations should be flexible and determined on a case-by-case basis. In general, one team is deployed at the upwind edge of a sensitive location. A second team is deployed at the downwind end of this location. Both teams remain at their designated locations, moving only to improve sampling capabilities. Each team uses a real-time particulate monitor capable of detecting the small particulates emitted by the burn (RRT Region 10 will monitor both PM 2.5 or smaller and PM 10 or smaller), a global positioning system, and other equipment required for collecting and documenting the data.

ICS Operations

SMART activities are directed by the Operations Section Chief in the Incident Command System (ICS). It is recommended that a "group" be formed in the Operations Section that directs the monitoring effort. The head of this group is the Monitoring Group Supervisor. Under each group there are monitoring teams. At a minimum, each monitoring team consists of two trained members: a monitor and assistant monitor. The monitor serves as the team leader. The teams report to the Monitoring Group Supervisor who directs and coordinates team operations, under the control of the Operations Section Chief.

The observation and monitoring data will flow from the Monitoring Teams to the Monitoring Group Supervisor, who then forwards the data to the ISB technical specialist (within the Planning Section). The ISB technical specialist or his/her representative reviews the data and, most importantly, formulates recommendations based on the data. The technical specialist communicates these recommendations to the UC.

Levels of Concern

In the SPS planning area, a conservative upper limit of 35 micrograms of PM 2.5 per cubic meter of air, averaged over one hour, will be used. The monitoring teams should utilize the time-weighted average readings to determine the approach or exceeding of the levels of

concern, due to the inherently less variability of the measurement. The UC must determine early on in the response what conditions, in addition to the levels of concern, justify termination of a burn or other action to protect public health. The UC should work closely with local Public Health organizations in determining burn termination thresholds.

For additional information, please refer to the In-Situ Burning Operations Planning Tool.

7160 Surface Washing Agents

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Alternative Technologies: • EU Surface Washing Agent Recommendation Memo to UC • Surface Washing Agent Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools

Surface-washing agents are chemicals that are used to enhance oil removal from exposed substrates and hard surfaces. They generally contain a mixture of a non-polar solvent and a surfactant. The solvent dissolves into the highly viscous or weathered oil to create a less viscous and somewhat uniform liquid oil or oily mixture. The surfactant reduces the interfacial tension between the liquid oil and the surface to which the oil has adhered. Depending on environmental conditions and the selection and combination of solvents and surfactants, the removed oil will either float or disperse, giving rise to “lift and float” and “lift and disperse” descriptors of surface washing agents. The latter has a negative environmental impact for most shallow water coastal environments; therefore, products which “lift and float” are preferable.

When selecting a surface washing agent for use during a particular response, special consideration should be given to:

1. Its effectiveness on a particular oil and substrate;
2. The comparative toxicity among different surface washing agents; and
3. The availability of the surface washing agent to be acquired in a useful time period.

Only surface washing agents that are included in the current NCP Product Schedule may be approved by the FOSC for use during oil discharges.

FOSC Authorization Recommendation

No surface washing agent Pre-Authorization Zones exist in RRT Region 10.

To receive authorization to approve the use of surface washing agents, the FOSC will prepare a recommendation memorandum (by completing the tools in the Surface Washing Agent Authorization Process and Decision Support Tools) and request an activation of RRT10 for a decision on the proposed action.

The purpose of the RRT activation is for the FOSC to outline the basis for the request to authorize surface washing agent use, and pursuant to 300.910(b) of the NCP, seek concurrence from the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge. This activation will also serve as consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees. It is the policy of RRT10 to also consult with appropriate tribal governments with off-reservation treaty rights in navigable waters threatened by a release or discharge of oil, when practicable. Oil trajectory, potential impact areas, and the respective sensitivities of the RARs in those areas should be considered.

The RRT members will sign the recommendation memo and return it, along with any specific details, conditions, constraints, or other pertinent information, to the FOSC. If surface washing agents are subsequently used, the FOSC will provide an Incident AAR to all interested RRT member agencies after the emergency response is over.

7161 Bioremediation

TOOLS AND RESOURCES
Operations: • Oil Spill Best Management Practices

Bioremediation is a technical process wherein nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are seeded in the affected water, encouraging the growth of hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria. Hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria occur naturally in soil and water worldwide. The use of bioremediation in open water is an unproven technology that currently shows little or no promise of removing significant quantities of oil from the surface of the water prior to shoreline impact or natural dispersion. Bioremediation by nutrient enhancement or seeding of biodegrading organisms is, therefore, not allowed on the surface of open water. This policy can be reviewed by the RRT if there is new and significant evidence that bioremediation can be a significant factor in oil removal on open water.

Bioremediation of soil/shorelines should generally be used as the primary treatment only when oil concentrations are low (less than 15 grams of oil for every kilogram of sediment) and conventional forms of cleanup (heavy equipment use or manual cleaning) are likely to do more damage than good. Bioremediation should be viewed as a polishing agent for the final stages of cleanup rather than as a primary response tool, especially considering the slow rates of reaction to degrade the oil, and, therefore, cleanup via this method will be allowed only on a case-by-case basis with RRT10 concurrence. Bioremediation agents with additives (for example, perfumes and nutrients) should not be used in shoreline settings or where sensitive aquifers could be impacted.

For additional bioremediation policy, see NWRCP Section 4623 and the Oil Spill Best Management Practices tool.

7170 Special Considerations for Non-Standard Emergency Removal Action Scenarios

To be developed. For non-standard emergency removal operations, the UC should ensure that the RRT is aware of the removal actions.

7180 Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System

EXTERNAL RESOURCES
• Alternative Response tool Evaluation System (ARTES)

During an oil discharge or chemical release, the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), who directs the response, may be asked to consider using a non-conventional alternative countermeasure (a method, device, or product that hasn't typically been used for spill response). To assess whether a proposed countermeasure could be a useful response tool, it's necessary to quickly collect and evaluate the available information about it.

To aid in evaluating non-conventional alternative countermeasures in particular, the Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System (ARTES) was developed. ARTES is designed to evaluate potential response tools on their technical merits, rather than on economic factors and can also be used to evaluate more conventional countermeasures.

ARTES is designed for two uses:

- Evaluation of a product's appropriateness for use during a specific incident, under specific circumstances; and
- Pre-evaluation to identify conditions under which favorable outcomes are anticipated when a product is used.

An advantage of ARTES is that it provides a management system for addressing the numerous proposals submitted by vendors and others during a spill.

ARTES will most likely not be initiated unless there is a spill of national significance (SONS) level event. For further information on the necessary forms, visit the following site:

Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System (ARTES) | response.restoration.noaa.gov

7200 Response Technologies for Hazardous Substance Spill Control

To be developed.

Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP)

Master Hyperlink Index

Annex A

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 3

1100 Purpose 3

2000 References 4

1000 Introduction

The Master Hyperlink Index serves as a reference for federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies that may have jurisdiction or regulatory authority over a pollution event, or that can provide support/expertise to a response effort. In addition, applicable plans and response strategies published by other government entities and port partners to aid in the response of a pollution event have been included.

1100 Purpose

This list is not intended to be complete and will require routine maintenance as hyperlinks may change.

2000 References

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
National Response Framework (NRF)	https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/NRF_FINALApproved_2011028.pdf	A guide for how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. If a spill occurs during a presidentially declared disaster, the response may be conducted under this framework.	Section 1100
Region 10 Regional Response Team (RRT10) and the Northwest Area Committees (NWACs)- Comments	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=comments	A webpage where interested parties can submit comments or recommended changes to the Area Contingency Plan (ACP).	Section 1410
RRT10 and the Northwest Area Committees	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/	The official website for RRT10 where the latest ACP updates are posted.	Section 1410
RRT10 Geographic Response Plans (GRPs)	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans5	A site containing planned, site-specific geographic response strategies (GRSs) to minimize impact to sensitive resources during a spill.	Section 1420
Geographic Response Plans Guidance	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/Geographic_Response_Plans_Guidance.pdf	A guidance document providing evaluation criteria for GRPs and GRSs.	Section 1420.2

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency PREP Resources	https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations/2016-national-preparedness-response-exercise	Resources from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the 2016 National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP).	Section 1430
Coast Guard Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual (MERPMAN)	https://media.defense.gov/2025/Mar/25/2003675854/-1/-1/0/CI_16000_14B.PDF	The U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG's) manual for marine environmental response and preparedness.	Section 1430
Northwest Area Committee Exercise Schedule (NACES)	https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/naces/	The regional drill schedule for the Northwest Area Committee, used for coordinating exercises.	Section 1430.2
RCW 90.56.210	https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=90.56.210	Washington State law regarding the review and approval of facility and vessel response plans by the Department of Ecology.	Section 1520
Responding to Rail Incidents tool	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/Responding_to_Rail_Incidents.pdf	A tool providing additional information on responding to rail incidents involving hazardous materials.	Section 1522
Northwest Regional Contingency Plan	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans2	A higher-level coordination plan for each federal region, providing the structure for	Section 1560

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
		responding to oil and hazardous substance releases.	
National Response Team (NRT) Abandoned Vessel Guidance	https://nrt.org/sites/2/files/NRT%20Abandoned%20Vessel%20Authorities%20and%20Best%20Practices%20Guidance%20FINAL%2001JULY2020.pdf	Guidance from the NRT on authorities and best practices for dealing with abandoned vessels.	Section 1600
National Response Framework (NRF) ESF-10 Annex	https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_ESF_10_Oil-Hazardous-Materials.pdf	The annex to the NRF that covers oil and hazardous materials response.	Section 1600
Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA)	https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_incident-annex_nuclear-radiological.pdf	An annex to the NRF describing policies and responsibilities for responding to releases of radioactive materials.	Section 1610
USCG Incident Management Handbook (IMH)	https://media.defense.gov/2025/Jun/27/2003744875/-1/-1/0/INCIDENT_MANAGEMENT_HANDBOOK_COMDTPUB_3120.PDF	The Coast Guard's handbook for applying the National Incident Management System (NIMS) during response operations.	Sections 1700, 5320, 5400, 5470.1

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
33 CFR 3.65-15	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-3	Federal regulation defining the Captain of the Port (COTP) Area of Responsibility (AOR) for Sector Puget Sound (SPS).	Sections 2000, 2300
EPA Region 10 Jurisdiction Mapper	https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=609375dea9ef4013a3cc5b35e6a9ecac	An interactive map from EPA Region 10 showing the jurisdictional boundaries between the USCG Coastal Zone and the EPA Inland Zone.	Section 2100
RRT10 and NWACs Maps	https://rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=maps	A web interface providing maps and information on boundaries between the USCG and EPA areas of responsibility.	Sections 2200, 2500
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Boundary Map	https://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protect/regulations/boundarymap.html	A map showing the boundaries of the OCNMS.	Section 2400
Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD)	https://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division	Website for the WEMD, which receives notifications of spill incidents.	Section 3130.1
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	https://dahp.wa.gov/	Website for the Washington agency responsible for the protection of historic and archaeological sites.	Section 3130.1

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)	https://www.utc.wa.gov/	Website for the Washington agency responsible for safety standards for natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines.	Section 3130.1
RRT10 and NWACs Northwest Area Committees	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/	Website for the RRT10, which assists the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) with guidance, coordination, and resources.	Section 3150
SERT Rapid Salvage Survey Form	https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/MSC/SERT/SERT_Rapid_Salvage_Survey_Form.pdf	A checklist form used by the Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) to gather technical information following a vessel casualty.	Section 3311.7
Shoreline Assessment Manual	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/manual_shore_assess_aug2013.pdf	A manual from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) outlining methods for conducting shoreline assessment after an oil spill.	Section 3313.1, 5120
Sample USCG Request Message to SUPSALV	https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Portals/103/Documents/SUPSALV/ESSM/Sample%20CG%20Req Msg.pdf	A sample message template for the USCG to formally request assistance from the U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV).	Section 3319.2

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
Marine Chemist Association - Find a Chemist	https://marinechemistassociation.com/find-a-chemist/	A directory to find Certified Marine Chemists (CMCs) and Certified Industrial Hygienists (IHs).	Section 3320
Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory Division	http://www.wsp.wa.gov/forensics/toxicology.htm	Website for the Washington State Patrol Toxicology Laboratory, a resource for toxicology specialists.	Section 3320
Washington State Department of Health	https://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/ContactUs	Contact page for the Washington State Department of Health, a resource for toxicology specialists.	Section 3320
Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats (RULET) Vessel: *Bunker Hill* Screening Level Assessment Package	https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/bunker_hill.pdf	A NOAA report on the tanker SS *Bunker Hill*, a legacy shipwreck considered a pollution risk.	Section 4110
RULET Vessel: *Diamond Knot* Screening Level Risk Assessment Package	https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/diamond_knot.pdf	A NOAA report on the freighter *Diamond Knot*, a legacy shipwreck considered a pollution risk.	Section 4110
RULET Vessel: *Coast Trader* Screening Level Risk Assessment Package	https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/ppw/pdfs/coast_trader.pdf	A NOAA report on the freighter *Coast Trader*, a legacy shipwreck considered a pollution risk.	Section 4110

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
RRT10 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Consultation Documents	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=consultation	A webpage providing access to the Region 10 Biological Assessment and Biological Opinions regarding the ESA.	Sections 4200, 4220
USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)	https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/	A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website providing lists of threatened and endangered species.	Section 4220
National Register of Historic Places	https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm	The official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation.	Sections 4300, 5220
National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) Directory	https://ncshpo.org/directory/	A directory to find State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs).	Section 4300
RRT10 and NWACs Tribal Resources	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=tribal	A webpage providing a directory of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs).	Section 4300
Pacific Northwest Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/pacific-northwest-erma	A NOAA platform that provides interactive maps and data to identify sensitive areas in the Pacific Northwest.	Sections 4400, 4600, 5400
RRT10 Geographic Response Plans (GRPs)	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans5	A collection of GRPs for the RRT10 area with strategies to protect sensitive resources.	Sections 4400, 4600, 5120, 5330, 5510, 5540

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
40 CFR 300 Subpart D & 300.317	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/part-300/subpart-D	Federal regulations from the National Contingency Plan (NCP) outlining response phases and priorities.	Section 5000
NOAA Characteristics of Coastal Habitats	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/characteristic-coastal-habitats.html	A NOAA guide on the applicability of various cleanup methods for typical shoreline habitats.	Section 5120
NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/shoreline-assessment-job-aid.html	A job aid from NOAA with visual examples for conducting shoreline assessments.	Section 5120
Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) Tools	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/SCAT_Tools.pdf	Tools for shoreline cleanup and assessment, net environmental benefit analysis, and selecting cleanup endpoints.	Section 5120
RRT10 ESA Compliance Guide	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/RRT10_Endangered_Species_Act_Compliance_Guide.pdf	A guide on ESA compliance for federal responders to use during emergencies in RRT Region 10.	Section 5210

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
USFWS ESA Section 7 Consultation Programmatic Biological Opinion	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/USFWS_Final%20Biological%20Opinion_Region10_2020.pdf	The USFWS's Biological Opinion on the effects of spill response activities on listed species.	Section 5210
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/NMFS_Biological_Opinion_Region10_2021.pdf	The NMFS Biological Opinion on the effects of spill response activities on listed species.	Section 5210
Inter-agency ESA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	https://www.nrt.org/sites/2/files/ESAMOA.pdf	A national MOA providing guidance for collaboration on ESA issues during emergencies.	Section 5210
Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA)	https://erma.noaa.gov/northwest	A web-based geographic information system tool that provides a common operating picture for emergency responders.	Section 5440
GRSs on ERMA	https://erma.noaa.gov/northwest/erma.html	The ERMA portal to access GRSs.	Section 5440
National Response Team (NRT)	https://www.nrt.org/	Website for the NRT, which provides guidance on risk communication for spill response.	Section 5460
NRT Public Information Resources	https://www.nrt.org/main/Resources.aspx?ResourceType=Publ	NRT resources page providing guidance on risk	Section 5460

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
	ic%20Information&ResourceSection=2	communication for oil spill response.	
Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP) Section 2240	https://www.rrt10nwac.com/LinkPage?site=nwac&page=plans2	NWRCP policy regarding the appointment of the Liaison Officer.	Section 5460
Liaison Manual	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/Liaison_Manual.pdf	The Liaison Manual within the NWRCP, outlining responsibilities for the Liaison Officer.	Section 5460
Oil Spill Response in Fast Currents. A Field Guide	https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/tr/pdf/ADA400660.pdf	A field guide on tactics and equipment for responding to oil spills in fast-moving water.	Section 5532.2
Oil Spill Response in Fast Water Currents	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/Oil_Response_in_Fast_Water_Currents.pdf	A document on specialized equipment and techniques for fast water oil spill response.	Section 5532.2
Washington Department of Ecology Technical Manuals	https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/technical-manuals	Technical manuals from Washington Ecology describing oil recovery systems for the Puget Sound area.	Section 5533
Characteristics of Response Strategies	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/Chara	A NOAA document providing information on oil recovery techniques, including dredging.	Section 5533

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
	cteristics_Response_Strategies.pdf		
Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)	https://wrrl.world/fmi/webd/WRRL	A web-based system that catalogs oil spill response equipment in the Pacific Northwest.	Sections 5534, 6100, 6121
Decanting Response Tool	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/Section%209411.pdf	The RRT 10 tool containing the decanting policy, required plans, and approval process.	Section 5535
Characteristic Coastal Habitats	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/Characteristic_Coastal_Habitats.pdf	A NOAA document illustrating attributes of coastal habitats at risk from oil spills and response considerations.	Section 5550
Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT)	https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/shoreline-cleanup-and-assessment-technique-scat.html	A NOAA webpage with information on the SCAT program for assessing oiled shorelines.	Sections 5120, 5560.1
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazardous Waste	https://www.osha.gov/hazardous-waste	An OSHA website with recommended procedures and practices for decontamination.	Section 5570

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
EPA - Defining Hazardous Waste	https://www.epa.gov/hw/defining-hazardous-waste-listed-characteristic-and-mixed-radiological-wastes	An EPA webpage explaining the process for identifying hazardous waste.	Section 5580
Permit Summary Table	https://nrt.org/sites/175/files/RRT10_Permit_Summary_Table.pdf	A table of permits on the RRT webpage, referenced for obtaining a Hazardous Waste Generator ID number.	Section 5580.1
USCG Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSRO) Guidelines	https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NSF/OSRO%20Guidelines%20-%20December%202021.pdf	USCG guidelines for its voluntary classification program for OSROs.	Section 6110.1
Washington State-Approved Primary Response Contractors (PRCs)	https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/plans-policies/contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/primary-response-contractors	A list of approved PRCs from Ecology.	Section 6110.2, 6130
National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) Response Resource Inventory (RRI) Public Classification Reports	https://cgrri.uscg.mil/PublicClassificationReports.aspx	Publicly available reports classifying OSRO capabilities.	Section 6120, 6130

Document name	Hyperlink	Summary	Location (Section)
Response Resource Map	https://gis.ecology.wa.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=591270509d254f189fb63d4c2d0af340	A map showing the location of oil spill response equipment in the Northwest.	Section 6121
33 CFR Part 136	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-33/chapter-I/subchapter-M/part-136	Federal regulation defining the categories of claims that can be made against the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF).	Section 6121
NPFC Claimant's Guide	https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/NPFC/docs/PDFs/Claimant%20Guide.pdf	A guide from the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) for claimants seeking compensation from the OSLTF.	Section 5930

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Risk Analysis: Area Planning Scenarios

Annex B*

October 2026

*Annex B is not for public release. Any specific questions should be addressed to Sector Puget Sound.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Fish and Wildlife

Annex C

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction **4**

2000 Purpose **5**

3000 Scope and Activation **6**

4000 Key Points for Oil Spill Responders **7**

4100 Wildlife Branch Organization 7

4200 Activating the Wildlife Branch 7

4300 Wildlife Response Actions 8

4400 Key Regulatory Framework 9

4500 Roles and Responsibilities Summary 9

4600 Safety 10

4700 Coordination with Other ICS Sections 10

5000 Wildlife Response Tools and Resources **11**

6000 Full Plan Reference **13**

1000 Introduction

Oil discharges and hazardous substance releases can significantly impact fish, wildlife, and their supporting habitats. Early coordination with natural resource trustees and wildlife response specialists is essential to minimize environmental impacts and ensure that appropriate wildlife protection and recovery measures are implemented.

This annex provides Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP) users with a high-level overview of the Fish and Wildlife Response framework and how it is incorporated into incident response operations. It introduces the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan, describes how wildlife response fits within the Incident Command System (ICS), summarizes the most critical guidance for responders, and directs users to the appropriate resources for detailed guidance.

The Northwest Wildlife Response Plan is available at: Northwest Wildlife Response Plan

2000 Purpose

The purpose of the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan is to establish a coordinated framework for protecting, rescuing, rehabilitating, and managing wildlife affected by oil or hazardous substance spills while supporting the overall spill response under the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

More specifically, the plan is intended to:

- **Protect wildlife and sensitive species** – Provide strategies and response options to minimize exposure of fish, birds, mammals, and other wildlife to spilled oil or hazardous substances.
- **Coordinate agencies and organizations** – Clarify roles and responsibilities among federal, state, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as wildlife rehabilitation organizations and subject-matter experts.
- **Integrate wildlife operations into the ICS** – Establish the structure and functions of a Wildlife Branch within the response organization so wildlife operations are coordinated with the overall spill response.
- **Provide operational guidance** – Outline procedures for wildlife reconnaissance, deterrence, capture, transport, stabilization, treatment, rehabilitation, and release.
- **Support natural resource trustee responsibilities** – Assist trustee agencies in protecting and managing wildlife resources during response and recovery actions.

3000 Scope and Activation

Unified Command (UC) should consider activating a Wildlife Branch when an incident has the potential to impact fish, wildlife, or sensitive habitats. Early activation helps ensure that wildlife protection strategies are implemented quickly and that trained wildlife response personnel are integrated into the response organization.

Situations that may warrant activation include:

- Observed oiling or contamination of wildlife;
- High risk to protected or sensitive species;
- Large-scale spills in areas with significant wildlife resources;
- Incidents occurring near wildlife refuges, critical habitat, or migration corridors;
- Public or media attention related to wildlife impacts; and
- Recommendations from natural resource trustees or wildlife response experts.

4000 Key Points for Oil Spill Responders

The following sections summarize the most critical information from the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan that a responder needs to know. This is not a substitute for reading the full plan but provides an operational quick reference.

4100 Wildlife Branch Organization

The Wildlife Branch operates within the Operations Section of the ICS structure and reports to the Operations Section Chief. It maintains close coordination with the Environmental Unit and Situation Unit within the Planning Section. Five functional groups comprise the Wildlife Branch:

Group	Primary Function
Reconnaissance Group	Locates oiled or at-risk wildlife in and around the spill area using aerial, boat, and shoreline teams. Provides information to direct recovery and deterrence efforts.
Deterrence Group	Moves animals away from oil using a variety of methods. Includes specialized teams for Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) deterrence.
Recovery Group	Searches for and captures oiled or at-risk animals. Works by boat, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), vehicle, or on foot depending on the spill location.
Field Stabilization Group	Provides immediate care to animals after recovery and prior to transport to the primary rehabilitation facility. May include fluid therapy and temperature regulation.
Care and Processing Group	Operates the primary rehabilitation facility. Provides medical stabilization, washing, waterproofing, pre-release conditioning, and carcass documentation.

4200 Activating the Wildlife Branch

Upon notification of a significant oil spill, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or their designee, will immediately assume the role of Wildlife Branch Director (WBD) and initiate branch

operations. In Washington State, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Oil Spill Team may assume the WBD role pursuant to its memorandum of agreement (MOA) with USFWS.

Key activation considerations include:

- Product type (refined products are more acutely toxic to wildlife);
- Extent of release and size of the impacted area;
- Presence of federally or state-listed species;
- Numbers and types of wildlife in the area;
- Habitat type (e.g., wetland, estuarine, open water);
- Seasonality (breeding seasons, migration periods); and
- Weather and sea state.

4300 Wildlife Response Actions

Wildlife response actions are discrete, sequential activities that work together to minimize adverse effects of oil on wildlife and maximize the rehabilitation and release of affected animals:

- **Initial Wildlife Impact Assessment** – Rapid assessment (typically one to two days) of the types, numbers, and location of oil-impacted wildlife to establish early operational needs.
- **Wildlife Reconnaissance** – Ongoing gathering of location data on oiled wildlife to direct Recovery Group efforts.
- **Oiled Wildlife Recovery** – Search and capture of oiled animals; transport to field stabilization or rehabilitation facility.
- **Field Stabilization** – Immediate care post-capture to ensure animals are stable for transport. May include fluid therapy and warming or cooling.
- **Rehabilitation** – Specialized care at the primary facility including medical stabilization, washing, waterproofing, and pre-release conditioning.
- **Release** – Return of recovered animals to the wild only after they are fully cleaned, waterproof, and medically cleared. Coordinated with USFWS, state trustees, and media.
- **Deterrence** – Operations using various techniques to move at-risk animals away from oil before they become impacted.

4400 Key Regulatory Framework

Wildlife Branch operations must comply with the following key federal laws. The WBD is responsible for ensuring compliance and will coordinate with the Environmental Unit to address permitting requirements:

- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)** – Prohibits pursuing, killing, possessing, or transporting most native birds without a permit. Wildlife Response Service Providers must hold a Migratory Bird Rehabilitation Permit; incident-specific USFWS authorization is also required.
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)** – Prohibits "take" of marine mammals. Government officials may take marine mammals during official response duties to protect animal welfare or public health.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** – Prohibits take of listed species. Emergency Section 7 consultation with USFWS and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required when response actions may affect listed species. The ESA Compliance Guide (Section 9404) provides detailed procedures.
- **Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act** – Prohibits take of eagles; relevant if eagles are present in the spill area.

4500 Roles and Responsibilities Summary

- **Wildlife Branch Director (WBD)** – Oversees all Wildlife Branch operations; reports to Operations Section Chief; ensures regulatory compliance; coordinates with UC, Planning, Logistics, trustees, and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) teams.
- **Deputy Wildlife Branch Director** – Shares WBD duties; manages day-to-day operations and personnel; often focuses on Incident Command Post (ICP)-level coordination while WBD interfaces with UC.
- **Wildlife Technical Specialist/Liaison** – Provides technical expertise on species-specific issues; liaises with trustee agencies and subject-matter experts.
- **Wildlife Safety Specialist** – Develops and monitors the wildlife-specific Site Safety Plan; ensures all personnel have appropriate hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) training and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Group Supervisors (Reconnaissance, Deterrence, Recovery, Field Stabilization, Care & Processing)** – Directs group operations under WBD guidance; manages team leaders and field personnel.

4600 Safety

Worker safety must be considered before any wildlife response activity. Specific hazards include:

- Toxic vapors and contact with oil or hazardous substances;
- Fire risk in or near the spill area;
- Hazardous weather, sea state, and unstable footing;
- Zoonotic diseases (including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI]);
- Physical injury from animal handling; and
- Fatigue during extended response operations.

All Wildlife Branch personnel must conform to the Site Safety Plan, hold current HAZWOPER certification at the appropriate level for their tasks, and wear the required PPE. Task-specific safety briefings must be conducted each day prior to field activities.

4700 Coordination with Other ICS Sections

- **Situation Unit (Planning)** – The Wildlife Branch provides daily wildlife status reports (live/dead animal counts, deterrence activities, impact summaries) for incorporation into the Incident Action Plan.
- **Environmental Unit (EU) (Planning)** – Coordinates on ESA compliance, waste management, and minimizing impacts of spill response activities on wildlife. EU Leader facilitates ESA Section 7 emergency consultations.
- **Liaison Officer/Joint Information Center (JIC)** – The Wildlife Branch provides information for public communications regarding wildlife impacts; coordinates volunteer management and agency interactions through the Liaison Officer.
- **Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)** – Wildlife Branch supports trustee NRDA efforts through documentation of wildlife impacts, collection of biological samples, and preservation of carcasses as evidence.
- **Logistics Section** – Wildlife Branch coordinates resource, equipment, and facilities requests (including mobile rehabilitation units, care centers, and transportation) through Logistics.

5000 Wildlife Response Tools and Resources

The following tools and resources are listed under the **Wildlife** section of the Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10)/Northwest Area Committees (NWAC) Response Tools and Resources page. Each tool title links directly to the resource. Responders are encouraged to bookmark the full tools page and review these resources during pre-spill planning and exercises.

Tool/Resource	Description
Emergency Care and Rehabilitation of Oiled Sea Otters: A Guide for Oil Spills Involving Fur Bearing Animals	A comprehensive field guide providing protocols for the emergency care, handling, and rehabilitation of sea otters and other fur-bearing animals affected by oil spills. Covers capture techniques, initial care, cleaning procedures, and recovery processes.
Managing Impacts to Fisheries	Guidance for response personnel on assessing and managing the impacts of oil and hazardous substance spills on fisheries resources, including strategies for protecting fish habitat, coordinating with fisheries managers, and documenting impacts for NRDA purposes.
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Maps	Interactive mapping resources that identify and rank shoreline and inland areas by their sensitivity to oil spills. ESI maps depict biological resources (including wildlife habitats and species locations), human-use resources, and shoreline sensitivity to guide protection and cleanup priorities.
NOAA ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application)	A web-based geographic information system mapping tool developed by NOAA that integrates environmental, operational, and response data in real time during spill incidents. Used to display sensitive biological resources, track response operations, and support situational awareness for wildlife and environmental protection.
NOAA Guidelines for Assessing Exposure and Impacts of Oil Spills on Marine Mammals	Technical guidelines from NOAA providing methods for evaluating the exposure of marine mammals to oil spills and assessing resulting biological impacts. Supports field documentation, injury assessment, and NRDA injury determination for marine mammal populations.
NOAA West Coast Maps	A collection of NOAA Fisheries maps covering the West Coast, depicting species distributions, critical habitat areas, and other

Tool/Resource	Description
	fisheries-related spatial data relevant to spill response planning and wildlife impact assessment.
Northwest Wildlife Response Plan	The regional plan governing the response to wildlife impacted by oil and hazardous substance spills in the Pacific Northwest. Establishes organizational structure, agency roles and responsibilities, operational protocols, and coordination mechanisms for oiled wildlife response operations.
Resources at Risk Response Tools	A collection of tools and reference materials to help responders identify, prioritize, and protect natural resources at risk during spill incidents, including sensitive biological habitats, species of concern, and shoreline environments across the Northwest Region.
RRT10 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance Guide	A guidance document outlining ESA Section 7 emergency consultation requirements and compliance procedures for response personnel. Provides step-by-step direction for initiating consultation with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS to ensure spill response activities minimize impacts to listed species and critical habitat.
RRT10 Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) Deterrence Task Force Final Report	The final report of the RRT10 task force established to address the risk of oil spill response activities impacting Southern Resident Killer Whales, a critically endangered distinct population segment. Contains deterrence protocols, recommended best practices, and appendices for field application during response operations.
USFWS Best Practices for Migratory Bird Care during Oil Spill Response	USFWS guidance document describing best practices for the capture, handling, initial care, and rehabilitation of migratory birds oiled during spill incidents. Addresses regulatory considerations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and coordination with authorized wildlife rehabilitation facilities.
USFWS Information for Planning and Consulting (IPAC)	An online USFWS tool that helps users identify threatened and endangered species and other sensitive resources potentially affected by a proposed action or response activity in a given location. Used to support ESA Section 7 consultation and response planning for wildlife protection.

6000 Full Plan Reference

This annex is intended to introduce the Northwest Wildlife Response Plan, highlight the most critical information for oil spill responders, and direct users to key tools and resources. It is not a substitute for the full plan.

The Northwest Wildlife Response Plan (Annex D of the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan) is the governing document for all oiled wildlife response operations across Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. It contains complete guidance on:

- Wildlife Branch organizational structure and staffing tables;
- Full position descriptions and job aids for all Wildlife Branch roles;
- Detailed operational procedures for reconnaissance, deterrence, recovery, stabilization, rehabilitation, and release;
- Special protocols for Southern Resident Killer Whales, sea otters, snowy plovers, and other sensitive species;
- Sample forms and templates for wildlife response documentation;
- Initial tasking checklists and Day 1 Wildlife Plan templates; and
- Key contacts and internet resources for wildlife response.

Access the full Northwest Wildlife Response Plan here:

- Northwest Wildlife Response Plan (Northwest Regional Contingency Plan, Annex D)

For additional tools and resources, visit the RRT10/NWAC Response Tools page:

- https://www.rrt10nwac.com/ResponseTools

Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP)

Hazardous Substance Response

Annex D

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Section Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 4
1100 Scope 4
1200 Definition of Hazardous Substances 4
1300 Authorities 5
1310 Federal 5
1320 Washington State 6
2000 Command 7
2100 Hazardous Substance Incident/Unified Command Objectives 8
2200 Criminal Incident Management 9
2300 Notification Requirements 11
2310 Federal 11
2320 Washington State 11
2330 Public Information 12
2340 Health and Safety 12
2350 Liaison 13
3000 Operations 14
3100 Sampling Assistance and Resources 14
3200 Laboratory Assistance and Resources 16
4000 Planning 17
4100 Coordination with other Hazardous Materials Planning 17
4200 Natural Resource Trustees 17
4210 Federal Trustees 18
4300 Air Plume Modeling 19
4400 Transition to Long-Term Cleanup 21
4500 Disposal 21
4501 Hazardous Waste 22
4502 Radioactive Waste 22
4503 Biological Waste (WMD) 22
5000 Logistics 23
5100 Emergency Response Teams 23
5110 Federal Emergency Response Teams 23
5120 Washington Response Teams 25
5130 Private Emergency Response Teams 26
5200 Contractor Support 26

6000 Finance/Administration 28
6100 Local Government Reimbursement 29
6200 Cost Documentation 29

1000 Introduction

While the basic Incident Command System (ICS)/Unified Command (UC) is unchanged whether the response is to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release, including a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident, there are a number of factors that are unique to hazardous substance releases. The purpose of this annex is to provide Sector Puget Sound (SPS) Area Contingency Plan (ACP) users with information specific to responses to hazardous substance releases, including WMD incidents.

Many SPS Area Committee member agencies have specific responsibilities during and following a hazardous substance incident, including a WMD or other terrorist act (chemical, biological, or radiological). The SPS ACP is a good general guide for interagency coordination and resources during a response to any type of oil or hazardous substance incident.

1100 Scope

This annex will focus on hazardous substance incidents with the following characteristics:

- Multi-agency and/or multi-jurisdictional response;
- Exceeds localized (town/city/parish/state) response capacity;
- Response exceeds one operational period;
- Release or imminent release of hazardous substances; and
- Response phase of the incident, through stabilization.

1200 Definition of Hazardous Substances

Before the process of planning for a hazardous substance incident response can begin, there has to be a clear understanding of the types of materials that are to be covered under this annex. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization

Act (SARA) of 1986 defines hazardous substances as "hazardous waste" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), as well as hazardous substances regulated under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Toxic Substance Control Act. In addition, any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance may also be specifically designated as a "hazardous substance" under CERCLA. This definition includes numerous hazardous chemicals as well as chemical warfare agents and radionuclides. CERCLA hazardous substances are listed in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 302.4.

CERCLA also applies to "pollutants or contaminants" that may present an imminent or substantial danger to public health or welfare. An imminent or substantial danger to public health or welfare is caused when the pollutant or contaminant will, or may reasonably be anticipated to, cause illness, death, or deformation in any organism. Most biological warfare agents have been determined to be pollutants or contaminants under CERCLA.

Petroleum products such as diesel and gasoline are typically excluded from CERCLA and are generally not considered to be "hazardous substances" under federal statute. State environmental statutes may, however, consider these materials hazardous substances. This annex does not specifically deal with issues related to response to petroleum products.

1300 Authorities

1310 Federal

Federal authorities for response to hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants, including biological, chemical, and radiological warfare agent releases, are outlined in CERCLA (42 United States Code [USC] 9604) and the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR Part 300. Federal On Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) are the federal officials predesignated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and

the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to coordinate response activities. As the state and local responder's gateway to the resources of the National Response System (NRS), the FOSC is responsible for providing access to resources and technical assistance that may not otherwise be available to a community.

As with oil spills, federal response authorities are shared by EPA and the USCG. EPA maintains jurisdiction over hazardous substance releases in the Inland Zone, while the USCG has jurisdiction in the Coastal Zone. EPA also leads longer-term cleanup of hazardous substances and pollutants or contaminants in the Coastal Zone. Responsibility for radiological response is more complex and depends on the source of the release. Roles and responsibilities are outlined in the Nuclear/Radiological Annex to the National Response Framework (NRF).

1320 Washington State

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) Spills Program responds to releases of oil, hazardous substances, and illegal drug manufacturing facilities under the following authorities:

Responsibility or Authority	Law or Act	RCW/WAC	Lead Agency
Spills of polluting matter to water	Water Pollution Control Act	RCW 90.48	Ecology
Spills of oil or hazardous substances to water	Oil and Hazardous Substances Spill Prevention and Response Act	RCW 90.56	Ecology
Hazardous/dangerous waste management	Hazard Waste Management Act	RCW 70.105 WAC 173-303	Ecology
Hazardous waste cleanup	Model Toxics Control Act	RCW 70.105D WAC 173-340	Ecology
Spillers responsibility for cleanup	Special Rights of Action and Immunities	RCW 4.24.314	Ecology/WSP
Illegal drug chemical precursors, equipment, and waste generated	Uniform Controlled Substances Act	RCW 69.50.511	Ecology

Designation of the Incident Command agency	Hazardous Material Incidents	RCW 70.136.030	WSP
Responsibility for Illegal Drug Laboratory Cleanup	Uniformed Controlled Substance Act	RCW 69.50.511	Ecology
Property Contaminated by the Manufacture of Illegal Drugs	Contaminated Properties	RCW 64.44	DOH
Radiation Protection Standards	Nuclear Energy and Radiation	RCW 70.98 WAC 246-221	DOH
Radiation Protection – Workers Rights	Nuclear Energy and Radiation	RCW 70.98 WAC 246-222	DOH

2000 Command

The complexity and jurisdictional characteristics of an incident will determine the level of involvement of federal, state, local, Tribal, responsible party (RP), and other responders. It is expected that the Unified Command (UC) participants will be determined based on each incident. The table below outlines the state and federal lead agencies for specific incident types.

Note this chart only shows the agency with primary authority; it does not reflect the fact that multiple agencies typically coordinate on each incident

Table: Lead State and Federal Agencies for Specific Incident Types

	Oil	HazMat	Biological	Radiological	Disaster
Washington	Washington State Department of Ecology	Washington State Patrol or other designated local Agency (RCW 70.136)	Washington State Department of Health	Washington State Department of Health	Washington State Emergency Management Division

Federal	EPA USCG	EPA USCG	EPA	EPA USCG DOE DOD NRC NASA	FEMA

Key:
DOD = United States Department of Defense
DOE = United States Department of Energy
EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NRC = United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
USCG = United States Coast Guard

The USCG has developed an All-Hazards Incident Management Handbook, which provides some guidance as to organizational setup and roles/responsibilities for hazardous substances, as well as mass-casualty incidents.

2100 Hazardous Substance Incident/Unified Command Objectives

Primary Unified Command Objectives:

- Identify the hazards;
- Isolate the hazard area;
- Protect the safety of the public and responders;
- Establish Command;
- Complete notifications; and
- Activate response plans.

Other Possible Unified Command Objectives:

- Threat assessment;
- Hazard detection and reduction;
- Environmental monitoring;

- Sample and forensic evidence collection/analysis;
- On-site safety; and
- Assess impacts to Critical Infrastructure and cascading impacts.

2200 Criminal Incident Management

At the onset of a response, it is often unclear whether the cause of a release was accidental or criminal. Local responders will likely be the first to arrive on scene to assess the situation and possibly take initial response measures to contain or stop the release.

In instances where criminal activity is suspected, coordination is required between law enforcement, who view the incident as a crime scene, and other first responders who view the incident as a hazardous substance release or a disaster site. Although protection of life remains paramount, the protection and processing of the crime scene is imperative so perpetrators can be identified and apprehended. These dynamic objectives will be accounted for by forming a UC with the applicable law enforcement agencies.

Since 9/11/01, much attention has been given to terrorist incidents. A nuclear, biological, or chemical WMD type terrorist incident is inherently a hazardous substance release with a criminal investigation component. As such, it should be responded to under the NRF. The Terrorism Incident Law Enforcement and Investigation Annex to the NRF also provides guidance on response to criminal incidents with significant impacts. A terrorist incident will always be treated as a federal crime scene, thus giving the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and local/state law enforcement agencies the initial lead in each response. Be aware that the FBI can activate federal resources to assist in the response activities.

The UC responding to an incident where terrorism is involved must be acutely aware of the unique nature of the federal government's response mechanisms for these types of incidents. Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5) assigned the

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the lead federal role for coordinating federal support to a state and local response; however, nothing in the NRF changes legal authorities or responsibilities outlined in other federal, state, or local laws and regulations. The UC may find themselves working with DHS, FBI, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or a number of other federal agencies under the NRF.

If a responder suspects terrorism, the FBI and local/state law enforcement must be notified as soon as possible. Given available evidence, statements, scenario, and intelligence; the FBI/Law Enforcement agencies will make the determination on whether the incident is credible. The FOSC may be approached by the law enforcement agencies to assist in obtaining initial investigative samples to confirm their "credible threat" determination if local sampling resources are not identified or available.

The FOSC should share all available and applicable information with the law enforcement agencies to assist them in making these determinations.

2300 Notification Requirements

2310 Federal

Releases of CERCLA hazardous substances, in quantities equal to or greater than their reportable quantity (RQ), are subject to reporting to the National Response Center (NRC) under CERCLA, 40 CFR Part 300.125(c). Such releases are also subject to state and local reporting under Section 304 of SARA Title III (Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA)). CERCLA hazardous substances, and their RQs, are listed in 40 CFR Part 302.4. CERCLA and EPCRA RQs may also be found in the EPA's "List of Lists" at EPA NEPIS. Radionuclides listed under CERCLA are provided in a separate list, with RQs in Curies.

While there are no statutory reporting requirements for releases of pollutants or contaminants for terrorist-related threats; the National Response Center will accept all reports of potential terrorist incidents and pass the report along to the appropriate agencies. All emergencies should also be immediately reported to 911 to activate local law enforcement and response resources.

2320 Washington State

Notification requirements for spills in Washington State are as follows.

- For spills or discharges of oil or hazardous substances to surface or groundwater, any person who is responsible for a spill or non-permitted discharge must immediately notify the Washington State Emergency Management Division and the National Response Center. (RCW 90.56.280)
- Releases of dangerous waste or hazardous substances to water, ground, or air that threaten human health or the environment must be immediately reported to the Ecology regional office. (WAC 173-303-145)
- Spills of oil or hazardous substances to the ground that create a human health or environmental threat must also be reported to Ecology, in writing, within 90 days of discovery. (WAC 173-340-300)

- Leaking underground storage tanks must be reported to Ecology within 24 hours of discovery. (WAC 173-340-450)

Additionally, for spills of oil, hazardous substances, and dangerous waste that threaten human health and the environment, immediate notification is required to all local authorities, in accordance with the local emergency plan.

For spills or discharges that result in emissions to the air, notify all local authorities in accordance with the local emergency plan. Notification is also required to the local Clean Air Agency, where one exists, and the Ecology Regional Office.

Performing federal notifications does not satisfy Washington State notification requirements. Notification of federal and state agencies does not guarantee notification of local responders. Notify local authorities in accordance with the local emergency plan.

If radioactive materials are involved in any type of release, the Washington State Department of Health, Office of Radiation Protection should be notified at 206-NUCLEAR – 206-682-5327.

2330 Public Information

For the most updated public information management strategies, best practices, and job aids, follow the protocols and procedures outlined in the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan Annex A: Joint Information Center Manual and the National Response Team (NRT) Joint Information Center (JIC) Model.

2340 Health and Safety

To promote health and safety, follow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHAs) hazardous waste operations and emergency response requirements of 29 CFR Part 1910.120. See Section 7000 of this annex for reference materials to learn where you can find information specific to health and safety during hazardous substance incidents.

2350 Liaison

The following is a list of potential stakeholders who may be involved, in addition to the agencies who are typically involved in an oil spill.

- Local/state hazardous material and health departments;
- Local/state emergency management agencies;
- Bomb squads or United States Department of Defense Explosive Ordinance Detachments;
- United States Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control, or Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry;
- United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission or Department of Energy;
- United States Department of Agriculture;
- National Guard Civil Support Teams;
- USCG National Strike Force;
- Private sector cleanup contractors;
- Laboratories/transportable laboratories; and/or
- Other stakeholders identified in this plan or other local plans.

3000 Operations

Operations activities for hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant releases are dependent upon the manner in which they are released (i.e., explosion, train derailment, fire, etc.) and the environment (air, water, soil) and/or structures impacted by the release.

However, operations activities can be grouped into the following general steps.

- Notification;
- Evacuation/shelter-in-place;
- Communication of the hazard warning to others;
- Removal of victims to a safe area;
- Observation of signs and symptoms of casualties;
- Determination of extent of contamination;
- Establishment of hot, warm, and cold zones;
- Control of access to area;
- Determination of the contaminant/hazards involved;
- Control/stoppage of further releases;
- Initiation of emergency decontamination of casualties;
- Initiation of decontamination procedures for response personnel/equipment;
- Sampling of water/soil/air/product;
- Containment of material already released;
- Implementation of countermeasures;
- Determination of threat to human health and the environment;

3100 Sampling Assistance and Resources

The following agencies can provide on-site sampling followed by laboratory analysis of hazardous substances. For each entity, we have identified their capabilities with these abbreviations: Toxic Industrial Chemicals (TIC), Chemical or Biological Warfare Agents

(WMD), Radiation (Rad).

Entity	Location	Phone Number	Capabilities
Federal Assistance			
EPA – Region 10	Seattle, WA Portland, OR Boise, ID	206-553-1264	TIC, WMD, Rad
USCG Pacific Strike Team	Novato, CA	415-883-3311	TIC, WMD, Rad
FBI Hazardous Materials Response Unit	Washington, D.C.	202-324-3000	TIC, WMD, Rad
Washington State Assistance			
National Guard 10th Civil Support Team	Camp Murray, WA	253-512-8063	TIC, WMD, Rad
Washington State Department of Ecology	Shoreline, WA	Through Washington State Emergency Management Division at 800-258-5990	TIC, WMD
Washington State Department of Health	Olympia, WA	206-NUCLEAR 360-236-3300	Rad, WMD
Key: Rad = Radiation TIC = Toxic Industrial Chemicals WA = Washington WMD = Weapons of Mass Destruction (chemical or biological warfare agents)			

For a complete listing, see the: Hazardous Materials Response Special Teams Capabilities and Contact Handbook.

3200 Laboratory Assistance and Resources

The following laboratory resources and networks can be used to identify appropriate sampling techniques, analytical methods, and available laboratories for the analysis of samples from various matrices:

Laboratory Source	Description	Contact/Info
Centers for Disease Control	Laboratory Response Network – A collaborative effort of federal, state, military, and private labs to aid in response effort of a TIC, WMD, or Rad event.	800-232-4636 https://emergency.cdc.gov/lrn/index.asp
EPA Environmental Response Laboratory Network	A network of agency, state environmental, commercial, and other federal laboratories who will provide integrated, rapid analysis using standardized diagnostic protocols and procedures	https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/environmental-response-laboratory-network
EPA Laboratory Compendium	Network of EPA national labs, state public health, and private labs to aid in a water security event, in addition to TIC, WMD, and Rad events	703-818-4200 https://cfext.epa.gov/cetl/lblogin.cfm?action=None
Association of Public Health Laboratories	State Public Health Laboratories – Emergency Contact Directory	https://www.aphl.org/programs/preparedness/Crisis-Management/Pages/Emergency-LabContacts.aspx
National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program	Current listing of accredited environmental labs and their primary accreditation body, in addition to types of sample media the labs can analyze.	http://www.nelac-institute.org/
National Environmental Method Index (NEMI)	Search all chemical, biological, microbial, toxicity, and physical methods in NEMI	https://www.nemi.gov/home/
EPA Method Collection	Standard Analytical Methods for environmental measurement and regional EPA laboratory contact information	http://www.epa.gov/fem/methcollectns.htm

4000 Planning

4100 Coordination with other Hazardous Materials Planning

Planning for hazardous substance responses happens at a number of levels throughout the area. As a result of SARA Title III requirements, State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs) were formed. Within Washington State, absent a formal TERC, the senior Tribal representative is responsible for implementation of all SARA Title III provisions. The purpose of these groups is to develop local emergency response plans, participate in exercises to ensure preparedness at the local level, and arrange for training for local responders. In addition, local departments of emergency management (or similar groups) may assist with these functions as well as notifications of hazardous substance incidents. The federal government provides very limited funding to SERCs, LEPCs, and TERCs through the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program. The level of SERC, TERC, and LEPC activity varies widely across the region. The emergency management positions vary from state to state and may be a department of emergency management, emergency services, civil defense, or disaster services.

Various federal and state statutes require facilities and vessels to develop emergency response plans to deal with their operations, as well as potential off-site impacts. Finally, the SPS ACP serves as the primary response planning document for the federal and state hazardous materials response agencies in the area of responsibility.

4200 Natural Resource Trustees

The following list outlines the trustees for natural resources designated in Subpart G of the NCP, and provides a brief description of the resources that may be potentially impacted as a result of an oil spill or hazardous material release. Natural resources include land, fish, wildlife, biota, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies, and

other such resources. This list is provided for informational purposes and is not intended to be all-inclusive.

4210 Federal Trustees

4210.1 Department of the Interior

Through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, this department are the trustees for:

- Migratory birds and certain anadromous fish, endangered species, and marine mammals and their supporting ecosystems;
- Federally owned minerals;
- Federally managed water resources;
- Natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by DOI through its component bureaus;
- National parks, national wildlife refuges, national landscape conservation areas, etc.; and
- Those natural resources for which a Tribe would otherwise act as trustee in those cases where the United States acts on behalf of the Tribes.

4210.2 Department of Commerce

Through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this department are trustees for:

- Marine fishery resources and certain anadromous fish, endangered species, and marine mammals and their supporting ecosystem;
- National Marine Sanctuaries; and
- National Estuarine Reserves.

4210.3 Department of Agriculture

Through the U.S. Forest Service, this department is the trustee for any natural and cultural resources located on, over, or under land administered by USFS.

4210.4 Department of Defense

The DoD is the trustee for any natural and cultural resources located on, over, and under land administered by the DoD.

4210.5 Department of Energy

The DOE is the trustee for any natural and cultural resources located on, over, and under land administered by the DOE.

4300 Air Plume Modeling

The NRF designates the Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMAAC) as the single federal source of airborne hazards predictions during incidents that involve multiple federal agencies. IMAAC is responsible for producing and disseminating predictions of the effects of hazardous chemical, biological, and radiological releases.

IMAAC is not intended to replace or supplant dispersion modeling capabilities that federal agencies currently have in place to meet agency-specific mission requirements. Rather, it provides interagency coordination to use the most appropriate model for a particular incident and for delivery of a single federal prediction to all responders. Information on the IMAAC can be found at: http://www.dhs.gov/imaac. To request IMAAC support, state, local, Tribal, and federal officials should contact the IMAAC Technical Operations Hub, run by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at 703-767-2003. The IMAAC products are available on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) IMAAC page. To open an HSIN account, contact the HSIN Helpdesk at 1-866-430-0162 (available 24/7) or send an email to HSIN.HelpDesk@hq.dhs.gov requesting an HSIN account and access to the IMAAC community of interest.

Air Plume Modeling Contact Information

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (206) 526-4911

Washington State Department of Ecology, Air Program (800) 258-5990, ask for Ecology responder.

Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO): For direct air plume modeling:

The CAMEO® Suite of applications (including CAMEO, Aerial Locations of Hazardous Atmospheres [ALOHA], and Mapping Application for Response, Planning and Local Operational Tasks [MARPLOT]) is designed to allow the user to plan for and respond to a hazardous substances incident.

CAMEO Chemicals has identification information and response recommendations for thousands of chemicals commonly transported in the United States. CAMEO is a set of blank database templates where state and local organizations can enter information for facilities that store hazardous substances. The CAMEO software suite can be downloaded for free from: http://www2.epa.gov/cameo.

In the state of Washington, any local jurisdiction may obtain this information by contacting Ecology Community Right to Know at 800-633-7585. In Oregon, the same information may be obtained through the Office of the State Fire Marshal Hazardous Substance Information Hotline at 503-378-6835. In Idaho, this information can be obtained by calling the Emergency Communications Center at 208-846-7610.

ALOHA can predict the movement of hazardous substances in the atmosphere and display the toxic threat zones on a digital map via MARPLOT. ALOHA can also estimate thermal and explosive threat zones of flammable chemicals. ALOHA has almost a thousand chemicals in its database. MARPLOT uses electronic maps created by the U.S. Bureau of the Census that cover the entire country and can be downloaded for free as part of the CAMEO software suite mentioned above.

4400 Transition to Long-Term Cleanup

At some point after the peak of the initial response phase, the nature of site activities may evolve into a long-term cleanup/remedial phase. Depending upon the scope of activities and the ability of the local responders, post-initial response and mitigation phase efforts may necessitate mobilization of additional resources. Also, it is possible that additional federal and/or state agency representatives may need to be involved with the long-term phase to ensure that regulatory mandates are followed. It is critical that the initial responders debrief the incoming cleanup staff prior to demobilizing. Standard long-term/remedial clean-up actions are:

- Perform risk assessment for remaining contaminants;
- Evaluate cleanup/decontamination options;
- Implement cleanup alternatives; and
- Long-term monitoring or remediation of impacted area, if necessary.

4500 Disposal

A number of different hazardous wastes/solid wastes may be generated as a result of an incident. The RP or lead agency must address proper disposal of the wastes in accordance with the RCRA, the NCP, and the SPS ACP, state, and local regulations. Options for disposal of material connected to the emergency response action will be coordinated with the state and with support by the federal agencies for those agents, substances, or radioactive materials that need special care.

4501 Hazardous Waste

	Hazardous Waste Regulator	Additional Information
Washington	Washington Department of Ecology	https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/our-programs/hazardous-waste-toxics-reduction
Oregon	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/hw/Pages/HW-Reporting.aspx

4502 Radioactive Waste

	Radioactive Waste Regulator	Additional Information
Washington	Washington Department of Health Radiation Protection	https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/radiation
Oregon	Oregon Department of Public Health: Radiation Protective Services	http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/RadiationProtection/Pages/index.aspx
Idaho	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/region-state/idaho.html

4503 Biological Waste (WMD)

The need to dispose of material contaminated with biological agents is rare, and therefore standard protocols do not exist. Often it is possible to neutralize the biological agent, after which the material may be treated as non-hazardous waste or non-infectious waste. The appropriate disposal method for biological waste will be dependent on the specific situation. It will require consultation between local, tribal, state, and federal partners as well as agreement from the disposal site operator.

5000 Logistics

5100 Emergency Response Teams

There are several specially trained hazardous materials teams (both public and private) throughout the state of Washington that will most likely be involved in hazardous substance spills. The following tables provide information on how to contact these various teams.

For a handbook on teams that are considered National Assets, see the Hazardous Materials Response Special Teams Capabilities and Contacts Handbook (2005).

5110 Federal Emergency Response Teams

Team Name	Base	Region-wide if Requested	Team Level A/B	24-Hour Phone
EPA Emergency Response	Seattle, WA Portland, OR	Yes	Both	206-553-1263
EPA Radiological Emergency Response	Las Vegas, NV	Yes	Both	206-553-1263
Fairchild Fire Department (HazMat Team)	Fairchild Air Force Base	No	Both	509-247-2643
Hanford Fire Department	Hanford	No	Both	509-373-2745
Joint Base Lewis McChord (HazMat Team)	McChord	Yes	Both	253-982-2603 253-912-4442
Pacific Strike Team (USCG)	Novato, CA	Yes	Both	415-883-3311
Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton	Bremerton	Local Area/County	A	360-315-4064
Naval Base Kitsap Bangor	Bangor	Local Area/County	A	360-315-4064
NAS Whidbey Island Ault Field	Whidbey Island	Local Area/County	A	360-315-4064

Key:
EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency
HazMat = hazardous materials
NAS = Naval Air Station
OR = Oregon

USCG = United States Coast Guard
WA = Washington

5120 Washington Response Teams

Team Name	Base	Region-Wide	Team Level	24-Hour Phone
Eastside	Bellevue Fire Department	No	Both	425-452-2048
Everett	Everett Fire Department	Yes	Both	425-257-8100
South King Fire and Rescue	South King Fire and Rescue	Yes	Both	253-946-7249
Graham/Central Pierce	Central Pierce Fire and Rescue	No	Both	253-588-5217
Kent	Kent Fire and Life Safety	Yes	Both	253-856-4374
Lynnwood SW Snohomish	Lynwood Fire Department	Yes	Both	425-649-7000
Marysville	Marysville Fire Department	N/A	Both	360-653-1122
Port of Seattle	POS/SEATAC Airport Fire Department	Yes	Both	206-433-5380
Renton	Renton Fire Department	No	Both	425-235-2121
Seattle	Seattle Fire Department	No	Both	206-386-1481
Specialized Emergency Response Program (SERP)	Bellingham Fire Department	No	Both	360-778-8400
Spokane	Spokane Fire Department	Yes	Both	509-532-8900
Tacoma	Tacoma Fire Department	Yes	Both	253-627-0151 253-591-5733
Tri County Hazmat Response Group	Richland Fire Department	Yes	Both	509-628-0333
Tukwila	Tukwila Fire Department	Yes	Both	206-625-5011
Vancouver Hazmat 81	Vancouver Fire Department	Yes	Both	360-696-4461
Walla Walla	Walla Walla Fire Department	Yes	Both	509-527-1960
Washington State University	Pullman	Yes	Both	509-335-8548
Yakima Valley NH3	Sunnyside Fire Department	No	Both	509-865-4338
Yakima Fire Department	Yakima Fire Department	No	Both	800-572-0490
Greater Palouse Hazmat Team	Pullman Fire Department		Both	509-332-2521
10th Civil Support Team	Camp Murray	Yes	Both	253-512-8063

5130 Private Emergency Response Teams

Team Name	Base	Team Level A/B	Statewide if Requested	24-Hour Phone
Airgas	Multiple	Yes	Yes	866-734-3438
BNSF Railway	Multiple	Yes	Yes	800-832-5452
Union Pacific Railway	Multiple	Yes	Yes	888-877-7267
BOC Gases	Multiple	Yes	Yes	800-232-4726
Shell Puget Sound Refinery	Anacortes, Washington	Yes	No (Not available beyond facility)	360-293-0800

5200 Contractor Support

There are a number of contractors in the Northwest Area with expertise in responding to hazardous substance releases. It is essential that any contractor retained have the appropriate training to meet the OSHA 1910.120 health and safety requirements and be capable of responding in the appropriate level of protection.

Ecology maintains a list of Washington State cleanup contractors. This list is maintained as a service to assist RPs in identifying potential contractors in their area. Ecology does not certify or endorse any contractors on this list, nor does Ecology verify that they are adequately trained, licensed, or insured. This list is maintained at: https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Primary-response-contractors

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality maintains a contract with select local environmental response companies. Through the Oregon Cooperative Purchasing Program (ORCPP), which recognizes certain agencies and organizations within the State of Oregon as authorized to purchase the goods and services available under a price agreement entered into by the State, ORCPP members including cities, counties, school districts, public universities, special districts, qualified rehabilitation facilities, residential programs under contract with the Oregon Department of Human Services,

U.S. governmental agencies, and Tribes or agencies can leverage this state-wide contract. ORCPP membership can be verified by contacting Department of Administrative Services, Procurement Services (DAS PS) at (503) 378-2497 or through the website http://egov.oregon.gov/DAS/PFSS/SPO/coop-menu.shtml.

Information and procedures for leveraging the state environmental contractor can be accessed by Oregon Tribes, cities, counties, and municipalities through the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC).

6000 Finance/Administration

There are a number of federal and state funding sources that may be accessed to pay for costs incurred at an incident. These sources are set up as funding mechanisms in the event that the RP is unable/unwilling to provide funding of response actions. Access to these funding sources is possible through the federal or state agency that is responsible for administering the fund.

Under CERCLA, the Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund (Superfund) was established to pay for cleanup of releases of hazardous substances and uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. EPA manages and administers this fund. In order for a response or cleanup to be initiated using the Superfund, there must be a release or the threat of release of a CERCLA hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. The release must cause a threat to public health or welfare or the environment based on the criteria outlined in the NCP, 40 CFR Part 300.415(b)(2). Pollutants or contaminants must meet a higher threshold of posing an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to human health or the environment. The FOSC makes these determinations.

The NCP 40 CFR Part 300.415(b)(2) criteria for accessing the Superfund:

- Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants;
- Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems;
- Hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants in drums, barrels, tanks, or other bulk storage containers that may pose a threat of a release;
- High levels of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants in soils largely at or near the surface that may migrate;
- Weather conditions that may cause hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to be released;
- Threat of fire or explosion;
- The availability of other appropriate federal or state response mechanisms to

respond to the release; and

- Other situations or factors that may pose threats to public health or welfare of the United States or the environment.

6100 Local Government Reimbursement

Federally recognized Tribal governments and local governments (county, city, municipality, or township) may apply for reimbursement of costs incurred in response to an incident through EPA, which administers the Superfund. States are specifically excluded from seeking reimbursement from the Superfund. Federally recognized Tribal governments and local governments are eligible for reimbursement up to $25,000 per incident for costs such as overtime charges, response contractors, equipment purchased for the response, and replacement of damaged equipment. EPA may accept only one request for reimbursement for each hazardous substance release incident. EPA cannot reimburse for costs previously budgeted for by the local government. More information for the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program may be obtained by calling EPA's LGR Helpline at: (800) 431-9209 or visiting the following link:

https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/local-governments-reimbursement-program

6200 Cost Documentation

All entities and agencies should document the full range of costs in responding to an incident. It may be unclear at the onset of an incident how costs might be recovered; thus, it is important that records are accurate and complete.

Upon completion of all site activities and/or completion of each phase of an incident, the FOSC may be responsible for submitting letters and/or reports to other agencies. The NCP requires that an FOSC Report be submitted if requested by the NRT or Regional Response Team. Also, those responders and agencies that accessed fund sources must provide written documentation and information to support the cost incurred. Costs must be fully and accurately documented throughout a response. Cost

documentation should provide the source and circumstance of the release; the identity of the RPs; the response actions taken; and accurate accounting of federal, state, or private party costs incurred for response actions, impacts, and potential impacts to the public health and welfare and the environment.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Salvage and Marine Firefighting

Annex E

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 4

1100 Definitions and Responsibilities 4

1200 United States Coast Guard Authority 7

1300 Federal Policy 8

1400 United States Coast Guard Policy 9

1400.1 United States Coast Guard Action in a Fire Department's Jurisdiction within Sector Puget Sound's SAR Zone and COTP Puget Sound's Zone 10

1500 State Policy 13

1600 United States/Canadian Cross Border Policy 14

1700 Non-Federal Responsibility 14

1710 Local Fire Departments 14

1720 Master/Mate of the Vessel 14

1730 Owners/Operators of the Vessel 15

1740 Primary Resource Provider 15

2000 Command and Control 16

2010 Command Interrelationships 16

2020 Unified Command 16

2030 Transfer of Command 17

2030.1 Vessel Underway 17

2030.2 Vessel at Pier 18

3000 Operations 19

3100 Burning Vessel Movement Considerations 20

3110 Decision to Allow a Burning Vessel to Enter Port or Move within the Port 21

3200 Offshore Firefighting Considerations 23

3210 United States Coast Guard Offshore Resources 24

3220 United States Department of Defense Offshore Resources 24

3230 Other Offshore Resources 24

3240 Offshore Scuttling Area Selection 25

3300 Positioning a Vessel for Firefighting 26

3310 Fire Suppression Berths 26

3320 Anchorage and Grounding Site Selection 26

3330 Response Actions 27

3340 Safety Zones 28

3350 Stability 29

4000 Salvage 30

5000 Planning 37

5100 Objectives 37

5200 Exercises and Drills 37

5300 Regional Training 38
5310 Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission 40
5400 Local Fire Department Training 40
6000 Finance 41
6100 Financial Responsibility 41
7000 Logistics 42
7100 Communications 42
7200 United States Coast Guard Frequencies and Resources 42
8000 Firefighting Resources 43
8100 Regional Marine Firefighting Resources 43

List of Tables

Table 1 International Common Public Safety Channels ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 3
Table 2 Emergency Response, Salvage and Marine Fire Fighting Contact Information. **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 4
Table 3 List of South Texas Boat Ramps/Cranes ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.** 6

1000 Introduction

This annex outlines the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG's) responsibilities and provides response guidelines for a marine fire and vessel salvage within the Sector Puget Sound (SPS) Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone, which Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan De Fuca, and the northern Washington Coast. The COTP's primary concern in responding to vessel or facility fires is to ensure safety of life. Secondary concerns include maintaining vessel traffic, preserving property, and protection of the environment. A key purpose of the annex is to explain the USCG's role and the support that can be provided to local municipalities during marine firefighting incidents. Policies, responsibilities, and procedures for coordination of on-scene forces are provided. It is designed for use in conjunction with other state, regional, and local contingency and resource mobilization plans. To accomplish this, the SPS Area Contingency Plan (ACP) has adopted policy aligned with overarching Coast Guard policy and response guidelines developed over decades by the Northwest Area Committees (NWACs) and documented within the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP). This information is being incorporated into Annex E of the SPS ACP to align with the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 12-23. The guiding policy for this plan is COMDTINST M16000.11(series), Marine Safety Manual, Volume VI, Chapter 8 (Coast Guard Firefighting Activities).

1100 Definitions and Responsibilities

CCGNWD – Commander, USCG Northwest District: The USCG District Commander (Admiral) who exercises operational and administrative control over all USCG units assigned to the district (with some few exceptions) and acts as a direct representative of the Commandant.

USCG Northwest District: The USCG Northwest District's area comprises Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana and extends out into the Pacific Ocean 200 nautical miles.

USCG Sector Puget Sound: USCG SPS is responsible for administering and directing all USCG activities relating to applicable navigation, shipping, transportation, and environmental laws and regulations within the SPS COTP's Area of Responsibility (AOR). In addition, the Sector Commander provides coordination and efficiency of achievement of the basic missions by all operating units in their geographical area.

Captain of the Port (COTP): The Commander, SPS is designated as COTP. The COTP is responsible for administering and directing all USCG activities relating to Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Response, and Waterway Management functions.

Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC): The federal official predesignated by the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or USCG to coordinate and supervise federal responses under the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

Incident Commander (IC): The person who is directly responsible for coordinating and directing a comprehensive response to the emergency situation. Designated by the responsible party (RP) or lead agency.

Industry: It is the responsibility of a vessel owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge, in accordance with 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart 4.05, to immediately notify the nearest USCG Sector Office, Marine Inspection Office, or Coast Guard Group Office whenever a vessel is involved in a marine casualty after addressing the immediate resultant safety concerns. Marine casualties include an occurrence materially and adversely affecting the vessel's seaworthiness or fitness for service or route, including but not limited to fire, flooding, or failure of or damage to fixed fire-extinguishing systems, lifesaving equipment, auxiliary power-generating equipment, or bilge-pumping systems (46 CFR 4.05-1(a)(4)).

Joint Harbor Operations Center Command Duty Officer (JHOC CDO): The JHOC CDO directs operational responses at the direction of SPS Sector Commander, has ultimate responsibility for all operational decisions delegated to the watch, and determines which partners must be informed of a particular incident or operation.

Lead Agency: A government agency responsible for ensuring adequate fire response. Normally a local fire agency.

Marine Firefighting Coordinator: The officer at SPS responsible to the COTP, for overall supervision of USCG marine firefighting support operations, and for execution of this plan.

Marine Firefighting Scene Coordinator: The officer at SPS responsible for on-scene execution of COTP Marine Firefighting support responsibilities.

On-Scene Commander: Designation per the National Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan. Prosecutes the SAR mission on-scene and has operational control of all SAR response units on scene. This is not to be confused with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) definition for "Incident Commander," who is the person responsible for all aspects of an emergency response, including quickly developing incident objectives, managing all incident operations, applying resources, and having responsibility for all persons involved.

Primary Resource Provider: A resource provider listed in the vessel response plan (VRP) as the principal entity contracted for providing specific salvage and/or marine firefighting services and resources, when multiple resource providers are listed for that service, for each of the COTP Zones in which a vessel operates. The primary resource provider will be the point of contact for the plan holder, the FOSC, and the Unified Command (UC) in matters related to specific resources and services, as required in 33 CFR 155.4030(a).

Resource Provider: An entity that provides personnel, equipment, supplies, and other capabilities necessary to perform salvage and/or firefighting services identified in the VRP.

Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator: Designation per the National SAR Plan. Responsible for planning and operational coordination and control of SAR missions. This position has overall responsibility for execution of SAR responsibilities normally designated by the Commander of the cognizant USCG Sector or CCGNWD.

Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service (VTS Puget Sound): VTS Puget Sound is a Branch of the Waterways Management Division of SPS. Its mission is to prevent groundings, collisions, and environmental damage while supporting navigation safety mission goals.

Waterfront Facility: All piers, wharves, docks, and similar structures to which vessels may be secured; areas of land, water, or land and water under and in immediate proximity to them; buildings on such structures and equipment and materials on or in such buildings.

1200 United States Coast Guard Authority

The USCG has no specific statutory responsibility to fight marine fires; but the local USCG COTP is charged by the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 United States Code [USC] 1221, et seq.) with the responsibility for navigation and vessel safety, safety of the waterfront facilities, and protection of the marine environment within the COTPs area of jurisdiction. This authority allows the COTP to:

- Direct the anchoring, mooring, or movement of a vessel;
- Specify times of vessel entry, movement, or departure to, from, or through ports, harbors, or other waters;
- Restrict vessel operation in hazardous areas; and
- Direct the handling, loading, discharge, storage, and movement – including emergency removal, control, and disposition – of explosives or other dangerous cargo or substances, on any bridge or other structure on or in the navigable waters of the United States or any land structure immediately adjacent to those waters.

The USCG under the Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 (33 USC 1251, et seq.) may, whenever a marine disaster in the navigable waters or exclusive economic zone of the United States has created a substantial threat of pollution because of a discharge or an imminent discharge of large quantities of oil or a hazardous substance from a vessel, coordinate and direct all public and private efforts directed at removal or elimination of such threat and summarily remove and, if necessary, destroy such a vessel. Also, under section 4202 of OPA mandates that the USCG maintain an ACP

with a list of pollution response equipment (including firefighting equipment) within each port.

The Intervention on the High Seas Act (33 USC 1471, et seq.) extends the USCG's authority to take similar preemptive or corrective action upon the high seas (i.e., beyond the three-mile territorial sea). Specifically, it authorizes the Commandant of the USCG to take such measures on the high seas as may be necessary to prevent or mitigate circumstances when a vessel is threatening to spill crude oil, fuel oil, diesel oil, or lubricating oil into the sea. After consultation with the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of Commerce, the USCG is allowed to expand the list of substances to that which is beyond the Intervention Convention. This authority rests with the Commandant. The SPS Sector Commander should relay any recommendation to take such action through the district commander to the Commandant.

42 USC 1856-1856(d) allows an agency charged with providing fire protection for any property of the United States to enter into reciprocal agreements with state and local firefighting organizations to provide for mutual aids. This statute further provides that emergency assistance may be rendered in the absence of a reciprocal agreement, when it is determined by the head of that agency to be in the best interest of the United States.

The USCG cannot delegate their statutory authorities and shall not delegate mission responsibilities to state or local agencies. SPS shall not be party to any agreement that relinquishes USCG authority, evades USCG responsibility, or places Sector military personnel under the command of any person(s) who is/are not a part of the federal military establishment. USCG forces will not be subject to any authority other than that of their superiors in the chain of command. Within the USCG, the COTP will delegate authorities as necessary.

1300 Federal Policy

Federal policy established in the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-498), states that fire prevention and control is and should remain a state and local responsibility, although the federal government must help to reduce fire losses. However, the ultimate responsibility is always with the vessel or facility owner and operator.

Additionally, provisions of OPA require tank vessels to maintain response plans (33 CFR 155 Subpart I) and the Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations for Vessels also requires non-tank vessels to maintain vessel response plans (33 CFR part 155 Subpart J). These regulations clarify the responsibilities and enhance the preparedness of vessel owners and operators regarding marine fires. They establish planning criteria requiring the identification of specific resources and specific timeframes that these resources are brought to the scene of an incident.

The presence of local firefighters who respond to marine fires does not relieve the vessel's Master command of, or transfer the Master's responsibility for overall safety of the vessel. However, the Master should not normally countermand any orders given by the local firefighters on board the vessel, unless the action taken or planned clearly endangers the safety of the vessel or crew.

1400 United States Coast Guard Policy

The USCG has traditionally provided firefighting equipment and training to protect its vessels and property. Commanding Officers of USCG units (Sector Commanders, Cutters, etc.) are routinely called upon to provide assistance at fires on board vessels and at waterfront facilities. Although the USCG clearly has an interest in fighting fires involving vessels or waterfront facilities, local authorities are principally responsible for maintaining necessary firefighting utilities in U.S. ports and harbors.

The USCG renders assistance as available, based on the availability of resources and the USCG unit's training level. The Commandant intends to maintain this traditional "assistance as available" posture without conveying the impression that the USCG is

prepared to relieve local fire departments of their responsibilities. Additionally, the response actions taken shall pose no unwarranted risk to USCG personnel or equipment. The USCG firefighting policy is set forth in the USCG Marine Safety Manual, Vol. VI, Chapter 8.

It is the Commandant's policy that USCG personnel shall not actively engage in firefighting. The exceptions to this policy include the following:

- Individuals whose primary duty is firefighting;
- Isolated units located where there are no municipal fire departments and the commanding officer determines a fire brigade is necessary to carry out the mission of that unit;
- In order to save a life; and
- In the early stages of a fire that can be extinguished using a portable fire extinguisher.

1400.1 United States Coast Guard Action in a Fire Department's Jurisdiction within Sector Puget Sound's SAR Zone and COTP Puget Sound's Zone

The response action to be taken in any fire department jurisdiction in SPS's SAR zone follows:

a) Upon receipt of a report of fire, the USCG JHOC watch stander shall notify the CDO, who shall complete the Vessel Fire Quick Response Card (QRC).

b) The CDO shall notify designated personnel on the QRC.

c) USCG personnel shall respond as directed by JHOC CDO.

d) The appropriate fire bureau shall be contacted if they have not already been advised of the fire. If the fire is in the Seattle Fire Department's area of jurisdiction, one or more fireboats will likely be dispatched to the scene. Communications shall be established on Channels 16 or 22A between the responding small boats (if dispatched) and the fireboats.

e) If the fire occurs in the jurisdictional area of a fire department that does not have a fireboat, it should be determined whether the local fire department has sought any outside assistance from other fire departments. If no outside assistance has been sought, the options available should be presented to the local fire department, and a plan of action should be coordinated with the USCG, if necessary.

f) Unless involved in a serious SAR case, the CDO shall dispatch a boat to the scene immediately. A Response Boat Small (RBS) and/or Response Boat Medium (RBM) should be selected. This should occur regardless of whether or not the fire department requests USCG assistance. The boat crew should be rapidly briefed concerning the extent of the fire.

g) Response team personnel, acting as the On-Scene Coordinator's (OSCs) representative, shall be dispatched to meet with the Fire Department Incident Commander in charge of shoreside operations. This will provide a communications link between the COTP and the fire department. Orders for coordination of USCG firefighting activities at the scene shall be passed through the USCG shore response team (OSC's representative). Communications shall be established between the shore response team (OSC representative), the Sector, and the UTB, on VHF-FM Channels assigned by the JHOC CDO, or by cellular telephone.

h) Issue a safety broadcast, or Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB), to advise the maritime community of the fire and presence of waterborne firefighting units on-scene.

i) As a general rule, SPS will provide firefighting services if life is threatened, or as requested by the fire department unless, in the opinion of the shoreside USCG OSC or coxswain, they are beyond the capability of the boat, either because of the boat's characteristics, inadequate PPE, or low experience level of the crew. All actions shall be reported to the CDO at the time services are requested. USCG forces shall never take action without the approval or at the request of the shore-based IC. Where USCG firefighting services are not needed, the USCG boat shall remain on scene to direct marine traffic or provide such other services, as directed by the OSC.

j) If a fire is reported to be ashore at or on a ship at a grain elevator or oil terminal, the following actions will be taken:

    1) The JHOC CDO will determine if unaffected vessels moored to the facility need to be moved immediately, with or without tugs and pilots, depending upon circumstances. A COTP order may be required.

2) Movement of other vessels in the area will be considered based upon degree of risk.
3) Pilots and tugs are to be deployed as early as possible.
4) Vessels moored at other types of facilities involved in a fire may be moved based upon the degree of danger to the vessel.
5) USCG personnel may board and/or communicate by other means with all vessels in a fire area, as conditions, permit, and inform the Senior Deck Officer, Security Officer, or Master to secure ship operations and be prepared to get underway.
6) Local agents and pilots will be informed of vessels involved in the incident of the situation and any anticipated movement of their vessels.
7) Vessels to be moved are to be directed to a harbor, anchorage, or another dock away from the fire area.
8) If appropriate, a safety zone will be established for the protection of vessels, water, and shore areas.

1500 State Policy

The Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan has been developed in support of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.54, the State Fire Services Mobilization Act. In implementing this act, consistency will be sought with:

- RCW 76.04, which governs the Washington State Department of Natural Resources;
- RCW 43.43 and 38.52, which govern fire protection services and emergency management;
- RCW 52, which governs fire districts; and
- RCW 35, which governs cities and towns.

Authorization to mobilize state fire resources may be requested when (1) all local and mutual aid resources have been expended in attempting to control an emergency incident presenting a clear and present danger to life and property, or (2) a non-stabilized incident or simultaneous incidents presenting a clear and present danger to life and property and requiring, in addition to local resources and mutual aid, the deployment of additional resources, as established by the Region Fire Defense Plan approved by the State Fire Defense Committee.

Washington State law includes notification and response requirements for handling potential spill threats under the following provisions of law:

- RCW 88.46, which governs vessel oil spill prevention and response; and
- RCW 90.56, which governs oil and hazardous substance prevention and response.

State law requires the Washington State Department of Ecology to take all actions necessary to respond to a substantial threat of a discharge of oil or hazardous substances into the waters of the state. The Washington Department of Ecology Spills Program is responsible for these response activities and considers any disabled vessel situation involving significant marine firefighting or salvage operation as a potential spill and would participate in the UC.

1600 United States/Canadian Cross Border Policy

An agreement is in place, negotiated between the United States and Canada, which allows for cooperation in an emergency situation. Commander, USCG Northwest District maintains this agreement.

1700 Non-Federal Responsibility

1710 Local Fire Departments

Local fire departments are responsible for fire protection within their jurisdictions. In a number of cities, this responsibility includes marine terminals and facilities. Some of these terminals and facilities have entered into mutual aid agreements with the surrounding fire departments.

Typical responsibilities of local fire departments include:

- Establish an Incident Command;
- Request necessary personnel and equipment in accordance with existing mutual aid agreements and Washington State Resource Mobilization Plan;
- Make all requests for USCG/federal personnel, equipment, and waterside security through COTP; and
- Establish liaison with law enforcement for landside traffic and crowd control, scene security, and evacuation.

1720 Master/Mate of the Vessel

The vessel Master is always in charge of the vessel, but NEVER in charge of firefighting efforts of non-vessel personnel. The master of a vessel is responsible for the safety of the crew and vessel and should initiate firefighting response actions in accordance with the vessel's fire plan. The presence of local firefighters does not relieve the master of command or transfer the Master's responsibility for overall safety on the vessel. However, the master should not normally countermand any orders given by the local firefighters in

the performance of firefighting activities on board the vessel, unless the intended action clearly endangers the safety of the vessel or crew. As the Master is typically the person most familiar with the vessel in question, the vessel Master should be integrated into the UC.

1730 Owners/Operators of the Vessel

These individuals are always a critical source of vessel/facility information. Regardless of other response resources, the owner/operator of vessels and facilities retain a fundamental responsibility for safety and security. Specific firefighting and salvage requirements are mandated for vessels carrying group I-IV oils, or vessels over 400 gross tons (GT) and are required to have a VRP, must be in accordance with 33 CFR Part 155.

1740 Primary Resource Provider

The Primary Provider will be the point of contact for the plan holder, the FOSC and the UC in matters related to specific salvage and firefighting resources and services, as required, for vessels carrying group I-IV oils, or vessels over 400 GT listed in the VRP.

2000 Command and Control

A major waterfront or shipboard fire in Puget Sound will probably involve response teams from federal, state, and local agencies. The nature and location of the fire will be the deciding element in determining which agency assumes overall command or lead agency in a UC. Overall command or lead agency must be determined as early as possible in the incident to ensure the effective use of personnel and equipment.

2010 Command Interrelationships

The Incident Command System (ICS) is the accepted organization system used by most federal, state, and local agencies mitigating emergency situations and is designed to expand and contract to meet the needs of the incident. The USCG response organization is designed to be interactive with the ICS and the accepted Washington State response organization system. The organizational structure for any given incident will be based upon the management needs of that incident.

2020 Unified Command

In instances when several jurisdictions are involved or in which several agencies have a significant management interest or responsibility, a UC with a lead agency designation may be more appropriate for an incident than a single command response organization. Generally, a UC structure is called for when the incident occurs that crosses jurisdictional boundaries, involves various government levels (e.g., federal, state, and local), impacts functional responsibilities, or a combination thereof. Such circumstances would pertain for almost any fire at a facility or a vessel at pier side or anchorage located in Puget Sound because of the similar responsibilities of local fire departments, other emergency response organizations and the USCG for the saving of life, property, and the environment.

This ICS structure should consist of the individuals designated by their respective agencies. The members of the Unified Command must jointly determine objectives,

strategy, and priorities. The determination of which agencies or departments the IC/UC uses may be done on the basis of greatest jurisdictional involvement, number of resources involved, existing statutory authority, or by mutual knowledge of the individual's qualifications.

A Unified Command structure is called for under the following conditions:

- More than one department or agency shares management responsibility due to the nature of the incident or the kinds of resources required or,
- The incident involves more than one jurisdiction.

The USCG cannot delegate its statutory authorities and will not delegate mission responsibilities to state or local agencies. However, USCG personnel should be prepared to fully integrate into a Unified Command structure and provide assistance, as necessary.

The USCG Incident Management Handbook (IMH) Chapter 21- Salvage and Marine Firefighting offers detailed guidance into the management team structure during a marine fire event.

2030 Transfer of Command

The presence of local fire fighters or USCG personnel does not relieve the master of command of, or transfer the master's responsibility for overall safety on, the vessel. However, the master should not normally countermand any orders given by the local fire fighters in the performance of firefighting activities on board the vessel, unless the action taken or planned clearly endangers the safety of the vessel or crew.

2030.1 Vessel Underway

While the vessel is underway, the lead agency is the COTP. If moved to pier side, the lead agency shifts (with concurrence of the COTP and local fire department) to the fire department.

2030.2 Vessel at Pier

The lead agency will be from the local fire department.

3000 Operations

Marine firefighting is substantially different from standard structural firefighting requiring specialized equipment and training. The IC that does not have an organized marine firefighting team should follow some general guidelines for operational considerations:

- **Activation of the VRP.** When a fire is discovered on a vessel, its VRP should be immediately activated by the crew. Each tank and non-tank vessel is required by 33 CFR 155 Subpart I and Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 01-05 CH-1, respectively, to develop a VRP. In addition to emergency procedures to be carried out by the crew, these VRPs require a list of resources that can be brought to the vessel's location within specific timeframes. For tank vessels, the requirements cover distances out to 50 miles from shore. Non-tank vessels must identify a company with firefighting capabilities that will respond to vessel fires within 24 hours to the port nearest to where the vessel operates. These resources may be commercial, municipal, or a combination of the two.
- **Muster the crew.** Remove all nonessential personnel off the vessel and away from the scene. Make sure the master, mates, and all engineering personnel remain where they can be used as an information resource.
- **Rescue.** Life safety must always be the first consideration in any fire or emergency situation. When lives are in danger, the IC must quickly assess whether the situation necessitates immediate removal of personnel, the number of persons that need to be extracted, and the hazards to the rescue team.
- **Exposure.** The fire should be fought to prevent its spread on or off the vessel. Typical exposures include flammable liquid or gas tanks, open stairways, explosives, or any other substance that would accelerate or aid the spread of the fire. Provided there is no danger of water reactivity, exposures are best cooled by the application of a fog pattern until no visible steam is generated. For some two-dimensional surfaces, foam may be an appropriate agent for exposure protection.
- **Confinement.** To accomplish proper containment, all closures and generally all ventilation (unless personnel are trapped inside the space) should be secured. Establish primary fire, smoke, and flooding boundaries. Primary boundaries are critical to the control of a fire. Monitor and cool the boundaries, as necessary, on all six sides of the fire (fore, aft, port, starboard, above, and below).

- **Stability.** Vessel stability can be defined as its ability to right its self from an inclining position. During firefighting, excess water on board can create flooding and free surface effect. This could prove disastrous for the vessel leading to list and even sinking. Since local fire services do not typically have training in this field, there is substantial risk that this could occur. This is the area of expertise that other response agencies will depend upon the USCG to contribute. The Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) is available 24/7 to provide professional advice and provide technical solutions. Tank vessels, or non-tank vessels over 400 GT or more, Primary Resource Provider is required to have the ability to determine vessel stability within the planning timelines listed in their VRP. At a minimum, one should refer to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1405.
- **Extinguishment.** The fuel source, amount of fuel/surface area, and location of the fire will determine the tactics and agents to be used.
- **Overhaul** Ensuring that the fire will not re-flash and determining the point of origin and source of ignition. A detailed photographic record of the fire scene before overhaul is essential to support post-fire investigations.
- **Ventilation.** Generally, all ventilation on a vessel will initially be secured upon receipt of a fire alarm. Utilization of ventilation tactics to aid in extinguishment should not begin until a coordinated attack is staged.

3100 Burning Vessel Movement Considerations

A crucial decision that must be made by the COTP is whether or not a burning vessel should be allowed to enter or move within the port. Types of vessel movements that may be required in an emergency include movement from sea to an anchorage or a pier; from an anchorage to a pier; from a pier to an anchorage; grounding a vessel; or scuttling a vessel offshore.

These vessel movements should be thought out in advance and rehearsed as often as possible to ensure a rapid and considered response in the event of a real incident. The Places of Refuge tool provides many of the details needed to determine moorage, anchorage, grounding or scuttling sites, and response efforts.

3110 Decision to Allow a Burning Vessel to Enter Port or Move within the Port

Due to the limited resources available to fight an offshore fire, the COTP may consider allowing a burning vessel to enter port. The numerous considerations that are part of this decision can be found below, as well as in Volume VI, Chapter 8, of the Marine Safety Manual (MI6000.11) and Section 9410. In addition, the owner/operator/agent should be contacted concerning liability and surety bonds should be reviewed and considered as part of this decision.

The amount of information and number of considerations may seem too complicated to resolve in an emergency, but it is important that a thorough analysis of all risks be conducted. An overall perspective is needed to prevent concern for a single vessel from narrowing our vision. A burning vessel is only a small part of the resources (other ships, ports, facilities, personnel, and marine environment) that must be protected. The COTP should approach such an incident by considering the navigable waterways as a system used by various parties for transportation, recreation, and commerce. The most important consideration must be how the life safety and the effect on the maritime system. A burning vessel must be considered as only a single element within that system. The COTP must not jeopardize the other elements to save a single vessel, if the risk to the system is too great. The possibility of having a ship sink in a key navigation channel, thus blocking it, or spreading the fire to a waterfront facility, must be evaluated.

a) There are numerous considerations that the COTP should evaluate when faced with the decision of whether to allow a burning vessel to enter or move within a port. The following information should be gathered and considered prior to making such a decision:

b) Location and extent of fire;

c) Status of shipboard fire-fighting equipment;

d) Class and nature of cargo (HAZMAT);

e) Possibility of explosion;

f) Possibility of vessel sinking/capsizing;

g) Hazard to crew or other resources where vessel is present;

h) Forecasted weather (including bar conditions if applicable);

i) Maneuverability of the vessel (i.e. Is it a dead ship, etc.);

j) Availability (and willingness) of assist tugs;

k) Effect on bridges under which the vessel must transmit;

l) Potential for the fire to spread to the pier or pier structures;

m) Fire-fighting resources available ashore and offshore;

n) Consequences/alternatives if the vessel is not allowed to enter or move;

o) Potential for pollution.

The above considerations should be investigated by the fire department chief and COTP by examining the vessel and cargo manifest before the vessel is allowed to enter port or move within the port. The COTP should decide only after consultation with the appropriate fire department chief, port director, local government officials (i.e., mayor, director of emergency services), vessel owner's agent, and other experts depending on the circumstances.

Entry to port or movement may be permitted when:

a) The fire is already contained or under control.

b) There exists little likelihood that the fire would spread.

c) A greater possibility exists that fire could and would be readily extinguished with available equipment in port before encountering any secondary hazards of explosion or spread of fire.

d) All relevant parties consulted.

Entry to port or movement may be denied when:

a) There is a greater danger that the fire will spread to other port facilities or vessels.

b) The likelihood of the vessel sinking or capsizing within a navigation channel, and becoming an obstruction exists.

c) The vessel might become a derelict.

d) Unfavorable weather conditions preclude either the safe movement of the vessel under complete control or would hamper fire-fighting (look for high winds, fog, strong currents, etc.).

e) Risk of a serious pollution incident by oil or hazardous substances exists; the COTP, in conjunction with USCG Northwest District and the Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10), shall assess the pollution risks and determine whether they are to be ordered to proceed to sea to reduce the pollution hazards.

Additional considerations:

a) Safety broadcast and Notice to Mariners,

b) Ordering the movement of other vessels or cargo that may be impacted.

c) Locating the vessel to best facilitate use of available resources.

3200 Offshore Firefighting Considerations

In addition to the problems associated with any shipboard fire, an offshore incident is further complicated by the poor flow of information and difficulties in supplementing the vessel's fire-fighting resources. Reports from the vessel may be confusing due to the language difficulties or the fact that the crew is too busy fighting the fire to provide detailed information. Until additional resources can be brought to bear, the vessel's firefighting equipment and crew will be the only resources available. Tank vessels, or non-tank vessels over 400 GT or more, Primary Resource Provider is required to have firefighting and salvage assets and personnel on scene within the planning timelines listed in their VRP.

Additional resources in the form of public or private vessels may not be close enough to respond in a timely manner and may be ill-equipped to provide significant assistance. Therefore, the farther offshore a burning vessel is, the less external aid it is likely to receive; however, its impact on vessel traffic and port operations is also reduced. Conversely, the closer a burning vessel is to shore or port, the more aid it is likely to receive, while its impact on vessel traffic and port operations is greater. In both cases, SAR would be Coast Guard's most common response.

3210 United States Coast Guard Offshore Resources

During an offshore fire, ships and aircraft become important resources. Aircraft may provide a timely source of information during the early stages of a response and can be used for personnel or equipment transfers. USCG vessels are limited in their ability to assist in a shipboard fire, but are much better equipped than commercial vessels and have damage control teams that are drilled regularly in shipboard firefighting. In addition to improving communications, larger USCG vessels with flight decks can be used to stage equipment flown to the scene. Strike Force personnel and equipment can be useful in firefighting and dewatering evolutions. All requests for USCG equipment (including ships and aircraft) and supplies, whether from within the COTP Puget Sound area or not, should be directed to the USCG Northwest District Command Center.

3220 United States Department of Defense Offshore Resources

Firefighting equipment may be available from various U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) sources. In addition to the transportation capabilities, DoD aircraft and vessels can be invaluable in an offshore fire situation for the same reasons discussed for Coast Guard assets. The possibility of Naval or USACE vessels operating in the vicinity which can assist should not be overlooked. All requests for DoD assistance should be made to the DoD representative on the RRT 10, via the USCG Northwest District.

3230 Other Offshore Resources

Any ship becomes a valuable resource during an offshore vessel fire, even those with small crews and minimal firefighting capability. At a minimum, another vessel can provide a means of escape for a burning vessel's crew should their efforts to control the fire fail.

Vessels in the area may be notified of a situation via the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System, the Automated Information System, or with a Broadcast Notice to Mariners. Tug companies in the vicinity may assist in fighting the fire, moving a dead ship, or transporting equipment. While few vessel operators would be reluctant to assist in a

life-threatening situation, vessel owners may not be willing to respond to a firefighting situation that could risk their vessels or crew in order to protect a ship or cargo once the crew is safe.

3240 Offshore Scuttling Area Selection

If a vessel cannot be safely moved to a port, and it is possible that the vessel and cargo could be lost (either intentionally or not), the vessel should be moved to an area where environmental damage will be minimized. The information in this section should be reviewed to identify the best area to move the vessel. EPA should also be consulted on any decision concerning scuttling of a vessel. Scuttling must be conducted in agreement with COMDTINST 16451.9 and 40 CFR 229.3.

3300 Positioning a Vessel for Firefighting

This section addresses the positioning of a vessel that is on fire while underway, or a vessel that is docked. No vessel on fire should be moved without the permission of the COTP, except under the most urgent conditions.

The success or failure of a shipboard fire response effort will, in large part, be determined by the vessel's location. The likelihood of successfully fighting a fire on a remotely located vessel is small compared to a vessel located near sufficient sources of firefighting resources.

3310 Fire Suppression Berths

Several considerations enter into the selection of piers as a location for fire suppression operations:

- Proximity of populated areas;
- Cargo composition and wind direction;
- The combustibility/flammability of pier structures and contiguous facilities;
- Availability of high-pressure water;
- Access to response boats and vehicles;
- Minimizing risk of impeding navigation; and
- Risk to nearby vessels and facilities.

Much of the information needed to determine the suitability of a facility can be found in the Places of Refuge Tool.

3320 Anchorage and Grounding Site Selection

When choosing anchoring or grounding locations, some of the same factors must be considered, as well as their effect on navigation and minimizing the risk to surrounding communities and to the environment. The possibility of the vessel sinking or becoming a derelict is very real and could prove a greater harm to the marine system than the loss of

the single vessel. COMDTINST 16451.9 (U.S. Coast Guard Places of Refuge Policy), SPS ACP Section 4700 Places of Refuge, and the Places of Refuge tool provide additional considerations. The initial considerations are:

- Bottom material: Should be soft enough so that the ship's hull will not be ruptured;
- Water depth: Should be shallow enough so that the vessel could not sink below the main deck level, yet deep enough so that fire boats, salvage barges, and tugs can approach; tides and other river level fluctuations must be considered;
- Area weather: Do not choose areas known to have strong winds or currents that could hamper firefighting or salvage efforts.
- Location: Should optimize accessibility to firefighting, spill response, and salvage assets.

The location and suitability of boat ramps and piers to be used as staging areas must also be evaluated when considering grounding or anchorage sites. Close consultation with the Puget Sound Pilots should be considered when selecting any anchoring or grounding site in the SPS AOR.

3330 Response Actions

The initial assessment is one of the first actions taken in response to a marine fire. This involves evaluation of available facts and probabilities. The initial assessment consists of six steps to rapidly form a deliberate plan of action:

- Gather facts;
- Assess probabilities;
- Determine resources;
- Apply basic firefighting principles;
- Decide a course of action; and
- Formulate a plan of operations.

Pertinent facts might include location of fire, location of crew/personnel, acquiring the VRP, the general arrangement plan, location and configuration of the fire control plant,

vessel/facility condition, vessel stability issues, type and condition of cargo, and available response equipment.

The COTP is responsible for USCG response efforts to a vessel fire. The COTP has overall control of all USCG forces and equipment involved in the response to a marine fire. However, a vessel fire may be initially treated as an SAR case under control of the assigned SMC until a determination of the situation has been made by on-scene forces as to the status of the vessel and its crew, the extent of the fire, ongoing response efforts, fire agency and other agency involvement, and other pertinent information. At this time, the SPS COTP may assume the duties of the FOSC and carry out their responsibilities accordingly.

The choice among courses of action delineated below is based upon where the incident occurs with respect to the limits of the various fire agency jurisdictions, the COTP AOR, the SPS SAR Zone, and the USCG policy as described in the Marine Safety Manual.

3340 Safety Zones

To secure the safety of waterfront facilities and vessels, the COTP may find it helpful to control or restrict traffic in the affected areas.

C33 CFR 165 (Regulated Navigations Areas and Limited Access Areas) discusses the characteristics of limited access areas, including safety zones, security zones, restricted areas, and regulated navigation areas. Authority is granted to the COTP to establish safety zones by the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 USC 1221 et seq.). A safety zone could be established around a burning vessel to facilitate access for fire or rescue units and to protect uninvolved persons or vessels, or it could be used to ensure the safer transit of a vessel carrying a dangerous cargo. They should be established on a temporary, and usually, emergency basis to deal with a situation beyond the scope of normal safety and security measures.

3350 Stability

Vessel stability can be defined as a vessel's ability to right itself from an inclining position. During firefighting, excess water on board can create flooding and free surface effect. This could prove disastrous for the vessel, leading to list and even sinking. Calculations regarding damage stability for oil tankers and barges are required to be accessible 24 hours a day per 33 CFR Part 155.240. Additionally, 33 CFR Part 155.4030(b) requires that stability assessments on these vessels must begin no later than three hours after initial notification. NVIC 01-05 also provides similar voluntary guidance for non-tank vessels.

If this information is not provided by the vessel's Primary Resource Provider or other Resource Provider, the FOSCR or Marine Inspector is typically the USCG officer who would provide this advice with assistance from the USCG SERT. Additionally, local naval architects, engineers, or a maritime service firm may be available for such advice. At a minimum, one should refer to NFPA 1405, Guide for Land-Based Fire Fighters Who Respond to Marine Vessel Fires. More detailed information regarding vessel stability issues during marine fires can be found in the International Fire Service Training Association Manual, Marine Firefighting for Land Based Fire Fighters.

4000 Salvage

Before, during, and/or after an oil spill or potential incident, salvage assistance may be required. A salvage plan may be developed within the response organization for, but not limited to, vessel stranding, vessel sinking's and rescues (towing). The IC/UC will review and approve or disapprove the salvage plan based on the resulting risk to human life, port security, and the environment.

Initial rescue efforts will have priority over pollution response efforts, to the extent that they may interfere. Subsequent to any rescue efforts, the pollution response efforts and salvage efforts may be conducted concurrently. The OSC will prioritize actions when interference between salvage and pollution response efforts cannot be eliminated.

USGC COTPs have jurisdiction over vessel salvage; this does not preclude any other agencies' interests with respect to spill prevention or response. Ecology would normally be part of the Salvage/Source Control Group.

For general guidelines to follow in responding to an incident that requires salvage operations, refer to United States Navy Salvage Manual Volume 1–6 http://www.supsalv.org/00c2_publications.asp?destPage=00c2&pageId=2.6 and Section 8100 of this annex for Resource Listings.

For specific salvage resource lists also see the Worldwide Response Resources List (WRRL) Inventory at http://www.wrrl.us/.

The Salvage and Source Control group is responsible for coordinating and directing all salvage operations. This includes development and implementation of the Salvage Plan and managing dedicated salvage resources. The COTP has jurisdiction over vessel salvage; however, this does not preclude any other agencies' interests or responsibilities with respect to spill prevention or response.

The evaluation and interpretation of information gathered from a variety of sources (including weather information and forecasts, computerized models, geographic information system (GIS) data mapping, remote sensing sources, ground survey, etc.) that, when communicated to emergency managers and decision makers, can provide a basis for incident management decision making.

Damage control actions may range from augmenting the ship's crew to conducting firefighting and flooding control. During the stabilization phase, the Salvor should take steps to limit further damage to the vessel and to keep the ship from being driven harder aground or breaching.

Response leaders will gather information and formulate a Salvage Plan that specifies actions to be taken during the refloating and post-refloating phases of the salvage. This phase of operations must take into account the potential discharge of oil or hazardous substance into the environment. Upon stranding, the vessel's master should take the following steps:

- Have ship's personnel report to emergency stations;
- Secure watertight closures;
- Notify Coast Guard, vessel's operations controller and Emergency Management Division (EMD);
- Request salvage assistance;
- Note course and speed at time of stranding;
- Obtain and provide, if necessary, an accurate cargo stowage plan; and

Evaluate the following:

- Safety of personnel;
- Weather and sea conditions;
- Forecast for change in weather/sea conditions;
- Nature of the seafloor, shoreline;
- Depth of water around ship;

- Ground reaction;
- Damage to hull;
- Damage to shafting, screws, and rudder;
- Risk of further damage;
- Prospect of maintaining communications;
- Ground reaction;
- Likely draft/trim;
- Potential for discharge of pollutants;
- Position of vital and cargo systems' valves; and
- The liquid level of all tanks (i.e., fuel, ballast, cargo, etc.).

The vessel's master SHOULD:

- Determine the vessel's condition; and
- Take action to stabilize the ship.

The vessel's master should NOT:

- Jettison weight in an attempt to lighten ship prior to an attempt to back the vessel off;
- Attempt to back the vessel off when the bottom is torn open; and
- Fail to take action to stabilize the ship and to determine its condition.

The vessel's master should request salvage assistance immediately, and not delay pending the result of an early attempt to refloat the vessel. If the damage assessment shows the ship will not broach, sink, or capsize, the master can attempt to back the vessel clear using full engine power on the next high tide.

The Responsible Party should take the following steps:

- Contact the Coast Guard COTP and provide current information; and
- Implement UC System organization.

Identify salvage resources available and time required for resources to arrive on scene:

- Salvage manager;
- Salvage vessel(s);
- Tugs;
- Beach gear;
- Barges with ground tackle;
- Lifting vessels;
- Pumps and hoses;
- Hull patching equipment, cement;
- Initiate salvage response. Over-estimate resources needed;
- Inform vessel's master of all actions taken;
- Obtain services of naval architect; and
- Conduct analysis of ship's longitudinal strength and damaged stability.

After the threat of loss to life is eliminated and the emphasis shifts to protection of the environment and property, the COTP/FOSC will monitor the mounting salvage efforts of the RP and provide technical review and information. In the event that the RP is unable or unwilling to respond to the casualty, the government will respond to the salvage requirement, utilizing commercial and government facilities and resources.

Refloating

The refloating phase commences when the salvage plan is executed and ends when the ship begins to move from her strand. The plan should be considered a working plan with prudent changes made in response to changing conditions. During this phase, all parties should be in close communication, and the process should be brought to a halt if significant safety problems develop. The salvor, responsible party, and the FOSC/COTP have the authority to stop salvage operations in this case.

Post-Refloating

This phase commences when the ship begins to move off the strand and is completed when the ship has been delivered to safe haven or repair facility, and all salvage resources and equipment have been removed from the salvage site. The options for disposal of the vessel include:

- Steaming into port, or to another location within the port;
- Towing to safe haven;
- Anchoring in preparation for tow or temporary repairs;
- Beaching if the ship is in danger of sinking; and
- Scuttling or sinking.

These items should be addressed in the salvage plan and updated as necessary following refloating. Following refloating, the salvor should check the following items:

- Overall seaworthiness;
- Vessel's bottom, for damage hidden by the strand;
- Potential for oil or pollution;
- Piping systems and machinery;
- All ship's systems necessary for the transit;
- Ship's stability, list, and trim (may necessitate loading or shifting of weights);
- Patching and pumping arrangements for compartments; and
- Towing bridle, day marks, and navigation lights (an insurance line should be rigged even when the ship proceeds under its own power).

During the Post-Refloating Phase, the vessel is secured and delivered to the designated port facility. Following this phase, the RP shall submit a completed form CG-2692 and any other requested information to the USCG Sector Puget Sound.

As stated above, the FOSC/COTP may obtain technical expertise and resources from the U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage and the USCG Marine Safety Center. A general list of the types of resources that may be required during a salvage operation are:

- Salvage master;

- Salvage vessel(s);
- Tugs;
- Beach gear;
- Barges with ground tackle;
- Lifting vessels;
- Pumps and hoses; and
- Hull patching equipment, cement.

Contacts for Salvage References and Support:

- Navy Supervisor of Salvage:
  - Supervisor of Salvage Operations (202) 781-2736;
  - After hours and on weekends (NAVSEA Duty Officer) (202) 781-3889;
  - Switchboard (202) 781-1731;
  - Office of the Director of Ocean Engineering Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) http://www.supsalv.org.

SUPSALV can provide the services of naval architects, may provide the services of naval salvage vessels, and has access to contracts that will provide the services of commercial salvers and equipment. SUPSALV has developed and has available software for rapid analysis of longitudinal strength and intact/damaged stability; the software is known as Program of Ship Salvage Engineering (POSSE).

- USCG Marine Safety Center Salvage Team:
  - During business hours: (202) 327-3985 / Duty email: SERT.Duty@uscg.mil; and
  - After hours, contact the USCG Headquarters Command Center: (202) 327-3985.

The USCG Marine Safety Center Salvage Emergency Response Team can evaluate vessel stability, hull strength, and salvage plans and may be available to go on scene. The Marine Safety Center may be able to provide vessel plans, if the ship is U.S. flagged.

- United States Army Corps of Engineers:
  - Vessel PUGET Supervisor: 206-498-8795; and

- Vessel PUGET Captain: 206-399-0358.

USACE can respond to floating logs, debris, and navigational hazards, including derelict vessel up to 30 feet in length. A majority of this response work is conducted by the vessel PUGET, a 104-foot vessel with a 20-ton crane, typically moored at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in Seattle.

NOTE: Be prepared to provide the following information when calling for support: brief description of services required, location, urgency, point of contact, and telephone number. If the task is urgent and requires immediate mobilization, this fact should be clearly articulated and include a statement that funding will be provided by separate correspondence.

State support:

- Ecology can provide response and reviews of salvage or lightering plans.
    - Through Washington Department of Emergency Management 24-hour number: (800) 258-5990

5000 Planning

USCG policy advocates extensive use of contingency plans as tools to assist local commanders in accomplishing their many tasks. However, the development of an

Incident Action Plan in an Incident or UC environment will usually be necessary to plan for and implement specific firefighting tactics to meet the actual demand of specific incidents.

5100 Objectives

Some specific objectives of contingency planning are:

a) To prevent loss of life or personal injury, damage, and destruction of vessels, cargoes, structures, and facilities in U.S. ports and waterways, and damage to the marine environment, by reason of accidental, intentional means, or natural phenomena;

b) To maintain safe, secure, and orderly continuation of marine traffic and the acceleration of such traffic, if so required by national interests, in the face of accidental, intentional, or natural disasters;

c) To maintain adequate training through planning prior to a marine incident;

d) To maintain continual contact with local agencies having interest in or responsibilities for a specific event and maintain a check on their resource capabilities and limitations; and

e) To outline unit capabilities and limitations with respect to available resources through all phases of the event.

5200 Exercises and Drills

Because of the complexity and potential consequences of a major marine fire, it is critical that agencies and Primary Resource Providers understand each other's authorities, jurisdictions, capabilities, and limitations. Ample opportunities exist to develop this understanding through coordination of exercises and drills as required by the National Response Exercise Program for vessels and facilities, new requirements under 33 CFR

155.4052, state and local agency requirements, and those coordinated by the Marine Fire and Safety Association (MFSA) in the SCR AOR.

Regardless of the initializing requirement or agency, the COTP should strive for at least one multi-agency firefighting exercise per year. The results of these exercises should be used to further update and fine tune this plan.

5300 Regional Training

Part of every effective contingency plan is the development and implementation of a training program. Few USCG personnel have extensive experience responding to actual fires, and few municipal fire agencies have extensive experience responding to vessel fires. Therefore, to overcome inexperience and apprehension, and to develop expertise, a systematic training program is essential.

There are some resident marine firefighting training providers in the Pacific Northwest. For certain USCG personnel, the following courses are particularly appropriate: Fremont Maritime in Seattle, Washington, provides classes ranging from one-day orientations to five-day advanced classes certified by the USCG and International Maritime Organization for ship's crews. Classes include a balance of classroom and simulation exercises. The USCG written exam for licensed officers is required in order to pass the five-day advanced course. These classes are relatively inexpensive and especially appropriate for USCG personnel.

Washington State's North Bend Marine Firefighting Center in North Bend, Washington, is a similar training provider with more extensive simulation facilities. This center is frequently used by fire agency personnel.

There are also training resources available outside of SPS's AOR. Southwestern Oregon and Clatsop Community Colleges both offer training in firefighting techniques that may be helpful to both USCG and fire agency personnel. For a catalog, including course and fee information, contact:

Southwestern Oregon Community College Paul Reynolds	Clatsop Community College
Director Fire Services	Fire Response & Research Center MERTS Campus
1988 Newmark Ave.	6550 Liberty Lane
Coos Bay, OR 97420	Astoria, OR 97103
Phone (541) 888-7296	Phone (503) 338-7670

Additionally, there are numerous private and public training facilities and organizations that teach marine firefighting outside the Pacific Northwest. Examples of these include Texas A & M and Resolve Maritime Academy. Various Navy units throughout the United States offer advanced fire training, which is usually available to USCG personnel. In the past, this training has most often been reserved for ships' crews; however, there is clearly value in training Sector personnel as well. The quality of the schools is excellent, and they generally provide extensive practical experience. Navy courses would be especially appropriate for personnel serving as the senior FOSCR, Marine Inspector, or at the Sector Puget Sound JHOC. This helps ensure appropriate USCG actions and direction to other response agencies. This is important, considering that one of the USCG's roles in marine fire response is to advise local fire agencies of the peculiarities of marine fire response as opposed to land-based fires.

The Fire Protection Agencies Advisory Council (FPAAC) based in the Sector Columbia River (SCR) AOR offers training to member agencies covering Marine Fire Fighter Awareness, Operations, Technician, and Technician/Instructor levels. Training may occur annually, bi-annually, semi-annually, or when considered necessary by the FPAAC Planning Section. Agencies may also submit requests for training, which will be reviewed by the FPAAC Planning Section for approval. It will be the responsibility of the requesting agency to coordinate the dates and logistical requirements of the training.

5310 Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission

The Puget Sound Marine Firefighting Commission (PSMFC) consists of Puget Sound area port and city fire departments, maritime industry and labor representatives, and maritime associations, with advisory members from the USCG, Washington State Fire Marshall, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other agencies. The PSMFC develops marine firefighting training, provides equipment caches, and works to expand marine firefighting response policies.

5400 Local Fire Department Training

All local fire departments conduct continuous training programs for their personnel. This training covers all phases of firefighting from prevention to overhaul and investigation. Considerable attention is also focused on logistics and hazardous materials.

The importance of cooperation and cross training between USCG units and local industrial and municipal fire departments cannot be overemphasized. Personnel become familiar with various equipment and methods that facilitate rapid response actions and communication during actual fires. The COTP may access the local fire department school for USCG personnel. This will help create an integrated firefighting system ensuring the best possible protection for the port area.

6000 Finance

In general, funding for USCG firefighting activities must come from USCG operating expense funds. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) Trust Fund, and the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) may be available to reimburse firefighting expenses. CERCLA and OSLTF funds are only authorized for pollution related activities.

The Washington State Resource Mobilization Plan will be followed for cost documentation and recovery.

6100 Financial Responsibility

If there is not an RP, the USCG can open the OSLTF/CERCLA if there is an oil or hazardous chemical spill or threat of one. If there is an RP and federal funds are used for response expenses, those expenditures WILL be recovered from the RP. The COTP shall generate a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization for other emergency response organizations that have been requested and utilized.

7000 Logistics

Equipment lists and contact points for various port areas are included in this document. Equipment lists can also be found at: WRRL (https://www.wrrl.us/).

It is recommended that response team members print the equipment lists that pertain to their areas.

7100 Communications

Connecting interagency radio frequencies may and probably will require an exchange of radio equipment. Communication obstacles inherent in a multiagency task will be minimized by strict radio discipline and adhering to the chain of command built into the ICS.

Consideration should be given to steel hulls inhibiting radio transmission with alternative communications planned ahead of time. Landline and cellular phones can help facilitate communications between agencies. It is extremely important when relaying information through third and fourth parties by telephone that the information received is expeditiously forwarded to the appropriate agency or individual. All operationally significant information received over this medium should also be forwarded to the IC.

7200 United States Coast Guard Frequencies and Resources

See the RRT10 Communications Manual.

8000 Firefighting Resources

8100 Regional Marine Firefighting Resources

COTP Zone: Sector Puget Sound, Washington

Location	Point of Contact	Phone No.	Name	Notes
Cap Sante Marina	Anacortes Police Department	(360) 428-3211	PD Boat	32 ft. inner harbor, 250 gallons per minute (gpm)
Shelter Bay	Swinomish Tribe	(360) 428-3211	Swinomish Tribal PD Boat	32 ft. inner harbor, 250 gpm
Squalicum Harbor	Bellingham Fire Department	(360) 676-6814	Salish Star	38 ft, Draft 22 in, 30 gallons Foam, 3000 gpm
Station 3	Seattle, WA	(206) 386-1498	Chief Seattle	96 ft, Draft 7 ft, 700 gallons aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), 10,000 gpm
Station 3	Seattle, WA	(206) 386-1498	Fireboat 1	50 ft, Draft 26 in, 204 gallons AFFF, 6000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	(206) 386-1498	Leshi	108 ft, Draft 10 ft, 8 monitors, 6k gallons Novacool, 22,000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	(206) 386-1498	Fireboat 2	50 ft, Draft 26 in, 204 gallons AFFF, 6000 gpm
Station 5	Seattle, WA	(206) 386-1498	Rescue Boat 5	28 ft, High Speed Water Rescue
Friday Harbor Marina	San Juan Island Fire and Rescue	(360) 378-4141	Sentinel	38 ft, Draft 3.5 ft, Landing Craft, Available to Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties and the Canadian Gulf Islands, 1,500 gpm
Thea Foss Waterway	Tacoma Fire Department	(253) 627-0151	Commencement	70 ft, Draft 3.5 ft On Cushion, 2 Monitors, 7,100 gmp
Des Moines Marina	Tacoma Fire Department	(253) 627-0151	Defiance	50 ft, Jet Drive, 100 gallons AFFF, 7,000 gpm
PT Defiance	Tacoma Fire Department	(253) 627-0151	Destine	30 ft, Jet Drive, 15 gallons AFFF, 1,750 gpm

Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPS ACP)

Planning and Response Tools

Annex F

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 3

2000 Purpose 4

3000 Scope 5

Tools and Resources - Reference Tables 6

Table 1: Tools and Resources by Position 6

Table 2: Tools and Resources by Subject 14

Table 3: Agency Response Guides 27

1000 Introduction

The Planning and Response Tools section provides "grab-and-go" resources such as Quick Response Cards (QRCs), checklists, and other job aids for emergency personnel. These resources are compiled in an extensive database maintained by Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) to ensure efficiency across the three Northwest Area Committees (NWACs), which are made up of Sector Puget Sound (SPS), Sector Columbia River (SCR), and the Northwest Inland Area Committees. This central repository supports planning and response for oil discharges or hazardous substance releases within the SPS planning area. All tools are hyperlinked and incorporated by reference into the SPS Area Contingency Plan (ACP).

2000 Purpose

To effectively mitigate the impact of oil and hazardous substance incidents, response personnel must develop clear objectives, strategies, and tactics. A wide array of planning and response tools are available to inform this decision-making process. The selection of the right tools is critical and depends on factors such as the incident's magnitude, environmental conditions, and the discharge status. These tools have been designed and adapted for the local environments and response capabilities.

3000 Scope

The RRT10 website serves as a central repository for an extensive, though not exhaustive, collection of tools and resources. These are designed to assist emergency planners and responders in developing preparedness initiatives and effective response strategies.

Link: Tools and Resources

Requests to update information on the website should be directed to RRT10 or the appropriate Area Committee. If the hyperlink does not work, please copy and paste the URL directly into your web browser.

The below tables provide an overview of the Tools and Resources available on the RRT10 website, which contains the most up-to-date data.

Tools and Resources - Reference Tables

Source: RRT10 Northwest Area Committees - Tools and Resources

Table 1: Tools and Resources by Position

*Links marked with * are accessible only to authorized users.*

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Command	Incident Specific RRT10 Activation QRG	Guidance on when and how to activate the Regional Response Team (RRT) for a specific incident, including notification thresholds, activation levels, and team member responsibilities.	§ 5100 (Initial Reporting); referenced in §§ 5410–5420 (Unified Command [UC]/Federal On-Scene Coordinator [FOSC] Authority)
Command	Response Partner Roles and Contacts	Reference guide listing response partner agencies and their roles, responsibilities, and contact information for coordinating multi-agency response efforts.	§ 5710 (Hazardous Substance Response) — references Tools & Resources page for agency list
Command	96-Hour Plan	Toolkit for planning and tracking critical response actions during the first 96 hours of an incident; covering priorities, assignments, and milestones.	§§ 5300–5320 (Response Priorities/Priority Protection Strategies); 96-hour toolkit items appear throughout §§ 5410–5470
Command	RRT10 Endangered Species Act Compliance Guide	Procedural guide for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) during emergency response operations, including consultation requirements and protective measures.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA Consultations); §§ 5210, 5950 (Emergency & Post-Spill ESA Consultations)
Command – Public Information Officer (PIO)	Joint Information Center Manual	Comprehensive manual for managing public communications during an incident, including media relations, messaging strategies, and Joint Information Center (JIC) operations.	§ 5460 (Public Information/JIC operations)
Command – PIO	National Response Team (NRT) Public	Collection of public information tools, templates, and references to support communication	§ 5460 (Public Information)

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
	Information Resources	officers during an emergency response.	
Command – Safety Officer	Health and Safety Job Aid	Job aid providing health and safety guidance for response personnel, covering hazard identification, protective measures, and safety protocols.	§ 5310 (Safety) — directly hyperlinked; cross-referenced for Site Safety Plan development
Command – Safety Officer	Safety and Health Awareness for Oil Spill Cleanup Workers	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) booklet covering safety and health hazards encountered during oil spill cleanup operations, including personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and chemical exposure guidance.	§ 5310 (Safety) — OSHA HAZWOPER (29 CFR 1910.120) cited
Command – Safety Officer	Training Marine Oil Spill Response Workers Under OSHA's HAZWOPER Standard	OSHA guidance on training requirements for marine oil spill response workers under the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) standard.	§ 5310 (Safety) — OSHA HAZWOPER standard cited
Command – Safety Officer	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Safety Officer Toolbox	EPA collection of safety officer tools and references for managing health and safety programs at emergency response sites.	§ 5310 (Safety)
Operations	Operations Section Organizational Guidance	Guidance for organizing and managing the Operations Section of an Incident Command System (ICS) during a spill response.	§§ 5400–5470 (National Incident Management System [NIMS]/ICS/ Operations Section structure)
Operations	Oil Response in Fast Water Currents	Technical guidance for responding to oil spills in rivers, streams, or tidal areas with fast-moving currents, including containment and recovery strategies.	§§ 5510–5535 (Containment and On-Water Recovery); Geographic Response Plan (GRP) references in § 4600
Operations	Derelict Vessel Best Management Practices (BMPs)	BMPs for managing derelict vessel incidents, including assessment, pollution	§ 5595 (Non-Standard/ Unconventional Emergency Removal Action Scenarios)

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		prevention, and removal procedures.	
Operations	Marine Debris and Severe Marine Debris Events	Guidance for responding to marine debris incidents and large-scale debris events, including debris identification, prioritization, and cleanup approaches.	§ 5595 (Non-Standard/ Unconventional Emergency Removal Action Scenarios)
Operations	Dispersant Authorization Process and Decision Support	Step-by-step process for requesting and obtaining authorization to use dispersants during a spill response, including decision criteria and documentation requirements.	§ 4210 (Pre-authorizations and BMPs) — dispersant pre-authorization zones defined; § 5560 (Shoreline Cleanup) cross-reference
Operations	*In Situ* Burning (ISB) Operations Planning Tool	Planning tool for evaluating and implementing ISB as a spill response technique, including authorization procedures, safety considerations, and operational guidance.	§ 4210 (Pre-authorizations and BMPs) — ISB pre-authorization zones defined
Operations	Decanting Response Tool	Guidance for evaluating and implementing decanting—returning water separated from recovered oil back to the environment—during skimming operations.	§ 5535 (Decanting Policy) — directly referenced as 'Section 4621 of the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP)'; § 5580.2
Operations	Non-Floating Oils Spill Response Tool	Reference tool for responding to spills of oils that sink or neutrally buoy in the water column, addressing unique detection, tracking, and recovery challenges.	§ 5540 (Non-Floating Oil Recovery and Protection) — directly referenced as 'Section 9412'
Operations	GRP Booming Strategy Points	Summary of pre-identified booming strategy locations and tactics drawn from GRPs to protect sensitive areas from oil spills.	§§ 4600, 5510 (Containment); GRPs referenced throughout §§ 5320–5340
Operations	Emergency Response Community Air Monitoring Tools	Framework for establishing an air monitoring program to protect community health during response operations	§ 5310 (Safety) — Emergency Response Community Air

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		involving chemical or combustion hazards.	Monitoring Tools referenced
Operations	Shoreline Countermeasures Manual	Manual covering shoreline protection and cleanup countermeasures, including boom deployment, sorbent application, and manual removal techniques.	§§ 5560–5561 (Shoreline Cleanup); referenced as Sections 9420–9423
Operations	Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)	Searchable database of oil spill response equipment and resources available worldwide; maintained to support responders in locating needed assets.	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment) — WRRL directly linked
Operations	Northwest Equipment Spreadsheet*	Spreadsheet of response equipment located in the Pacific Northwest region (authorized users only).	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment)
Operations	Characteristic Coastal Habitats – Choosing Spill Response Alternatives (NOAA)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) guide describing coastal habitat types and their sensitivity to oil, with recommendations for selecting appropriate spill response alternatives to minimize environmental damage.	§ 5550 (Shoreside Recovery and Natural Collection Points) — directly hyperlinked
Operations	National Contingency Plan (NCP) Subpart J Product Schedule	EPA schedule listing spill-treating agents—dispersants, surface-washing agents, and other products—that have been evaluated and may be authorized for use during oil spill responses.	§ 4210 (Pre-Authorizations and BMPs) — surface-washing agents on Subpart J Schedule
Operations	NOAA's Characteristics of Response Strategies	NOAA reference comparing the characteristics, effectiveness, and tradeoffs of major oil spill response strategies including mechanical recovery, dispersants, and ISB.	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment) — directly linked for dredge/recovery information

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Operations	Response System Planning Calculators (BSEE)	BSEE calculators for estimating mechanical recovery system performance and planning offshore spill response resource requirements.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Operations	BSEE Offshore Information for Coastal Zone Contingency Planning	BSEE resource providing offshore infrastructure data and oil spill risk information to support Coastal Zone area contingency planning.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Operations	SMART Protocols (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies)	Protocols for monitoring the effectiveness of dispersant application and ISB operations using standardized field sampling techniques.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Operations	NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) Response Tools for Oil Spills	Suite of NOAA tools to support oil spill response, including trajectory modeling, environmental sensitivity mapping, and spill impact analysis resources.	§§ 5320–5340 (Priority Protection); § 5470 (Environmental Unit [EU])
Operations	NOAA OR&R Open Water Oil Identification Job Aid for Aerial Observation	Visual job aid for aerial observers to identify and estimate oil type and thickness on open water using standardized observation criteria.	§§ 5530–5531 (On-Water Recovery / Open Water)
Operations	NOAA OR&R Dispersant Application Observer Job Aid	Field job aid for personnel observing dispersant application operations, covering observation methods, documentation requirements, and communication protocols.	§ 4210 (Pre-Authorizations and BMPs); § 5560 (Shoreline Cleanup)
Operations	Best Practices for Safe Handling of Lithium-Ion Cells and Batteries	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) guidance on safely handling lithium-ion cells and batteries encountered in emergency response scenarios, including hazard awareness and handling precautions.	§ 5595 (Non-Standard/Unconventional Emergency Removal Scenarios)

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Planning	Permit Summary Table	Summary table of permits that may be required during spill response operations, identifying applicable regulatory programs, triggers, and responsible agencies.	§ 5540 (Non-Floating Oil) — 'Refer to the permit summary table in Section 9401'; § 5580.1 (Waste Management) — directly hyperlinked
Planning	NHPA Compliance Guide	Guide for meeting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements during emergency response, including Section 106 consultation procedures and documentation steps.	§§ 4300–4310 (National Historic Preservation Act); § 5220 (Section 106 Consultations)
Planning	Disposal and Waste Management Guidance	Guidance for managing, characterizing, transporting, and disposing of waste materials generated during spill response operations.	§ 5580 (Waste Management and Disposal) — referenced as 'Section 9405'
Planning	Resources at Risk Response Tools	Tools for identifying and prioritizing natural, cultural, and economic resources at risk from a spill, supporting protection and response decision-making.	§ 5330 (Risk Assessment for Sensitive Area Prioritization) — ICS-232 Resources at Risk; § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Planning	Managing Impacts to Fisheries	Guidance for assessing and mitigating spill impacts to commercial and subsistence fisheries, including communication with fishing communities and regulatory agencies.	§§ 5340–5350 (Environmentally Sensitive Areas / Wildlife); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Planning	Places of Refuge	Procedures and criteria for evaluating and designating a place of refuge for a vessel in distress, balancing environmental risk with vessel and crew safety.	§ 5920 (Consultation Documentation) — places of refuge listed as key decision point
Planning	Environmental Sampling Plan	Framework for designing and implementing environmental sampling during a response, covering sampling objectives, methods, quality assurance, and chain-of-custody.	§ 5470 (Environmental Unit) — sampling specialists noted

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Planning	SCAT Tools	Reference tools supporting Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) surveys, including field forms, oiling characterization protocols, and reporting guidance.	§§ 5520, 5560–5561 (Shoreline Protection / Cleanup) — 'Section 9421 of the NWACP' cited; § 5590 (Terminating Cleanup)
Planning	Shorelines Segmentation Guidance for SCAT	Methodology for dividing impacted shorelines into survey segments to support systematic SCAT assessment and cleanup operations.	§§ 5560–5561 (Shoreline Cleanup) — referenced as 'Sections 9421 and 9422'
Planning	Surface-Washing Agent Authorization Process	Process and criteria for authorizing the use of surface-washing agents to remove oil from shorelines, including pre-authorization requirements and field application guidelines.	§ 4210 (Pre-authorizations and BMPs) — surface-washing agent authorization process described; § 5560 (Shoreline Cleanup)
Planning	Hazard Assessment Worksheet	Structured worksheet for evaluating hazardous substance incidents, identifying chemical properties, exposure pathways, and protective action recommendations.	§§ 5700–5710 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response); § 5310 (Safety) — also noted as 9701
Planning	Initial Hazmat Incident Objectives	Guidance for establishing initial incident objectives and priorities for hazardous materials incidents, supporting early decision-making and response actions.	§§ 5700–5710 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response Introduction)
Planning	Initial Incident Objectives for Oil Spills	Guidance for establishing initial incident objectives and priorities specific to oil spill responses, supporting early decision-making.	§ 5320 (Priority Identification and Protection Strategies) — 'Section 9703 of the NWACP' cited
Planning	Suspicious Package/Envelope Decision Matrix	Decision matrix to guide response actions when encountering suspicious packages or envelopes, covering threat assessment and notification procedures.	§ 5700 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response)

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Planning	NOAA OR&R Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills	Suite of NOAA tools supporting response planning and decision-making for both oil and chemical spills.	§ 5470 (Environmental Unit); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response)
Planning	NOAA OR&R Seafood Safety After an Oil Spill	NOAA guidance on assessing seafood safety following an oil spill, including sampling protocols, closure criteria, and communication with fishing communities.	§§ 5340–5350 (Environmentally Sensitive / Wildlife); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Planning	Southern Resident Killer Whale Deterrence Task Force Final Report	Final report from a task force established to develop methods for deterring Southern Resident Killer Whales from areas with active spill response operations to minimize disturbance.	§ 5920 (Consultation Documentation) — whale deterrence cited as key decision point
Planning	Damaged Lithium-Ion Battery Management Guide for Electric Vehicles and Mobility Devices	Operational guide for safely managing damaged or thermally compromised lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles and mobility devices during emergency response operations.	§ 5595 (Non-Standard/Unconventional Emergency Removal Scenarios)
Planning	Mercury Spill Guidance	Guidance for responding to mercury spill incidents, including containment, cleanup procedures, waste handling, and exposure precautions.	§ 5700 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response)
Logistics	Logistics Resource List	Reference list of logistics resources, vendors, and support services commonly needed to sustain spill response operations.	§§ 5400–5470 (NIMS/ICS structure); logistics support throughout response operations
Logistics	USCG Response Resource Inventory System	U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) searchable database of response equipment inventories and contractor resources available to support Coast Guard-led spill response operations.	§ 6120 (Response Resource Inventory Database)
Finance / Cost	NPFC User Reference Guide (eURG)	Comprehensive online reference guide for accessing	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP

Category / Position	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		and using the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) through the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), covering claim procedures, documentation, and reimbursement processes.	
Finance / Cost	Technical Operating Procedures (TOPS) for State Access under OPA 90	Detailed procedures governing how state agencies can access OSLTF resources for spill response under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990.	§§ 5620–5630 (Funding Authorizations / Trustee Access to OSLTF)
Finance / Cost		Overview of the OSLTF, including funding sources, eligible uses, access procedures, and the roles of the NPFC.	§§ 5600–5630 (Oil Spill Response Funding and Cost Recovery)

Table 2: Tools and Resources by Subject

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
96-Hour Plan	Agenda for VIP Tour Briefing	Template agenda for briefing VIP visitors at an incident command post, covering key talking points and tour logistics.	§ 5460 (Public Information) — VIP briefing and stakeholder engagement
96-Hour Plan	Calling Elected Officials Script	Scripted talking points for Liaison Officers making notification calls to elected officials during an incident.	§ 5460 (Public Information); § 1300 (Area Committee — elected official coordination)
96-Hour Plan	Daily Briefing Checklist	Checklist to ensure all critical items are covered during daily operational briefings throughout an incident.	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS / Unified Command / FOSC Authority)
96-Hour Plan	Decisions Affecting Historic and Cultural Resources Documentation Record	Standardized form for documenting response decisions that may affect historic or cultural resources, supporting regulatory compliance.	§§ 4300–4310 (NHPA); § 5220 (Section 106 Consultations); § 5920 (Decision Memos)

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
96-Hour Plan	Dispersant Record of Decision	Fillable template for documenting the decision to authorize dispersant use, including decision criteria, approvals, and conditions.	§ 4210 (Pre-Authorizations and BMPs); § 5920 (Consultation Documentation and Decision Memos)
96-Hour Plan	ESA Emergency Consultation Documentation Record	Form for documenting emergency consultation with NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) during a response.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA); § 5210 (Emergency ESA Consultations); § 5920 (Decision Memos)
96-Hour Plan	ESA Emergency Consultation Documentation Record (USFWS)	Form for documenting emergency Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) during a response.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA); § 5210 (Emergency ESA Consultations); § 5920 (Decision Memos)
96-Hour Plan	EU Recommendation Memo to the FOSC/UC	Memo template for the EU to transmit formal recommendations to the FOSC or UC.	§ 5470 (Environmental Unit) — EU leads recommendations to FOSC/UC
96-Hour Plan	Example Objectives for Oil Spill Incidents	Sample incident objectives for oil spill responses, providing a starting point for Incident Command to develop site-specific goals.	§ 5320 (Priority Identification and Protection Strategies) — 'Section 9703 of the NWACP' cited
96-Hour Plan	Example Public Health Message	Sample public health messaging templates for communicating health and safety guidance to affected communities during an incident.	§ 5460 (Public Information)
96-Hour Plan	FOSC Dispersant Standard Conditions Checklist	Checklist of standard conditions the FOSC must verify before authorizing dispersant application.	§ 4210 (Pre-Authorizations and BMPs) — FOSC Checklist referenced for dispersant pre-authorization
96-Hour Plan	ICS 201 – Incident Briefing	Standard ICS 201 incident briefing form for documenting initial situation information,	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS/Unified

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		resource assignments, and organizational structure at the start of a response.	Command) — initial incident briefing
96-Hour Plan	ICS 232 – Resources at Risk Summary	ICS form for summarizing resources at risk (RAR) identified by the EU for use in operational planning.	§§ 4220, 5330 (Resources at Risk — ICS-232 specifically cited)
96-Hour Plan	ICS Form 215 – Operational Planning	Fillable ICS 215 form used during operational planning to identify tactics, resource needs, and work assignments for the next operational period.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
96-Hour Plan	Incident Notification Matrix	Matrix identifying which agencies and officials must be notified based on incident type, size, and location.	§ 5100 (Initial Reporting, Notification, and Preliminary Assessment)
96-Hour Plan	JIC Organization Chart	Organizational chart template for standing up a Joint Information Center (JIC), illustrating staffing structure and reporting relationships.	§ 5460 (Public Information/JIC operations)
96-Hour Plan	Liaison Job Aid Checklist	Step-by-step checklist guiding a Liaison Officer through key tasks from incident mobilization through demobilization.	§§ 1300–1310 (Area Committee); § 5410 (Unified Command — Liaison function)
96-Hour Plan	Liaison Officer and Public Information Officer Position Descriptions	Position descriptions outlining the duties and qualifications for the Liaison Officer and Public Information Officer (PIO) roles.	§ 5460 (Public Information / PIO); § 5410 (Unified Command)
96-Hour Plan	Liaison Officers Expectations	Overview of performance expectations and working norms for Liaison Officers assigned to an incident command post.	§ 5410 (Unified Command)
96-Hour Plan	Liaison Organization	Diagram and description of how the Liaison function is organized within an ICS.	§ 5410 (Unified Command)
96-Hour Plan	Liaison Plan Template	Template for developing a Liaison Plan that identifies agency representatives, coordination	§ 5410 (Unified Command)

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		needs, and communication protocols.	
96-Hour Plan	News Release JIC Template	Standardized news release template for JIC use, formatted for rapid media distribution during an incident.	§ 5460 (Public Information/JIC)
96-Hour Plan	Non-Floating Oils Response Considerations Form	Fillable form for documenting response strategy considerations when responding to a spill involving non-floating or sunken oils.	§ 5540 (Non-Floating Oil Recovery and Protection)
96-Hour Plan	Notification List	Working list template for tracking agency and stakeholder notification contacts during the initial phase of a response.	§ 5100 (Initial Reporting, Notification, and Preliminary Assessment)
96-Hour Plan	Operations Section Checklist	Checklist guiding Operations Section personnel through critical setup tasks, briefing requirements, and ongoing operational duties.	§§ 5400–5500 (NIMS / Operations Section)
96-Hour Plan	Permit Tracking Template	Spreadsheet template for tracking the status of permits, consultations, and authorizations required during a spill response.	§ 5540 (Non-Floating Oil) — 'Refer to the permit summary table in Section 9401'; § 5580.1 (Waste Management)
96-Hour Plan	Press Conference Script Template	Scripted template to help the PIO structure and deliver a press conference during an incident.	§ 5460 (Public Information / JIC)
96-Hour Plan	RRT10 *In Situ* Burning Application Form	Application form for requesting RRT authorization to conduct ISB of spilled oil.	§ 4210 (Pre-Authorizations and BMPs) — ISB authorization process described
96 Hour Plan	Sampling Plan Template	Template for developing an environmental sampling plan, including objectives, station locations, parameters, and QA/QC procedures.	§ 5470 (Environmental Unit) — environmental sampling noted

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
96 Hour Plan	Sit Unit Situation Status Sheet	Status tracking form used by the Situation Unit to record and report current incident conditions, response activities, and resource deployment.	§§ 5400–5410 (NIMS /Unified Command/Planning Section)
96 Hour Plan	Spill Containment and Cleanup Considerations Guide	Decision support guide covering key containment and cleanup considerations to help Incident Command select effective response strategies.	§§ 5500–5590 (Oil Spill Containment and Cleanup)
96 Hour Plan	Town Hall Meeting Logistics Checklist	Checklist for planning and executing a community town hall meeting during an incident, covering venue, communications, and stakeholder engagement.	§ 5460 (Public Information)
96 Hour Plan	Tribal/Trustee Technical Coordination Master List	Master contact list template for coordinating with Tribal governments and natural resource trustees during a response.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Wildlife	Wildlife Response Plan	Comprehensive plan for protecting and rehabilitating wildlife affected by oil spills, including oiled bird and marine mammal response procedures.	§ 5350 (Wildlife Rescue & Recovery) — Wildlife Response Plan referenced and hyperlinked
Wildlife	ESA Compliance Guide	Procedural guide for ensuring compliance with the ESA during emergency response, including consultation requirements and protective measures.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA Consultations); §§ 5210, 5950 (Emergency & Post-Spill ESA Consultations)
Wildlife	Resources at Risk Response Tools	Tools for identifying and prioritizing natural, cultural, and economic resources at risk from a spill, supporting protection and response decision-making.	§ 5330 (Risk Assessment for Sensitive Area Prioritization) — ICS-232 Resources at Risk; § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	Managing Impacts to Fisheries	Guidance for assessing and mitigating spill impacts to	§§ 5340–5350 (Environmentally-

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		commercial and subsistence fisheries, including communication with fishing communities and regulatory agencies.	Sensitive Areas / Wildlife); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	NOAA ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application)	Online mapping tool for visualizing environmental data, sensitive resources, and response activities to support spill response decision-making.	§§ 5320–5340 (Priority Protection / Environmentally-Sensitive Areas); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Maps	Pre-computed maps classifying shoreline sensitivity and identifying biological resources and human-use areas to guide spill response prioritization.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Wildlife	West Coast Fishing Permits	NOAA database of commercial fishing permits along the West Coast, useful for identifying fishing activity and permit holders potentially affected by a spill.	§§ 5340–5350 (ESAs / Wildlife); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Domains	Interactive map showing designated recovery domains for salmon and steelhead populations to support ESA compliance and resource protection during response.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA); § 5210 (Emergency ESA)
Wildlife	Species and Habitat App	NOAA interactive application for identifying federally listed and managed species and habitats by location to support environmental review during a response.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA); § 5210 (Emergency ESA)
Wildlife	West Coast Critical Habitat	Maps and GIS data showing federally designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered (T&E) species along the West Coast.	§§ 4200–4220 (Pre-Spill ESA); § 5210 (Emergency ESA)
Wildlife	NOAA West Coast Maps	Collection of NOAA spatial data and maps for West Coast fisheries, habitat, and species to support planning and response.	§§ 5320–5340 (Priority Protection); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Wildlife	Harbor Seals Pupping Timeframes Along the West Coast	Map showing seasonal harbor seal pupping periods by location along the West Coast, supporting protective action timing during a response.	§ 5350 (Wildlife Rescue & Recovery); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	USFWS Best Practices for Migratory Bird Care During Oil Spill Response	USFWS guidance on capturing, stabilizing, transporting, and caring for oiled migratory birds during a spill response.	§ 5350 (Wildlife Rescue & Recovery)
Wildlife	Inter-Agency Memorandum of Agreement: Oil Spill Response and the Endangered Species Act	Memorandum of agreement (MOA) among federal agencies establishing a coordinated process for meeting ESA Section 7 obligations during oil spill planning and response.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Wildlife	NOAA Guidelines for Assessing Exposure and Impacts of Oil Spills on Marine Mammals	NOAA technical guidelines for evaluating and documenting the exposure and biological impacts of oil spills on marine mammal populations.	§ 5350 (Wildlife Rescue & Recovery); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Wildlife	Southern Resident Killer Whale Deterrence Task Force Final Report	Final report from a task force established to develop methods for deterring Southern Resident Killer Whales from areas with active spill response operations to minimize disturbance.	§ 5920 (Consultation Documentation) — whale deterrence cited as key decision point
Wildlife	Oil Spill Impacts on Plankton Quick Response Guide	Quick reference guide for understanding and communicating the potential effects of oil spill events on plankton communities and aquatic food webs.	§§ 5340–5350 (ESAs / Wildlife); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties	NHPA Compliance Guide	Guide for meeting National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements during emergency response, including Section 106 consultation procedures and documentation steps.	§§ 4300–4310 (National Historic Preservation Act); § 5220 (Section 106 Consultations)
Cultural Resources	Federal Historic Preservation Laws,	National Park Service compilation of federal laws, regulations, and executive orders	§§ 4300–4310 (NHPA); § 5220

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
& Historic Properties	Regulations, and Orders	governing the protection of historic properties, useful for determining compliance requirements.	(Section 106 Consultations)
Cultural Resources & Historic Properties	Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties During Emergency Response	Agreement establishing a programmatic approach for federal agencies to fulfill Section 106 responsibilities when conducting emergency oil and hazardous substance response activities.	§§ 4300–4310 (NHPA) — PA adopted per § 4300; § 5220 (Section 106 Consultations)
Hazardous Substances	Hazard Assessment Worksheet	Structured worksheet for evaluating hazardous substance incidents, identifying chemical properties, exposure pathways, and protective action recommendations.	§§ 5700–5710 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response); § 5310 (Safety) — also noted as 9701
Hazardous Substances	Initial Hazmat Incident Objectives	Guidance for establishing initial incident objectives and priorities for hazardous materials incidents.	§§ 5700–5710 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response Introduction)
Hazardous Substances	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (FEMA)	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program providing planning and preparedness resources for communities near chemical stockpile sites.	§ 5700 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response)
Hazardous Substances	Chemtrec	24-hour emergency response service providing chemical hazard information, safety data, and expert guidance to emergency responders during chemical incidents.	§ 3320 (Non-Governmental Technical Support) — CHEMTREC 1-800-262-8200 directly listed
Hazardous Substances	Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO), EPA	EPA software suite for emergency planners and first responders to store and access chemical data and model releases of hazardous materials.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	Emergency Response Guidebook (2020)	U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) field guide providing first responders with guidance on the initial response	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		to hazardous materials incidents, including identification, protective distances, and safety precautions.	
Hazardous Substances	EPA Radiological Emergency Response Plan (2017)	EPA plan describing the agency's role and procedures for responding to radiological emergencies, including contamination assessment and protective action guidance.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	Patient Decontamination in a Mass Chemical Exposure Incident: National Planning Guidance	U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) evidence-based guidance for planning and executing patient decontamination operations following a mass chemical exposure event.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	List of Lists: Consolidated List of Chemicals Subject to EPCRA, CERCLA, and CAA Section 112(r)	EPA-consolidated reference list of hazardous chemicals subject to federal emergency planning, reporting, and risk management requirements.	§ 5710 (Hazardous Substance Introduction) — EPA 'List of Lists' directly linked; § 5810 (FOSC Access to CERCLA Funding)
Hazardous Substances	NIH PubChem Open Chemistry Database	National Institutes of Health (NIH) searchable database of chemical substances with physical, safety, and biological activity data for use in hazard assessment.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework	Federal annex defining roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms for responding to nuclear or radiological incidents under the National Response Framework (NRF).	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	NCP 40 CFR 300.400 – Hazardous Substance Response (Subpart E)	Federal regulatory provisions governing the response to hazardous substance releases under the NCP.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Hazardous Substances	International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Codes	International Maritime Organization (IMO) international code for the safe transport of dangerous goods by sea, used to identify marine cargo hazards during vessel-based incident response.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	NFPA Fire Protection Guide to Hazardous Materials	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guide covering fire and explosion hazards of chemicals, supporting hazard analysis and firefighting decisions.	§ 5700 (Hazardous Substance Spill Response)
Hazardous Substances	NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) quick-reference guide providing occupational exposure limits, health effects, and protective equipment recommendations for hundreds of chemicals.	§ 5310 (Safety); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response)
Hazardous Substances	Occupational Safety and Health Guidance Manual for Hazardous Waste Site Activities	Guidance manual for protecting worker health and safety at hazardous waste sites and emergency response operations.	§ 5310 (Safety); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response)
Hazardous Substances	NIOSH Occupational Health Guidelines for Chemical Hazards	NIOSH technical guidelines providing occupational exposure limits, health effects, and control recommendations for specific chemical hazards.	§ 5310 (Safety); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response)
Hazardous Substances	NOAA CAMEO – Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations	NOAA web-based version of CAMEO providing tools for managing chemical information and planning emergency response to hazardous substance incidents.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Hazardous Substances	NOAA ALOHA – Air Hazard Modeling Program	NOAA atmospheric dispersion modeling program used to estimate airborne hazard zones from chemical releases to	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		support evacuation and protective action decisions.	
Hazardous Substances	Hazardous Materials Response Special Teams Capabilities and Contact Handbook	Directory of specialized hazmat response teams with their capabilities, equipment, and contact information for mobilization during complex chemical incidents.	§§ 3310–3330 (Federal/State/Local Scientific and Technical Support)
Hazardous Substances	NOAA's Air Resources Laboratory HYSPLIT	NOAA trajectory and dispersion model for tracking the movement and spread of airborne pollutants, smoke, and hazardous chemical releases.	§§ 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response); § 3310 (Federal Scientific/Technical Support — NOAA)
Hazardous Substances	NOAA OR&R Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills	Suite of NOAA tools supporting response planning and decision-making for both oil and chemical spills.	§ 5470 (Environmental Unit); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response)
Hazardous Substances	U.S. NRC Emergency Preparedness and Response	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) resources for emergency preparedness and response at licensed nuclear facilities, including guidance for coordinating with first responders.	§§ 1610–1620 (Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex / Federal Radiological Response Plan)
Natural Disasters / Stafford Act	FEMA Region 10	FEMA Region 10 homepage providing information on disaster declarations, programs, contacts, and resources for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.	§§ 1600–1610 (ACP Relationship to National Response Framework); § 5700 (Hazardous Substance Response — NRF/Stafford Act context)
Mapping and GIS	NOAA ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application)	Online mapping tool for visualizing environmental data, sensitive resources, and response activities to support spill response decision-making.	§§ 5320–5340 (Priority Protection / Environmentally Sensitive Areas); § 5470 (Environmental Unit)

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Mapping and GIS	ShoreZone Mapper	Interactive mapping tool displaying Alaska ShoreZone coastal habitat data, including shoreline type, slope, and biological cover, for use in spill response planning.	§§ 5320–5340 (Priority Protection / ESAs)
Air Operations	Airline Data Inc.	Commercial aviation data provider offering airport and airline information useful for coordinating aerial response assets and logistics.	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS / Unified Command) — air logistics support
Air Operations	AirNav.com	Online directory of airport facility information including runway lengths, fuel availability, and contact data for logistics and aircraft dispatch planning.	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS / Unified Command) — air logistics support
Air Operations	AirportIQ 5010: Airport Master Records and Reports	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport master record database providing detailed facility data to support air operations planning during a response.	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS / Unified Command) — air logistics support
Air Operations	National Weather Service	NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) providing official weather forecasts, watches, warnings, and advisories to support safe air and field operations.	§ 5100 (Initial Reporting/Preliminary Assessment); §§ 5530–5535 (On-water Recovery) — sea state conditions
SCAT	SCAT Tools	Reference tools supporting Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) surveys, including field forms, oiling characterization protocols, and reporting guidance.	§§ 5520, 5560–5561 (Shoreline Protection / Cleanup) — 'Section 9421 of the NWACP' cited; § 5590 (Terminating Cleanup)
SCAT	Shorelines Segmentation Guidance for SCAT	Methodology for dividing impacted shorelines into survey segments to support systematic SCAT assessment and cleanup operations.	§§ 5560–5561 (Shoreline Cleanup) — referenced as 'Sections 9421 and 9422'

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
SCAT	NOAA Shoreline Assessment Job Aid (2014)	NOAA field job aid for conducting shoreline oiling assessments using standardized SCAT survey methods.	§§ 5560–5561 (Shoreline Cleanup); § 5590 (Terminating Cleanup) — NOAA Shoreline Assessment Manual 4th Ed. cited
SCAT	Shoreline Assessment Manual, 4th Edition (NOAA, 2013)	Comprehensive NOAA manual for planning and conducting shoreline oiling assessments, covering survey design, data collection, reporting, and adaptive management.	§ 5590 (Terminating Cleanup Operations) — NOAA Shoreline Assessment Manual 4th Ed., Section 5.3 directly cited
Response Procedures & Equipment	USCG Response Resource Inventory System	USCG searchable database of response equipment inventories and contractor resources available to support Coast Guard-led spill response operations.	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment); § 2000 (Threat Identification / OSRO resources)
Response Procedures & Equipment	Worldwide Response Resource List (WRRL)	Searchable database of oil spill response equipment and resources available worldwide, maintained to support responders in locating needed assets.	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment) — WRRL directly linked
Response Procedures & Equipment	NW Equipment Spreadsheet*	Spreadsheet of response equipment located in the Pacific Northwest region (authorized users only).	§ 5533 (On-Water Recovery Equipment)
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NOAA National Center for Environmental Information – Geophysics and Bathymetry	NOAA data portal for geophysical and bathymetric datasets including magnetic, gravity, and seafloor topography data useful for spill trajectory and navigation planning.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP.
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NOAA National Center for Environmental Information – Oceans & Coasts	NOAA resource for oceanographic and coastal environmental data including sea surface temperatures, salinity, and currents.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP.

Subject Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NOAA National Center for Environmental Information – Weather and Climate	NOAA portal for historical weather and climate datasets to support environmental baseline analysis and post-incident assessment.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP.
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NOAA Tides and Currents	NOAA interactive tool providing real-time and predicted tide levels and current data at monitoring stations throughout the United States.	Not directly referenced in the SPS ACP
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service	NWS tool for monitoring river stage and streamflow forecasts across the Pacific Northwest, supporting spill trajectory and flood response planning.	§§ 5510–5530 (Containment) — river stage/fast water current context
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NWS River Conditions	NWS current river condition reports for Pacific Northwest waterways, useful for assessing in-water spill response conditions.	§§ 5510–5530 (Containment/On-Water Recovery) — river conditions for response planning
Weather, Rivers, Tides & Ice	NWS SPOT Weather Forecast for Incidents and Events	NWS service for requesting custom weather forecasts for specific incident locations to support field operations planning.	§§ 5100 (Initial Assessment); § 5310 (Safety) — weather conditions for operations

Table 3: Agency Response Guides

Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
Federal Agency Guidance	U.S. Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook	USCG handbook covering incident management principles, ICS structure, and operational procedures for Coast Guard-led emergency response operations.	§§ 3300, 5320 (Support Available/Priority Identification) — IMH specifically cited; § 5400 (NIMS / USCG ICS)
Federal Agency Guidance	U.S. EPA Incident Management Handbook	EPA handbook describing the agency's incident management framework, roles, and procedures	§§ 5400–5420 (NIMS/Unified Command); § 5700

Category	Title	Description	SPS ACP Reference
		for responding to oil and hazardous substance releases.	(Hazardous Substance Response)
Federal Agency Guidance	EPA ACP Handbook	EPA guidance for developing ACPs, covering planning requirements, stakeholder coordination, and plan content standards.	§§ 1200–1210 (Purpose of the ACP/Annexes); § 1430 (Area Exercises — PREP guidelines)
Federal Agency Guidance	USCG Coastal ACP Handbook	USCG guidance for developing coastal ACPs, including organizational requirements, geographic annexes, and response resource planning.	§§ 1200–1210 (Purpose of the ACP)
Regionwide Guidance & Policy	Pacific Northwest Spill Contingency Planning Framework	Regional framework establishing coordinated oil spill contingency planning standards and expectations across the Pacific Northwest for federal, state, Tribal, and industry partners.	§§ 1500–1560 (ACP Alignment with Other Plans); § 1200 (Purpose of ACP — RCP alignment)
Regionwide Guidance & Policy	Pacific Northwest Spill Contingency Planning Updates Summary	Summary document communicating key updates to the Pacific Northwest spill response planning framework, intended to inform stakeholders of changes to regional planning expectations.	§§ 1500–1560 (ACP Alignment with Other Plans)
Regionwide Guidance & Policy	RRT10 Notification vs Activation	Guide clarifying the distinction between notifying and activating the RRT, including thresholds and decision criteria for each action.	§ 5100 (Initial Reporting, Notification, and Preliminary Assessment); §§ 5410–5420 (Unified Command /FOSC Authority)

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Annex G

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 4

1100 Use of Volunteers during a Pollution Incident 4

2000 Volunteers - General Categories 5

2100 Affiliated Volunteers 5

2200 Unaffiliated Volunteers 5

2300 Unaffiliated Volunteer Management Planning 5

3000 Volunteer Organization in Incident Command System 7

3100 Volunteer Coordinator/Volunteer Unit Leader 8

3200 Use of Volunteers within Specific Incident Command System Units 10

3300 Volunteer Operations Center Guidance 12

3400 Volunteer Operations Center Equipment and Supplies List 13

3500 Guidelines on Personal Protective Equipment 15

4000 Federal Agency Volunteer Management Policy 16

4100 Volunteer Policy of the Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan 16

4110 State Volunteer Management Policies 17

4200 Health and Safety Standards 18

4300 Safe Use/Training of Volunteers 18

4400 Basic Guidelines for Handling Volunteers 18

4500 Volunteer Assignments 19

4600 Use of Volunteers for Shoreline Cleanup 19

4700 Volunteer Training Courses 20

4710 24-Hour HAZWOPER 20

4720 8-Hour HAZWOPER 21

4730 4-Hour HAZWOPER 21

4740 4-Hour Hazard Communications (HAZCOM) 21

4750 2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety Training 22

4760 Site Safety Training 22

5000 Volunteer Unit Administrative Issues 23

5100 Policy Regarding Donations 23

5200 Press Releases 23

5300 Demobilization and Debriefing 23

Appendix A – Volunteer ICS-204 24

Appendix B – Volunteer Request Form 26

Appendix C – Sample Volunteer Registration Form ..... Error! Bookmark not defined.

Appendix D – Volunteer Timesheet 28

Appendix E – Sample Volunteer Press Release 29

1000 Introduction

The demands of an incident may exceed the resources of government organizations. Volunteers can support response efforts in many ways but the use of volunteers during an oil spill response is not automatic. The decision to employ volunteers will take into account the benefits that might be gained and the safety and liability realities. The Unified Command (UC), in the early stages of the event, will decide whether volunteers will be employed and the capabilities in which they can serve. For additional information on the Regional Response Team (RRT) and Northwest Area Committees' policy on volunteer use, see Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP), Section 4326.4 (Decision to Use Volunteers) and the Volunteer Guidance Tool.

1100 Use of Volunteers during a Pollution Incident

Human health and safety is the first priority in a decision regarding use of volunteers. The benefit of volunteer efforts must be weighed against concerns for volunteer safety. Based on the conditions specific to an incident, the UC will determine the suitability of integrating volunteers, whether affiliated or unaffiliated, into an oil spill response.

The use of volunteers to assist in oil spill responses is recognized in the National Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR Part 300.185(c). The definition section of the NCP includes "volunteer" as follows:

- A volunteer is any individual accepted to perform services by the lead agency, that has authority to accept volunteer services (examples: See 16 USC 742f(c)).

A volunteer is subject to the provisions of the authorizing statute and the NCP.

2000 Volunteers - General Categories

2100 Affiliated Volunteers

Affiliated volunteers are individuals associated with an Affiliated Volunteer Organization prior to an incident. They usually have received sufficient training to allow them to contribute to their host organization, although individuals may not be trained in oil spill response. Affiliated Volunteer Organizations generally hold non-profit status and provide some form of training, maintain an affiliated volunteer database, and have volunteer functions to facilitate current volunteer experience and communication. These groups also accept donations of money or materials.

2200 Unaffiliated Volunteers

Unaffiliated volunteers are individuals not affiliated with an existing Affiliated Volunteer Organization. After a spill has occurred, unaffiliated volunteers may express a spontaneous desire to participate in a response effort, but may have little to no oil spill response training. Oil spills typically receive significant press coverage and produce strong public concern for public health and injury to wildlife and the environment. This visibility and concern motivate citizens to assist where they can in the oil spill response. The ability to give the public an opportunity to volunteer during an oil spill can be helpful for their emotional experience and can assist in altering public perception in a positive manner.

2300 Unaffiliated Volunteer Management Planning

Local government and non-profit sector agencies are generally responsible for the mobilization, management, and support of volunteers, with support from the state and federal levels. Specialized planning, information sharing, and management structure are necessary to coordinate efforts and maximize the benefits of volunteer involvement.

Consistent and timely communication should be utilized in order to educate the public, minimize confusion, and clarify expectations. Volunteers can be successful participants in emergency management systems when they are flexible, cooperative, aware of risks, and willing to be coordinated by local emergency management experts. Ideally, all volunteers should be affiliated with an established organization and trained for specific disaster response activities. However, the spontaneous nature of individual volunteering is inevitable; therefore, it must be planned for and managed.

The successful integration of citizen involvement in an emergency management setting is imperative to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters in our communities. Therefore, all unaffiliated volunteers should be directed toward the Oil Spill Volunteer Registration Form for Washington.

3000 Volunteer Organization in Incident Command System

During an initial response before volunteer interests have been expressed, the Incident Command System (ICS) structure may not contain positions specifically dedicated to volunteer management. The Liaison Officer will query other ICS Sections and Units concerning the need for the use of volunteers, or if there is interest expressed by the public and, therefore, a need to respond to requests for volunteers exists, the Liaison Officer will assign a Volunteer Coordinator to manage the work. If there are a significant number of volunteers needed, the Planning Section Chief will establish a Volunteer Unit under Planning. When the Unified Command (UC) approves the use of volunteers, the UC will have the options of:

- Assigning a Volunteer Coordinator who will be the Liaison Officer or delegated staff, if volunteer interest is low; or
- Creating a Volunteer Unit under the Planning Section and assigning a Volunteer Unit Leader (VUL) within the Planning Section if volunteer interest is moderate or high.

Volunteers may not report directly to the Command Post for registration and training but may be registered, trained, and deployed from an alternate location.

If the UC decides to coordinate with local government in using volunteers (other than oiled wildlife), local government representatives will be notified via the Liaison Officer or the VUL. Local government will advise the UC regarding their ability to assist in the requested volunteer effort. If a particular local government cannot assist in volunteer coordination, the UC or VUL can request a neighboring city or county to facilitate volunteer coordination for the un-assisting local government. After participating local government partners have received, registered, and trained the requisite volunteers, that local agency will continue to coordinate with the VUL in the management of volunteers throughout the response. Volunteers shall only be deployed through direct

written tasking from the UC during the tactics meeting via the Incident Action Plan (IAP) process.

3100 Volunteer Coordinator/Volunteer Unit Leader

The National Response Framework (NRF) identifies the VUL as ideally being a federal, state, or local official trained in managing volunteers, knowledgeable in contingency operations, and capable of providing leadership. This guidance should also be considered when assigning a Volunteer Coordinator under the Liaison Officer for incidents with low volunteer interest. The Volunteer Coordinator workload should be periodically evaluated.

For incidents with moderate to high volunteer interest, a Volunteer Unit will be established under the Planning Section with a VUL assigned. To effectively manage volunteers, the VUL should have additional staff trained in the managing and training of volunteers. This staff should include representatives from local government agencies within the affected jurisdictions, as much as possible. The VUL is responsible for managing and overseeing all aspects of volunteer participation, including coordination with local government agencies. The VUL is part of the Planning Section and reports to the Resource Unit Leader. The VUL responsibilities include:

- Ensuring proper registration, tracking, and implementation of volunteers, according to UC guidance;
- Coordinate with the Resource Unit Leader to determine where volunteers are needed;
- Coordinate with the Joint Information Center (JIC) to advise the public of scheduled volunteer information sessions, where/how to register volunteer interest, whether volunteers are/are not needed; how volunteers might interfere with response workers, and the limited roles volunteers may perform, if needed (i.e., potential health risks; cannot pick up oiled rocks or wildlife unless specially trained);

- Identify any necessary skills and training needs;
- Verify minimum additional training needed, as necessary, with the Safety Officer (SOFR) or units requesting volunteers (if special skills are required);
- Activate, as necessary, standby contractors for various training needs;
- Activate pre-identified and pre-trained volunteers as necessary;
- Coordinate with Logistics Section Chief for Volunteer housing and meal accommodations.
- Assist with volunteer special needs, as possible; and
- Maintain Unit/Activity Log (ICS form 214).

3200 Use of Volunteers within Specific Incident Command System Units

Table 1: Location of volunteers within an ICS Organization

Location of Volunteer *Positions noted with a "C" if appropriate for Unaffiliated Volunteers	Task	Training
Logistics Branch		
C	**Inventory Control** **Photocopying, filing, clerical support, distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), equipment, supplies, construction of support structures**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety, unless otherwise noted in job description**
Transportation Unit		
C	**Driver (carpools, trucking), scheduling, dispatching, runner**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety, unless otherwise noted in job description**
Interpretation		
C	**Language translation (this will fall into any function needing language support)**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety**
Medical Assistance Unit		
C	**Inventory and delivery of medical supplies. First aid responder**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety, unless otherwise noted in job description**

Location of Volunteer *Positions noted with a "C" if appropriate for Unaffiliated Volunteers	Task	Training
Personnel Services Unit		
C	**Housing Assistant, Laundry Services**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety**
Public Information Unit		
C	**Receptionist**	
	Volunteer registration, scheduling coordination **Photocopying, filing, clerical support** **Media monitoring, recording, web searches** **Community door-to-door distribution**	
On-Scene		
C	**On-scene support, driver, first aid responder, Volunteer Supervisor, and traffic monitor**	**See specific job description. At a minimum, 2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety. If operating in the warm or hot zone, shall have the 24-Hour HAZWOPER**
Shoreline Cleanup		
	Cleanup of non-oiled debris and materials prior to oil impact ONLY **Beach Patrol/Wildlife Notification.** **See below for information on utilizing volunteers for shoreline cleanup.**	**2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety, Site Safety, 4-Hour HAZWOPER**

3300 Volunteer Operations Center Guidance

In setting up the Volunteers Operation Center (VOC), the Volunteer Coordinator/Unit Leader should consider the following:

- Arrange space to allow for foot traffic and to maximize wall space.
- Face tables and chairs so that information can be viewed easily.
- Allow enough space, pens, clipboards, etc. so that volunteers can fill out registration materials.
- Clearly identify the reception desk/area.
- Provide seating.
- Post signs directing potential volunteers to the building/room.
- In the event of a large spill response where sufficient staffing is available at the VOC and volunteer needs are extensive, set up stations for each major class of work, such as:
    - Administration/Clerical;
    - Wildlife Rehabilitation Center;
    - Pre-impact Beach Cleanup/Surveillance;
    - Logistical;
    - Technical;
    - Medical; and
    - Public Relations.
- Assign early volunteers as couriers, bringing information about volunteer needs from the Incident Command Post (ICP) to the VOC.
- Set aside time and space for training and orientation.
- Set up an information bulletin board. This area may serve as an informal information and referral area.

Early volunteers should be used to supplement staffing of the VOC. Early staffing needs at the VOC include (see Volunteer Assignments for more details):

- Receptionist;

- Administrative Coordinator/Officer Manager;
- Driver;
- Interviewer;
- Communications Specialist;
- Information Management Chief;
- Liaison Chief;
- Medical Unit Worker;
- Orientation and Training Coordinator;
- Public Relations and Community Liaison;
- Safety Officer Assistant;
- Scheduler/Time Card Assistant;
- Volunteer Supervisor; and
- Runner/Courier.

Volunteers arriving on scene who have not first checked in must be referred back to the VOC for assignment. Recommended equipment setup (adjust according to size and scope of operation):

- Waiting area - any couches or comfortable chairs available, locate near entrance;
- Reception Station - Near entrance, one to two tables, three chairs;
- Registration Station - two to three rectangular tables, six to eight chairs;
- Volunteer Coordinator/Unit Leader's Desk - a desk or small table, two chairs; and
- Orientation and Training Station - One rectangular table or two small tables, three to four chairs.

3400 Volunteer Operations Center Equipment and Supplies List

Many of the following items can be gathered prior to an incident and kept in a "Go-Kit" ready to deploy upon activation. It is especially helpful to have copies of all the necessary forms for registering and placing volunteers so they are organized and ready to

go. “Go-Kits” can also contain basic office supplies, local maps, cellular phones, and any other items useful for beginning operations.

- Guidelines on PPE;
- Volunteer timesheets;
- Volunteer Waivers and Release of Liability;
- Authorization to Use Private Vehicle Forms;
- Volunteer Registration Forms;
- Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM) training course description;
- Emergency Action Plan training description;
- Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training course descriptions;
- Workplace Health and Safety training description;
- ICS course descriptions;
- Volunteer position descriptions;
- Volunteer section of Area Contingency Plan (ACP);
- Local maps;
- Poster board and large marker pens (for signage);
- Clipboards;
- Pens and pencils;
- Folder and labels;
- Stapler, paper, staplers, pencil sharpener, tape, scissors, Post-it® notes, push pins, etc.;
- Spiral notebooks (to create logbooks);
- Duct tape;
- Fax machine;
- Phones and phone lines;
- Printers;
- Copier;

- Computers;
- Bulletin boards;
- Cellular phones;
- Several large tables and chairs to set up stations for medium-to-large-scale operation; and
- Volunteer instructions.

3500 Guidelines on Personal Protective Equipment

This list identifies the suggested minimum PPE for volunteers. A basic assumption is that the atmosphere is safe to breathe and work in; therefore, respiratory protection is not necessary. The primary hazards encountered during response activities for a coastal area are slips, trips, and falls. Suggested minimum Volunteer PPE:

- Impermeable jacket, pants, and gloves;
- Safety boots that may be cleaned and reused;
- Eye protection (goggles); and
- Head protection (hard hat).

Other PPE to consider depending on site, environmental conditions, extent of duties, and nature of work:

- Chest waders;
- Day-glow vest;
- Ear plugs;
- Heavy fabric work gloves;
- Personal flotation device (life jacket); and
- Safety glasses or face shields.

4000 Federal Agency Volunteer Management Policy

The three primary federal regulations governing oil spill response, 40 CFR Part 300, 29 CFR Part 1910.120 (Occupational Safety and Health Standards/HAZWOPER) and 40 CFR Part 311 (Worker Protections) do not exclude the use of volunteer organizations. However, all spill response operations must comply with these regulations. 29 CFR Part 1910.120 outlines various health and safety requirements for different on-site activities. In addition, various federal property owners (e.g., U.S. Department of Defense [DoD] and U.S. Department of Energy [DOE]) may have specific regulations, policies, or national security concerns regarding the use of volunteers. The Coast Guard requires a "hold harmless" clause to be signed by each volunteer. The legal representative of these organizations must be consulted prior to employing volunteers. Please see the following policy, regulations, and guidelines for additional direction on how to properly employ volunteers:

- NRT_Use_of_Volunteers_Guidelines_for_Oil_Spills_FINAL_signatures_inserted_Version_28-Sept-2012.pdf.
- Emergency Response Program to Hazardous Response Releases, 29 CFR 1910.120(q); see also Appendix E of 29 CFR 1910.120 (Training Curriculum).
- 8182 Department of Labor OSHA 3172.
- 40 CFR Part 311.
- http://www.training.fema.gov/ (free IS100 and IS700 training).

4100 Volunteer Policy of the Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan

The general policy accepted by the SPS ACP is that volunteers will normally be used in low- risk activities and only after receiving safety training appropriate for their designated activities. If volunteers are used for higher risk activities such as wildlife rehabilitation or pre-cleaning beaches, specialized training and, in some cases, licensing may be required. For general guidance on volunteer usage in Region 10, go to

the Volunteer Guidance Tool located in the Tools and Resources section of the Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) website. In general:

- Volunteers associated with an Affiliated Volunteer Organization and with documented specialized training will be given higher priority.
- Unaffiliated volunteers must participate through either local government or an Affiliated Volunteer Organization.
- Use of unpaid, Unaffiliated Volunteers will supplement, not replace, the work of professional responders.
- For safety, liability, and management reasons, volunteers will not be used during hazardous substance or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents.

4110 State Volunteer Management Policies

Washington state policies regarding the use of volunteers for incident response are detailed in Section 1600 of the Volunteer Guidance Tool on the RRT Tools and Resources page. Washington State has an established system to pre-register volunteers and operators of "vessels of opportunity" that have expressed interest in being trained and available to assist in responding to oil spills.

Washington Volunteer Wildlife Rescue Operations

Oiled wildlife response programs throughout the world regularly incorporate the volunteers as a part of their overall rescue strategy. In Washington State, volunteers are used in combination with paid staff and consultants. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is recognized as the affiliated organization for the purpose of recruiting and training volunteers for oiled wildlife rescue.

Washington Volunteer Emergency Worker Program

Washington State's Emergency Worker Program is designed for use during emergencies, disasters, and related incidents. Local governments, with the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division providing assistance, implement the

Emergency Worker Program. Please refer to Chapter 118-04 of the Washington Administrative Code or contact local emergency management agencies.

4200 Health and Safety Standards

The minimum training required for volunteers involved in removal operations should be consistent with the HAZWOPER standards set forth in Emergency Response Program to Hazardous Response Releases, 29 CFR § 1910.120(q).

4300 Safe Use/Training of Volunteers

Appropriate training shall be provided to volunteers prior to participation in a spill response.

- In accordance with the National Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substances (40 CFR § 300), volunteers SHOULD NOT participate in the physical removal or cleanup activities during an oil spill response and should be limited to non-hazardous activities.
- Volunteers SHOULD NOT be deployed or be used in exclusionary hot zones.
- Volunteers who do take part in spill response operations must be trained in accordance with 29 CFR § 1910(q) and any applicable state requirements.
- 29 CFR §120, Appendix E, Section C, "Emergency response training," provides OSHA's recommendations to employers, employees, or volunteers in public sector emergency response organizations if they are outside of federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) jurisdiction.
- Volunteers should have IS100 and IS700 training if they will be assigned any duties within the ICP. This training is free at http://www.training.fema.gov/is/.

4400 Basic Guidelines for Handling Volunteers

Volunteer coordination in an oil spill offers complications not normally encountered in response. Some considerations may include:

- Unaffiliated volunteers who arrive unannounced should be escorted by authorized safety personnel.

- Using volunteers at the ICP may create an information security risk. Volunteers should not have access to certain information not previously determined to be releasable to the public. Any requests for information shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process and/or authorized by the Public Information Officer (PIO).
- There are many agencies involved in oil spill response. The UC should be aware of any litigious issues between agencies, Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSROs), and subsequent access to sensitive or confidential information.
- Volunteers should not be deployed or used in the same locations as the OSROs, Natural Damage Assessment (NRDA) teams, or Wildlife Search and Collection Teams, unless previously authorized and approved.

4500 Volunteer Assignments

The UC may perform a risk-benefit analysis to determine if properly trained volunteers may be used for certain tasks during a response. At a minimum, all volunteers are required to attend a two-hour Workplace Health and Safety Training and Site Safety Training, prior to conducting any work. For a listing of possible positions that may be filled by volunteers, please refer to Section 7.0 in the National Response Team's Use_of_Volunteers_Guidelines_for_Oil_Spills.pdf.

4600 Use of Volunteers for Shoreline Cleanup

Volunteers will not automatically be used for shoreline cleanup. The benefit of volunteer efforts must be weighed against concerns for public safety. Based on the conditions specific to that incident, the UC will determine the suitability of employing volunteers for shoreline cleanup missions. When considering the use of volunteers of federally administered lands, the FOSC will consult with and gain the concurrence of the cognizant Federal Lands Manager prior to the use of volunteers on federal lands. In reviewing the potential use of volunteers in shoreline cleanup, the UC will consider the following factors:

- Primary safety hazards (volume, exposure potential, size type, and toxicity of

discharged oil);

- Secondary safety hazards (sneaker waves, tides, visibility, slips/falls);
- OSHA guidance;
- Possible cleanup locations;
- Logistics and administrative support requirements (training, PPE, multi-jurisdictional coordination, public information);
- Local government desire to manage volunteers (including recruiting, administering, training, deployment, recovery/decontamination); and
- Weather/tidal conditions.

4700 Volunteer Training Courses

Volunteers will be given appropriate training before being assigned. Training must be current. Any prior volunteer HAZWOPER training shall be renewed with new oil spill training sessions to satisfy a current oil spill volunteer response. This may cause delays in assignment if the volunteer has to be trained at the spill site, but it will avoid needless injuries. Volunteers must be trained to perform the tasks they are asked to do. An inexperienced and untrained volunteer will not be assigned to perform a task requiring training and/or experience.

4710 24-Hour HAZWOPER

The 24-Hour HAZWOPER is for volunteers identified prior to a spill who will back up the Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit capturing oiled birds and mammals. They would be in the hot or warm zone, within permissible exposure limits. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit has been given primary responsibility for capture and care of oiled wildlife; therefore, other volunteers will be called only when the capacity of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit is exhausted.

4720 8-Hour HAZWOPER

The 8-Hour HAZWOPER is required for volunteers who have had the 24-hour training, but need an annual refresher to be current.

4730 4-Hour HAZWOPER

If the supply of 24-Hour HAZWOPER trained volunteers is exhausted and more are needed to back up the Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit at an incident, a 4-Hour on-scene HAZWOPER training will be given to non-24-Hour trained volunteers. Individuals trained at the 4-Hour level may use this training only once, at a single incident. If the individual finds that they may need to attend future spills, this person must secure training at the appropriate level.

4740 4-Hour Hazard Communications (HAZCOM)

The training is for volunteers who could be a backup in a rehabilitation facility. There is no refresher. The volunteer cannot be in the warm or hot zone. The 4-Hour HAZCOM includes:

- Fundamentals of Toxicology;
- Chemical/physical properties of petroleum products;
- Physical Hazards (noise, thermal, lifting safety, slips, trips, and falls, and electrical safety.);
- Biological Hazards (zoonotic diseases, soil/water borne diseases, alligators, snakes, spiders, and insects of concern);
- Personal protective equipment (boots, gloves, work suits, safety glasses, and hearing protectors);
- Decontaminations of personnel and equipment; and
- Reporting injuries (worker compensation forms and deadlines).

4750 2-Hour Workplace Health and Safety Training

This training will be conducted on-site for volunteers who will be working in the support zone (will not be in the warm or hot zone). The 2-Hour training includes:

- Physical Hazards (safe lifting, slips, trips, and falls; general office ergonomics, general electrical safety);
- Chemical hazards (toner, disinfectants, rubber cement, etc.);
- Safe Driving;
- Rest breaks/replacement for exhauster workers; and
- Reporting of injuries, worker compensations forms and deadlines.

4760 Site Safety Training

This training is to orient the volunteers of specific hazards at the site of the spill.

5000 Volunteer Unit Administrative Issues

5100 Policy Regarding Donations

The Volunteer Unit does not accept donations.

5200 Press Releases

The example press release contained in this plan is to be revised to accommodate each specific incident and issued through the PIO. As an incident and the status of volunteer utilization changes, the Volunteer Coordinator or the VUL prepares additional press releases and presents them to the UC and the PIO or JIC Manager for approval for editing and distribution to the media.

See Appendix E for the Sample Volunteer Press Release.

5300 Demobilization and Debriefing

As the need for volunteers winds down, the UC will deactivate the Volunteer Unit. As activities subside at the Volunteer Unit the Volunteer Coordinator, or the VUL will manage ongoing volunteer operations. Final duties for the Volunteer Unit staff should include coordinating debriefing opportunities for volunteers, as well as any follow-up recognition that local governments or the state would like to provide to citizens who volunteered their time and energy in the response.

Appendix A – Volunteer ICS-204

1. Operations Personnel			
Operations Section Chief		Division/Group Supervisor	
Branch Director		Supervisor Number	

2. Resources Assigned					
ST/TF/Single Resource	Leader	# of Persons	Trans. Needed	Drop Off PT/Time	Pick Up PT/Time
Logistics Unit					
Transportation Unit					
Food Preparation					
Medical Assistance					
*Shoreline					
Personnel Services					
Public Relations					

3. Control Operation *01 Safety Officer per 10 volunteers*
4. Special Instructions *Volunteers will NEVER be in contact with potential contaminants or pollutants.*

9. Division/Group Communication Summary							
Function	System	Channel	Frequency	Function	System	Channel	Frequency
Command				Support			

Appendix B – Volunteer Request Form

Date/Time: _____
Requesting Organization/ Agency/Unit: _____
Name of Contact: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Total Number of Volunteers Needed: _____
Job Title/Description: _____

Duties	Experience/ Skills	Training Provided?

Equipment/Special Clothing Needs: _____

_____

Description of Training to be Provided: _____

_____

Job Location: _____

_____

Date/ Time Volunteers Needed: _____
Please Check if Available: Restrooms_____ Parking_____

Safety Equipment _____ Telephone

Transportation to Work Site _____
Volunteer(s) should report to the following person for additional training/instruction:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Location: _____

For Office Use Only

Follow-up date & time: _____

Follow-up action: _____

Position(s) filled? _____

Volunteer Name(s): _____

Appendix C – Volunteer Timesheet

Volunteer Name: _____

Telephone Number:

Date	Start Time	Stop Time	Total Hours	Functions Performed/Daily Supervisor

Supervisor Signature: _____

Appendix D – Sample Volunteer Press Release

(City Name) –In response to the approximate _____ -gallon oil spill in/at _____, the UC has activated the Volunteer Hotline #: 800-XXX-XXXX. Hotline staff will record the caller's name, telephone number, availability, and applicable skills or training. The caller will be informed if or when volunteers will be utilized for spill response and briefed on other event-specific information as needed.

Federal, state, and local governments have determined what tasks are appropriate for volunteer effort, have identified and pre-trained an existing group of volunteers statewide, and have developed a system to activate those volunteers. The system will be activated if the UC at the spill decides that volunteers are needed for the response effort. At that time, a volunteer operations center will be established. If additional volunteers are needed, the hotline listing will be publicized through the news media.

The public is advised to stay away from the spill site, as their presence can hamper cleanup efforts and increase danger factors. Oil is a hazardous material, and to work in or near the oil, one is required to complete 8 to 40 hours of HAZWOPER training. Additionally, for the safety of both the public and animals, only trained wildlife specialists should attempt to handle oiled wildlife.

The public can help at this by reporting any oiled animals to the Oiled Wildlife Hotline #: 800-XXX-XXXX (not the volunteer hotline #). Trained professional entities that focus on individual oiled animals and their survival after an oil spill will be notified. Modern technology, properly equipped facilities, and new rehabilitation protocols standardize care throughout the state, increasing wildlife survival rates. Wild animal survival rates increase with a decrease of human contact.

Please call the Volunteer Hotline for frequent updates.

Note: All press releases must be approved by the UC/PIO before statements are released to the media/public.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10)

Annex H

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 3
1100 Scope 3
1200 Situation and Assumptions 4
1300 Primary Agencies 5
1310 Federal Agencies 5
1320 Washington 6
2000 Funding 8
2100 Federal Emergency Management Agency Mission Assignment 8
2200 Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund 9
2300 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 9
3000 Operations 11
3100 Orphan Containers 11
3110 Damaged and Leaking Orphan Container 13
3120 Damaged, Not Leaking Orphan Container 13
3130 Undamaged Orphan Container 14
3200 Displaced Vessels 14
3210 Washington 14
3220 Oregon 15
4000 Planning 16
4100 Planned Agency Mission Support 16
5000 Cost Documentation 18

1000 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to identify federal, state, and local agency responsibilities and resources for managing emergent hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents, oil spills, and other unanticipated incidents. In addition, this annex's content is meant to help minimize exposure and/or damage to human health and safety or to the environment caused by the actual or threatened release of HAZMAT, oil spills, and other incidents.

The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide to how the nation responds to all types of disasters and emergencies. It is built on scalable, flexible, and adaptable concepts identified in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to align key roles and responsibilities across the nation. The NRF describes specific authorities and best practices for managing incidents that range from the serious but purely local to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters. The NRF provides coordinating mechanisms to bring in additional agencies and components as they are needed.

The NRF's Emergency Support Function (ESF) annexes categorize capabilities and resources based on the functions most likely needed during an incident. In the case of a large-scale natural disaster or a significant terrorist attack, it may be necessary to activate all ESFs. However, for a localized event such as a flood or tornado, only a few ESFs may need to be activated.

1100 Scope

Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10) may be activated as a Mission Assignment directly under the NRF in a Stafford Act disaster response, or may be initiated within a Community Lifeline response as a Line of Effort (LOE) within an Incident Action Plan. ESF-10 procedures have been developed at the federal and state level to guide the response to HAZMATs release or upset conditions that could involve potential releases of HAZMATs during disasters and other incidents.

Activities encompassed within the scope of ESF-10 include:

- Coordinate the actions necessary to carry out functions related to providing support to local governments in response to HAZMAT-related activities.
- HAZMAT includes chemical, biological, and radiological substances, whether accidentally or intentionally released.

1200 Situation and Assumptions

The Northwest Region is faced with a number of natural and manmade hazards that may require HAZMAT support. Considerations that should be taken into account when planning for and implementing ESF-10 activities include:

- High volumes of HAZMAT are transported through many smaller communities that lack the resources to combat a large-scale incident they could create. An incident could occur anywhere and at any time without warning.
- HAZMAT incidents can threaten public health and safety, as well as the environment. While most HAZMAT incidents involve smaller volumes of material, they do require specific approaches to different types of chemical and waste releases. It is important to assess the characteristics of the hazard, acquire the necessary resources, and develop a site-specific emergency response plan.
- The commencement of emergency response operations for HAZMAT incidents may require multiagency and multidisciplinary responses. Disciplines involved may include fire response, law enforcement, environmental assessment, containment and cleanup, fish and wildlife response, emergency medical services, public health, and others, if needed.
- Some incidents may not have immediately obvious impacts on life, property, and the environment but may still have subtle long-term consequences for human health and the environment that will require further assessment and remediation.

ESF-10 is based on the following planning assumptions:

- A natural or technological disaster could result in one or more situations in which HAZMAT is released into the environment.
- Fixed facilities (chemical plants, tank farms, laboratories, and industrial facilities) that produce, generate, use, store, or dispose of HAZMAT could be damaged, rendering existing spill control apparatus and containment measures ineffective.

- HAZMAT being transported may be involved in marine shipping, railway, highway, or airline incidents.
- Damage to, or rupture of, pipelines transporting materials that are hazardous if improperly released may present serious problems.
- Emergency exemptions may be needed for timely management and/or disposal of HAZMAT to protect human health and the environment.
- Local laboratories responsible for analyzing HAZMAT and normal waste management facilities used during smaller incidents may be damaged or destroyed in a disaster.

1300 Primary Agencies

1310 Federal Agencies

ESF-10 provides for a coordinated federal response to actual or potential oil and HAZMAT incidents when activated for Stafford Act incidents or federal-to-federal support. ESF-10 responses to oil and HAZMAT incidents are generally carried out in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). NCP response structures and coordination mechanisms remain in place but coordinate with National Response Framework (NRF) mechanisms. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) respond at the on-site tactical level, and RRTs and the National Response Team may be activated to coordinate ESF-10 interagency actions and provide support to the OSC. EPA and DHS/USCG also provide representatives, as appropriate, to the Joint Field Office (JFO), Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCCs), and National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Some procedures in the NCP may be streamlined or may not apply. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Policy 9523.8 applies to funding for ESF-10 activities. During Stafford Act responses, EPA and DHS/USCG OSCs retain their authority to act under the NCP if necessary.

EPA serves as the primary agency for ESF-10 actions in the Inland Zone, and DHS/USCG serves as the primary agency for ESF-10 actions in the Coastal Zone (as defined in Regional Contingency Plan [RCP] and Area Contingency Plan [ACP]). For incidents affecting both, EPA is the primary agency

and DHS/USCG serves as the deputy.

1320 Washington

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Washington State Patrol (WSP) coordinate the response to HAZMAT incidents, oil spills, or releases, and identify local jurisdiction, state agency, and federal responsibilities for the management of ESF-10.

Ecology is responsible for coordinating ESF-10. Key responsibilities include:

- Act as the State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) for state oil and HAZMAT spills, except on the highways or where the local jurisdiction or WSP is designated Incident Commander (IC).
- Provide 24-hour response to HAZMAT, oil spill, or other release incidents.
- Make emergency notifications.
- Determine the source and course of the incident.
- Identify the responsible party (RP) for a HAZMAT, oil spill, or release incident.
- Assume responsibility for incident management and cleanup if the RP is unavailable, unresponsive, or unidentified and a federal agency is not part of the incident response.
- Set cleanup standards for the state. Ensure that source control, containment, cleanup, and disposal are accomplished.
- Assist in monitoring and ensuring the safety of first responders and other personnel.
- Initiate enforcement actions, as appropriate.
- Coordinate spill response with other state and federal agencies and local jurisdictions using Unified Command (UC) and the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) with involved agencies and the RP to provide current and accurate information to the community.
- Activate and coordinate the activities of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment

(NRDA) team.

- Notify the appropriate resource trustee agency of injuries or threat to fish, shellfish, habitat, or other wildlife.
- Make on-site inspections to HAZMAT, oil spill, or other releases.
- Provides maritime expertise and advice to the SOSC.

WSP will provide the following ESF-10 responsibilities:

- Provide 24-hour response to HAZMAT, oil spills, or other releases at the request of the on-scene IC.
- Assume the role of incident command agency on state and interstate highways, unless provided by local agreement. Assume the role of incident command agency in designated areas, as well as in those areas where a designation has not been established by the local jurisdiction. (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 70.136.030).
- Assist local jurisdictions with law enforcement and evacuations. (Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan [CEMP] ESF-10, Hazardous Materials 12 Edition III February 2009).
- Assist local jurisdictions with ICS functions when requested.
- Coordinate and maintain liaison with other state agencies involved with an incident.
- Assist in receiving and disseminating warning information.
- Provide communications and technical support to the incident.
- Provide aerial reconnaissance of impacted area.
- Coordinate delivery of fire resources when emergency mobilization is authorized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan for a HAZMAT incident.

2000 Funding

This section identifies the federal funding authorities that may be applied to support ESF-10 response actions during incidents affecting the Coastal Zone. Funding mechanisms are incident-specific and depend on the type of release, the existence of a RP, and whether federal assistance is provided under independent statutory authority or through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Mission Assignment (MA). The authorities described below provide the financial framework necessary to conduct timely oil and HAZMAT response operations and to support coordination among federal, state, tribal, and local response partners.

2100 Federal Emergency Management Agency Mission Assignment

When a natural disaster is of such magnitude that a state government's resources are overwhelmed, the state may request federal response assistance to supplement ongoing disaster relief activities. The reimbursement of federal agency expended funds in support of FEMA disaster relief efforts is permitted when support is provided under a MA. An MA is a work order issued to a federal agency by FEMA directing the completion of a specific task, and citing funding, management controls, and guidance.

Although most agencies assigned an MA will be reimbursed for their efforts, under the Stafford Act FEMA can task agencies without expectation of reimbursement. MAs are directives issued by FEMA. They are not contracts or Interagency Agreements (IAAs); rather, MAs are agreements between FEMA and the responding agencies. In most cases, MAs are issued only for assistance under the Stafford Act, not for assistance provided that would normally fall under an agency's independent authorities or responsibilities. For example, the Coast Guard would not receive an MA for search and rescue activities conducted offshore after a hurricane because mission is conducted under the Coast Guard's statutory authority.

FEMA typically assigns MAs to address actions required under one of the 15 different ESFs described in the NRF. The NRF establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the federal government to manage domestic incidents. Consequently, the ESFs are categorized around the major response and recovery functions associated with an incident, such as ESF 1 – Transportation, ESF-9 – Search and Rescue, and ESF-10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials.

The USCG has been delegated as a primary agency to execute ESF-9 and ESF-10. In addition to its role as primary, the USCG may receive tasking by FEMA under several MAs for the other ESFs; e.g. an air station launches a helicopter to provide damage assessments for FEMA (ESF-5 Emergency Management) and launches a second helicopter to provide transportation (ESF-7 Logistics Management and Resource Support) for disaster personnel and supplies.

2200 Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) pays for removal costs and damages resulting from oil spills or substantial threats of oil spills to navigable waters of the United States. The OSLTF is used for costs not directly paid by the polluter, referred to as the RP. The fund is also used to pay costs to respond to "mystery spills," for which the source has not been identified.

2300 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) enables federal agencies to respond immediately to hazardous substance releases and contamination problems that pose a threat to public health and the environment. Removal costs are recovered from the RP(s) by EPA. Post-storm, there will be a prevalent threat to public health due to the presence of orphaned containers in yards, schools, playgrounds, workplaces, and other public locations as citizens return to their counties once the

flooded and impacted areas are accessible. Threats to the environment exist when orphaned containers are deposited into the wetlands, wildlife refuges, and many other sensitive ecosystems. Additional threats include releases from chemical facilities, chemical transfer facilities, and various other facilities that use, produce, transport, or have a supply of hazardous substances.

The Superfund was designed to address discrete incidents and not multiple chemical releases across a large region. Hence, the full impact of hazardous substances to the public and the environment cannot be ascertained in totality with limited CERCLA funding. For HAZMAT, an ESF-10 MA is critical to completing a comprehensive needs assessment and mitigating all actual and potential releases of hazardous substances that are an imminent and substantial threat to the Coastal Zone. The highest priority HAZMAT targets will be those that are actively leaking, an imminent threat to public health or welfare and/or have actual or potential impact to navigable waterways. Where the RPs are known, an initial effort shall be made, to the extent practicable, to determine whether they can and will perform the necessary removal action promptly and properly.

3000 Operations

Primary and support agencies will maintain contact with ESF-10 and prepare to conduct operations in support of ESF-10 during periods of activation. ESF-10 personnel will be familiar with the NRF and the corresponding annex with federal counterpart concepts, actions, and responsibilities. This familiarization will include, but not be limited to, the structure, organization, functions, and responsibilities of the Incident Management Team. Provide ESF-10 representation to JFO, as requested.

3100 Orphan Containers

Following a natural disaster, the coastal zone can be littered with numerous drums, cylinders, tanks, and other containers that contain crude oil, refined petroleum products, chemicals and other HAZMAT. Many of these items are stranded in and adjacent to residential communities, but others are stranded in adjacent coastal habitats that are accessed and utilized by the public. Most of these items are classified as orphaned, or abandoned, and are a threat to public health and safety because of the potential for direct exposure or secondary contamination. An additional concern is the unknown nature of the containers' contents. Changing weather conditions or exposure to fires may cause releases that would result in increased public risk and the potential need for evacuations.

To mitigate the threats posed by orphaned drums and HAZMAT, field operations will include a wide range of response activities and techniques. Due to the geographic extent of operations, Forward Operating Base(s) may need to be established to enhance operational effectiveness. The goal of all recovery operations will be to minimize the risk to the public and responders, and minimize the environmental impact of the response operations overall. Any orphan container that can be accessed by field response teams is also accessible by the public and, therefore, constitutes a potential threat to public health and safety.

There are several phases to the orphaned drum and HAZMAT container removal project:

Assessment, Investigation, Operational Planning, Oil/HAZMAT Removal, and Disposal. Assessment includes ground and aerial surveillance using small boats, airboats, and helicopters to identify and chart suspected threats. Aerial photographs will be correlated with recorded Global Positioning System (GPS) overflight track lines for mapping and display in the Environmental Response Management Application. Identified HAZMAT and oil pollution-related debris will be classified as drum, tank, cylinder, container, or other, and prioritized by: no damage, damaged no spill, damaged leaking, or could not discern. The reconnaissance information will be used to develop situational awareness as to the scope of the problem and to direct future field activities.

Investigations relate to large orphan containers that have a known and viable industry owner. One objective of the investigation process is to attempt to contact the suspected owner to coordinate removal and any required pollution response under the owner's funding.

Operational Planning includes charting suspected targets using a geographic information system (GIS), developing operational tactics, and consulting with natural resource trustees. Technical experts and appropriate spill response guides such as the Emergency Response Guide (ERG), Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Chemical Hazards Response Information System (CHRIS), and Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) reference resources should be consulted during operational planning to ensure a safe and properly mitigated response.

Actual oil/HAZMAT removal will be conducted in a safe manner. Based on the mitigation options available, consideration will be given to that which results in the least environmental impact, i.e., "do no more harm than good."

Because of the variability in habitat and accessibility, each container or accumulation of orphan containers along a debris line might require a unique recovery project using a different assemblage of field equipment. Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) may be recovered by orphaned drum and orphan container recovery teams at sites where field

activities are being conducted. Disposal for the field component of this operation is limited to transferring the material to one of the established disposal staging areas. Final disposal of collected Oil/HAZMAT debris is outside of the scope of this document. As previously stated, all orphan containers that pose a risk to public health and safety will be removed unless the risk for habitat damage exceeds the benefit of removal.

3110 Damaged and Leaking Orphan Container

Container is leaking and there is an observable spill of oil/HAZMAT:

- Non-oil/HAZMAT responders should only function in the First Responder role – identify threat, secure area with caution tape, and notify appropriate response team for technical support.
- Secure leak if it can be done safely.
- Mitigate and recover spilled material using appropriate technology and qualified oil/HAZMAT personnel.
- Remove gross environmental contamination using appropriate technology.
- Recover contents by a transfer to drum or other temporary storage container.
- Recover lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container to remove threat of residual oil/HAZMAT contents.
- Leave lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container in place if removal would create unacceptable habitat damage. Ensure the container is properly cleaned, marked, and documented if left.

3120 Damaged, Not Leaking Orphan Container

Container is damaged, but not leaking:

- For damaged drums and smaller containers, consider over-packing and removal.
- Recover contents by transfer to a drum or other temporary storage container.
- Recover lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container to remove threat of residual oil/HAZMAT contents.
- Leave lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container in place if removal would create unacceptable habitat injury. Ensure the container is properly cleaned,

marked, and documented if left in the environment.

3130 Undamaged Orphan Container

Container is undamaged and structurally sound:

- Recover the container intact and transport to staging area for disposition, if feasible.
- Recover contents by transferring them to a drum or other temporary storage container.
- Recover lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container to remove threat of residual.
- Leave lightered, partially evacuated, or partially empty container in place if removal would create unacceptable habitat injury.
- Consider leaving container and contents in place if inaccessible, or if access with heavy equipment would result in unacceptable habitat damage relative to oil/HAZMAT risk. Ensure the container is properly cleaned, marked and documented if left.

3200 Displaced Vessels

3210 Washington

In Washington, the Derelict Vessels Act (RCW 79.100) gives authorized public entities the legal authority to take control of, remove, and dispose of abandoned or derelict vessels in Washington waters. Authorized public entities include the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Department of Fish Wildlife; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; metropolitan park districts; port districts; and any city, town, or county with ownership, management, or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where an abandoned or derelict vessel is located. DNR manages the statewide Derelict Vessel Removal Program, maintains a derelict vessel inventory, and provides funding guidance and assistance to other authorized public entities that remove vessels. If a vessel is in immediate danger of

sinking, breaking up, blocking navigation channels, or posing an imminent threat to human health or safety, including the threat of environmental contamination, a public entity may take control of the vessel to mitigate the posed threat if the owner is unwilling or unable to do so. Temporary possessions are followed by a custody procedure, unless the vessel owner takes responsibility for the vessel, which includes paying any costs owed.

3220 Oregon

In Oregon, ORS 830.911 gives abandoned and derelict vessel seizure authority to "authorized agencies" (law enforcement agencies, federal agencies, the State Marine Board, or any other public body, as defined in ORS 174.109). An authorized agency that has probable cause to believe a vessel is an abandoned or derelict vessel may initiate seizure in accordance with ORS 830.918 (notice is given to the vessel owner who has at least 10 business days to correct the problem or request a hearing), secure the vessel, take action to mitigate threats of environmental harm, or tow and store the vessel. An authorized agency that acts on an abandoned or derelict vessel without initiating seizure must make a good faith attempt to notify the owner. In all cases, before a vessel can be disposed of, notice must be given according to ORS 830.918. Marine debris, including vessels no longer capable of being used as a means of transportation on the water due to their dilapidated condition, may be disposed of without notice. The Oregon Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program and the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Fund were established by the 2023 Oregon legislature. The Program is housed in the Department of State Lands, and moneys in the Fund are continuously appropriated to the Department for the purpose of carrying out the Program's provisions, which may include reimbursing authorized agencies for expenses associated with addressing abandoned and derelict vessels.

4000 Planning

This section outlines ESF-10 planning considerations for the coordinated federal response to actual or potential oil and HAZMAT incidents within the area. It describes how planned agency mission support is organized and integrated with National Contingency Plan (NCP) and National Response Framework (NRF) structures, and how roles and responsibilities are applied across jurisdictions. The subsections that follow address federal ESF-10 coordination and state-specific planning considerations necessary to support effective response operations in the Coastal Zone.

4100 Planned Agency Mission Support

There will inevitably be activities that occur following a natural disaster or terrorism attack that are not covered in this guidance which will require close coordination between the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO), ESF-10, and State. Additionally, HAZMAT releases and/or problems may not be identified for some time after the occurrence of the disaster (e.g., the day the earthquake or hurricane hits). Decision makers must be aware that such typical occurrences are associated with the disaster and that the determination of the threat posed by such releases is made at the time the release or incident is discovered (e.g., drums containing HAZMAT, discovered after flood waters recede, may pose a threat to public health that warrants response, even if the typical emergency phase of operations has ended).

FEMA retains the right to issue an MA to USCG for activities not traditionally tasked to the USCG following close coordination among the FCO, ESF-10, and the affected state, Tribal, or territorial government. Additional activities must be specifically listed in the MA scope of work.

Activities that EPA/USCG will fund:

- EPA/USCG will use CERCLA funds to pay for emergency response activities related to all preexisting Superfund sites, that is, sites that have ongoing CERCLA response

actions or are currently listed on the National Priorities List (NPL).

- EPA/USCG will use Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund funds to pay for all response activities related to pre-existing Oil Pollution Act removal actions.

Activities that FEMA will fund through Stafford Act:

These activities must be specifically requested by the state and be beyond the state's capability for a MA and associated funding to be issued. Decisions will be made in consultation with the ESF-10 representative. Activities listed below are typical response actions that occur following a natural disaster.

- Staffing of pre-deployment teams (i.e., Regional Operations Center, Emergency Support Team);
- Retrieving and disposing of orphan tanks and drums;
- Household hazardous waste program expenditures;
- Technical assistance to states; and
- Pumping of water contaminated with HAZMAT or oil from basements when the problem is a widespread threat to public health;
- Initial assessments to determine if an immediate health and safety threat exists;
- Control and stabilization of releases of HAZMAT or oil to deal with immediate threats to public health and safety;
- Cleanup and disposal of HAZMAT that is necessary to mitigate immediate threats to public health and safety;
- Monitoring of immediate health and safety threats resulting from debris removal operations.

5000 Cost Documentation

Each ESF primary agency is responsible for tasking support agencies by completing a sub-tasking document that describes the work to be performed, estimates date of completion, and establishes a funding limitation. The primary agency is responsible for monitoring the progress of a sub-tasked support agency and approving the request for reimbursement submitted by the support agency to the primary agency and subsequently billing FEMA.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Air Operations and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Support

Annex K

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Introduction 3
1100 Scope 3
1200 Authority and Policy 3
1300 Request and Coordination of UAS Support 4
1300.1 Request Process 4
1300.2 Command and Control 4
2000 Definitions and Acronyms 5
3000 UAS Operational Capabilities 5
3100 Mission Sets 5
3200 Mission Planning Considerations 6
3300 Partner Agency UAS Capabilities 8
4000 Safety and Compliance 9
4100 Operational Safety Requirements 9
4200 Data Management and Reporting 9
5000 UAS Policy 12
5100 Governing Authorities 12
5200 Federal UAS Policy 12
5210 Temporary Flight Restrictions 12
5220 FAA Part 107 14
5230 US Coast Guard UAS Policy 15
5300 Regional and State UAS Policy 15
5310 State of Washington 15
5320 State of Oregon 16
5400 Tribal Airspace Considerations 16
5500 Multi-Jurisdictional Policy Compliance Guidance 17

1000 Introduction

This annex establishes the framework for requesting, coordinating, and employing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in support of incident response within the Sector Puget Sound (SPS) Area of Responsibility (AOR). UAS capabilities enhance situational awareness, environmental assessment, operational effectiveness, and responder safety during all phases of an incident.

1100 Scope

This annex applies to all incidents managed under the SPS Area Contingency Plan (ACP), including but not limited to:

- Oil and hazardous substance spills;
- Maritime Transportation System (MTS) disruptions;
- Natural disasters and extreme weather events;
- Environmental damage assessments; and
- Critical infrastructure inspections.

UAS operations conducted under this annex support Unified Command (UC) and are integrated into the Incident Command System (ICS).

1200 Authority and Policy

UAS operations will be conducted in accordance with:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS);
- Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook;
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) UAS policy and guidance;
- State agency UAS policies (as applicable);
- Applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations; and

- SECPSINST 3700A – Sector Puget Sound Short Range UAS Operating Procedures.

UAS assets are employed as **complementary capabilities** and do not replace manned aviation or contractor-provided aerial services.

1300 Request and Coordination of UAS Support

1300.1 Request Process

- Requests for UAS support shall be initiated through the Air Ops Branch Director.
- UAS tasking will be integrated into the operational planning cycle and Incident Action Plan (IAP).

1300.2 Command and Control

- UAS operations fall under the Operations Section.
- Tactical direction is provided by the Air Operations Branch.
- Coordination with the **Planning Section**, including the Situation Unit Leader (SITL), is required to ensure reporting, documentation, and integration into the Common Operating Picture (COP).

2000 Definitions and Acronyms

Definitions and acronyms concerning unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations are found in 14 CFR 1.1 located here: [eCFR :: 14 CFR 1.1 -- General definitions. (FAR 1.1)]

3000 UAS Operational Capabilities

UAS operations may support the following mission sets during incident response. Pilots shall use the mission decision guidance in Section 3100 to determine the appropriate platform, sensor, and data type for each deployment.

3100 Mission Sets

Mission	Objectives & Applications	Operational Guidelines & Recommended Data
Surveillance, Reconnaissance & Monitoring	Conduct rapid aerial surveys of spills, debris, and discharge sources. Monitor cleanup operations, track spill movement, and inspect vessels/infrastructure.	Provides real-time overwatch and situational awareness, reducing responder exposure in hazardous or remote areas. Video and photos at sufficient altitude.
Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT) and Shoreline Assessment	Map oiled shoreline segments and support environmental damage assessments.	Nadir image mosaic (lawnmower pattern). Upload to Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) for COP integration. Fly during low or falling tide to maximize visible shoreline.
Sheen Detection & Hotspot Identification	Investigate specific areas of concern (concentrated oil, debris fields, derelict vessels). Confirm oil presence when visual	Nadir, oblique, and thermal photos. Avoid flying directly over water between 10:00 a.m. and

Mission	Objectives & Applications	Operational Guidelines & Recommended Data
	identification is ambiguous.	2:00 p.m. to minimize sun glint. Use a circular polarizing (CPL) filter to enhance oil/water contrast.
Wildlife & Habitat Detection	Locate oiled or impacted wildlife in low-light or visually complex environments (e.g., rocky shores, estuaries). Monitor for the presence of Southern Resident Killer Whales and direct whale deterrence on-water task force resources.	Utilize thermal sensors. Maintain safe standoff distances. Coordinate with the Environmental Unit and Wildlife Branch on locations to survey and guidance to prevent disturbance to wildlife prior to flight.

3200 Mission Planning Considerations

Per National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) UAS Guidance (2024), the following six planning questions shall be addressed before each UAS deployment. This framework ensures the right data are collected safely and efficiently, and that products are immediately useful to responders.

- Wha What data is needed?
  - Identify mission type (reconnaissance, SCAT, hotspot, sheen detection, wildlife/habitat).
  - Define target (vessel, shoreline, spill source, debris).
  - Specify required data products (video, nadir photos, mosaic, thermal).
- Where will operations occur?
  - Evaluate weather and environmental conditions (wind, precipitation, temperature, tidal stage for shoreline work).
  - Assess airspace using Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) or Notice to Air Missions (NOTAMs).

- Determine whether temporary flight restrictions (TFRs) or restricted areas are in the proposed flight area.
- Check ground restrictions including national parks, wildlife refuges, and protected habitat.
- Identify suitable launch/recovery zones with clear sightlines and minimal electromagnetic interference.

- When is the best time to fly?
  - For overland missions, fly midday (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.) to minimize shadows.
  - For on-water missions, avoid midday sun glint; fly in the morning or late afternoon.
  - For shoreline SCAT, target low or falling tide to maximize visible beach face coverage.
- What platform and sensor are needed?
  - Match the UAS platform and sensor to mission requirements. A true-color (RGB) camera handles most missions.
  - Thermal (infrared) sensors improve oil detection when visual contrast is poor.
  - A circular polarizing filter (CPL) is recommended for imaging oil or sheen on water.
  - Confirm the platform is on the approved U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Blue UAS or National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)-compliant list, and that all equipment is serviceable.
- Who is part of the operation?
  - All missions require an FAA Part 107-certified Pilot in Command (PIC) and a trained Visual Observer (VO).
  - Brief all crew on mission objectives, airspace, hazards, and emergency procedures.
  - Coordinate with the incident Aviation Branch or Operations Section Chief as applicable.
  - FAA Part 107 generally prohibits flight over uninvolved persons.
- How will data be managed and delivered?
  - Establish a data management plan before flight.

- Identify storage media, folder structure, file naming conventions, and delivery pathway to UC.
- Plan for timely upload to ERMA or other designated COP platform.
- See Section 4200 for detailed data management requirements.

3300 Partner Agency UAS Capabilities

3310 Washington State Department of Ecology

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) maintains an established FAA-compliant UAS program supporting environmental monitoring and spill response missions statewide. Ecology UAS capabilities include:

- Spill and emergency response reconnaissance;
- Shoreline and coastal erosion assessment;
- Environmental monitoring and habitat surveys;
- High-resolution mapping and geospatial products; and
- Infrastructure and facility inspections.

Requests for Ecology UAS support are coordinated through UC via the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) or State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC).

3320 NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R)

The NOAA OR&R supports spill response and natural resource damage assessment within the Puget Sound AOR, including aerial reconnaissance in support of scientific and environmental missions. OR&R UAS and aerial support capabilities include:

- Oil spill trajectory modeling and shoreline assessment support;
- Marine and estuarine habitat surveys and environmental monitoring;
- Geospatial mapping and orthomosaic imagery of impacted areas;
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) documentation support; and
- Temporal change monitoring and post-incident recovery assessment.

OR&R support is coordinated through UC and integrated into incident operations via the FOSC or SOSC.

4000 Safety and Compliance

Safe and compliant UAS operations are essential to protecting personnel, the public, and the operational integrity of incident response. All UAS personnel shall adhere to applicable federal regulations, USCG policy, and unit-level operating procedures.

- Any mishap, including property damage, injury, flyaways, or near mid-air collisions, must be reported to the designated Aviation Safety Officer (ASO) and the chain of command within 24 hours of the incident.
- Flight logs, maintenance records, General Assessment of Risk (GAR) forms, and pilot currency records must be maintained securely and made available for inspection upon request.

4100 Operational Safety Requirements

The following requirements apply to all UAS operations conducted under this annex:

- All UAS operations must comply with FAA regulations and member-agency policy.
- A GAR shall be completed and recorded prior to each flight operation.
- UAS operations must be deconflicted with manned aviation assets operating within or transiting the area of operations.
- A documented pre-flight inspection of the airframe, payloads, control station, and battery health must be completed prior to launch.
- If night operations are authorized, the UAS must be equipped with anti-collision lighting visible for at least three statute miles.
- UAS firmware must be up-to-date, and operations must adhere to established Operational Security (OPSEC) guidelines regarding data transmission and payload usage.

4200 Data Management and Reporting

Effective data management is a critical component of mission success. Per NOAA OR&R Data Management Guidance (2024), the following practices shall be followed for all UAS collections to ensure data are preserved, usable for decision-making, and available for post-incident review and NRDA.

Data Types	Best Practices
Video	Best kept under 10 minutes per clip. Useful for reconnaissance, monitoring spill movement, and documenting response activities. Take a nadir photo at the start and end of each video to capture coordinates.
Nadir Photos	Camera pointed directly downward. Used for accurate target location, mosaic creation, and SCAT mapping.
Oblique Photos	Side-angle imagery. Useful for detecting sheen, inspecting vessels and debris, and assessing shoreline oiling and habitat.
Image Mosaic	Overlapping nadir photos collected in a lawnmower pattern, stitched into a georeferenced map product. Ideal for SCAT operations and COP integration. Mosaics uploaded to ERMA provide "Red Kite" mapping that can be ready within one hour of upload.
Thermal Imagery	Infrared sensor data is used to detect oil on water (oil is warmer than water during the day, cooler at night) and to identify impacted wildlife. Store in a separate subfolder with "TIR" suffix in file names.

Folder Structure and File Naming

All collected imagery and derived products shall be organized into a standardized folder structure on an approved, cyber-secure storage device. Create an Incident/Event Parent Folder with the following subfolders:

- RAW – all files copied from SD card;
- Nadir;
- Oblique;
- Metadata – mission log;
- Thermal/thermal infrared – if applicable;
- Videos; and
- Derived Products – mosaics, classifications.

Note: Retain all original SD cards as primary authoritative source records.

NOAA DIVER Data Uploads

Files uploaded to the NOAA repository shall have names that follow this convention: Type_YYYYMMDD_HHMM_Sensor_Collector (e.g., Nadir_20260310_0830_RGB_SCR-UAS01.zip). Use underscores, not spaces or dashes. Include date (YYYYMMDD), 24-hour local time, sensor type (RGB, TIR, MSS), and collector identifier. This convention ensures rapid identification, sorting, and searchability within the NOAA DIVER data warehouse.

COP Integration and Delivery

- Geotagged nadir, oblique, and thermal imagery shall be packaged as zipped files and uploaded to the NOAA DIVER data warehouse at the end of each operational period (or when connectivity allows). Coordinate upload with the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) or OR&R data management point of contact.
- Approved image products shall be posted to ERMA® for integration into the COP and IAP. Red Kite photo maps and georeferenced mosaics are the primary ERMA deliverables; mosaics should be limited to approximately two gigabytes per package for upload efficiency.
- All raw and processed data, including SD cards and external drives, must be retained per USCG and NOAA records management requirements. Full-resolution data shall always be preserved for legal, law enforcement, and NRDA documentation purposes. DIVER and ERMA data are maintained for up to six months post-incident unless legal constraints require longer retention.
- Preferred image file format is GeoTIFF (EPSG:4326 or EPSG:3857). Use a consistent spatial projection across the entire project. GPS tracklines (GPX or GIS format) shall be downloaded and archived with each mission collection when technically feasible.

5000 UAS Policy

UAS operations conducted under this Annex are subject to a layered policy framework encompassing federal regulations, USCG agency policy, supporting agency policy, and the laws and guidelines of the states and jurisdictions within the SPS AOR. Planners and operators should verify the current status of applicable laws and policies prior to operations, as regulations continue to evolve.

This section summarizes that framework based on the Regional Response Team 10 (RRT10) Northwest Area Committee UAS Task Force "Summary and Comparison of Regional Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Policies" (October 2018).

5100 Governing Authorities

UAS operations will be conducted in accordance with:

- National Incident Management System (NIMS);
- Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook;
- Applicable FAA regulations;
- DHS and USCG UAS policy and guidance; and
- State agency UAS policies (as applicable).

5200 Federal UAS Policy

5210 Temporary Flight Restrictions

Determination of Need
During an oil spill response, the USCG IC and FOSC determines that a TFR is necessary.

The primary reasons for a TFR during a spill include:

- Protecting response personnel and aircraft (e.g., preventing collisions between low-flying media or civilian aircraft and low-level Coast Guard or contracted aerial reconnaissance, dispersant spraying, or rescue flights); and

- Preventing an unsafe congestion of sightseeing aircraft over the disaster area.

Coordination and Request

The USCG will formally submit the TFR request through the **Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC)** that has jurisdiction over the airspace covering the spill.

- Requests are usually made by the USCG via the FAA coordination facility (often the nearest Flight Service Station [FSS] or directly to the ARTCC).
- The USCG provides the FAA with the specific parameters of the required TFR:
    - **Location:** Center point (latitude/longitude) and the radius (usually limited to within three nautical miles, though it can be adjusted based on the scale of the spill).
    - **Altitudes:** Surface up to a specific altitude (typically 2,000 to 3,000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL)).
    - **Duration:** Effective times or until further notice.
    - **Purpose:** Protecting disaster relief aircraft or hazard area.
    - **Point of Contact:** The name, agency (USCG/UC), and phone number of the official directing the relief activities.

FAA Issuance of the NOTAM

Once the FAA reviews and approves the request, they issue a **NOTAM** under 14 CFR 91.137. This NOTAM legally restricts flight operations in the defined airspace.

- The NOTAM will specify that only aircraft directly participating in the relief operations (e.g., USCG, contracted response aircraft, or state/local emergency aircraft) under the direction of the USCG UC are authorized to enter.

Airspace Management & Authorization

Once the TFR is active, the USCG (often through an Air Operations Branch Director within the UC) manages who is allowed in the airspace.

- **Response Aircraft:** Coast Guard helicopters, contracted uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS/drones), and spotter planes operate within the TFR as authorized.

- **Media/Non-Response Aircraft:** Any media or private aircraft wishing to enter the TFR must obtain explicit permission.

5220 FAA Part 107

Title 14 CFR Part 107 is the primary federal regulatory framework governing small UAS (under 55 lbs) operations in the National Airspace System. Key requirements include:

Operating Requirements. Visual line of sight (VLOS) must be maintained at all times. Maximum altitude is 400 feet AGL. Maximum airspeed is 100 miles per hour. Minimum flight visibility is three statute miles. Operations in Class G airspace do not require air traffic control (ATC) authorization; Classes B, C, D, and E (excluding E-2 airspace) require prior ATC approval. UAS may not be operated over uninvolved persons or from a moving vehicle except in sparsely populated areas.

Pilot Certification. The Remote Pilot in Command (PIC) must hold a valid FAA Remote Pilot Airman Certificate, be at least 16 years of age, and have passed an FAA aeronautical knowledge test or hold a Part 61 pilot certificate with completion of an online training course.

UAS Registration and Airworthiness. No airworthiness certificate is required. A preflight visual and operational check must be performed. All UAS subject to Part 107 must be registered with the FAA.

Incident Reporting. Any UAS operation resulting in serious injury, loss of consciousness, or property damage of $500 or more must be reported to the FAA within 10 days.

Waivers and Special Governmental Interest (SGI) Authorization. The FAA may waive certain Part 107 requirements where the applicant demonstrates safe operation. The FAA's Special Governmental Interest (SGI) process provides an expedited pathway for government agency operations supporting firefighting, search and rescue, law enforcement, critical infrastructure restoration, incident awareness and analysis, damage assessments, and media coverage. SGI authorizations can permit operations in controlled airspace and disaster TFRs, beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS), and at night.

LAANC. The LAANC is an FAA-industry collaboration enabling near real-time airspace authorizations for UAS operations near airports. Operators in the SPS AOR should use LAANC to obtain airspace authorizations in controlled airspace.

5230 US Coast Guard UAS Policy

USCG policy prohibits the collection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) by UAS. When contracting commercial UAS operators, the contractor is solely responsible for compliance with FAA regulations. All contracted operations must be conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

5300 Regional and State UAS Policy

5310 State of Washington

The Washington State Office of Privacy and Data Protection has published UAS Policy Guidelines applicable to state agency operations. These guidelines address the following areas relevant to incident response operations within Washington State:

- 4th Amendment and law enforcement requirements: UAS use for surveillance of targeted individuals requires adherence to applicable warrant and legal authorization requirements.
- Purpose of use recording: Agencies must document the intended purpose of each UAS deployment.
- Data minimization: Collection should be limited to information necessary for the stated mission purpose.
- FAA compliance: All operations must comply with applicable FAA regulations.
- Annual policy review: Agencies are expected to conduct annual reviews of their UAS policies to reflect evolving law and technology.
- Data sharing restrictions: Guidelines address limitations on sharing UAS-collected data with federal and local agencies, including third-party storage specifications and intergovernmental disclosure policies.

The Washington State Department of Ecology Spills Program has approved agency UAS-specific policies and guidelines, which are consistent with those outlined in this ACP Annex. To request these guidelines, contact the SOSC.

5320 State of Oregon

Oregon has enacted several statutes governing UAS operations relevant to incident response. Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 837.300–837.390 and 837.995 require public bodies operating UAS to establish data management policies, to post those policies publicly, and to include retention schedules, third-party storage specifications, and intergovernmental disclosure policies. ORS 498.128 prohibits the use of drones to pursue or harass wildlife.

ORS 837 prohibits harassment of persons by UAS over private property, while permitting law enforcement use of UAS for accident scene reconstruction. ORS 837.365 modifies these provisions, designating weaponization of UAS as a Class A misdemeanor and establishing protections for critical infrastructure. The Oregon Department of Transportation has published a UAS Operations Manual covering aircraft, pilot, and operational standards for state agency use.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) does not have approved UAS-specific policies. Operators coordinating with ODEQ should verify current policy status prior to joint operations.

5400 Tribal Airspace Considerations

Under the Drone Federalism Act of 2017, Tribal governments have authority equivalent to state and local governments to regulate UAS operations below 200 feet aboveground level for safety and privacy purposes, including at tribal events. When conducting UAS operations over or near Tribal lands in the SPS AOR, operators should identify applicable Tribal regulations and coordinate with tribal authorities as appropriate. Tribal coordination should be established through the IC or FOSC, consistent with the government-to-government

consultation requirements applicable to the incident.

5500 Multi-Jurisdictional Policy Compliance Guidance

Analysis by the RRT10 UAS Task Force identified three primary policy issues shared across all regional UAS frameworks: (1) compliance with FAA Part 107, (2) security and law enforcement concerns including search warrant requirements, protection of critical infrastructure, and prohibition of weaponization, and (3) public privacy rights and reasonable expectations of privacy. Future legislative actions in the region are expected to continue alignment with CFR Part 107, Washington State Policy Guidelines, and standards established by agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

For all UAS operations conducted under this Annex, the UAS Coordinator shall verify applicable federal, state, and local regulatory requirements prior to deployment. When operating across state lines or in jurisdictions with specific UAS statutes, the FOSC should obtain legal guidance from the appropriate District or Sector legal officer. International UAS regulations for Canadian or other foreign operations shall be verified through International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidance available at https://www.icao.int/safety/UA/UASToolkit/Pages/State-Regulations.aspx and with Tribal authorities, as appropriate. Tribal coordination should be established through the Incident Commander or Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), consistent with the government-to-government consultation requirements applicable to the incident.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

International Marine Pollution
Contingency Plan

Annex O

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Section Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex	All	October 2026	Sector Puget Sound ACP
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Purpose of This Annex 4

1100 Scope 4

2000 Plan Purpose – Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan 5

2100 Bilateral Coordination Framework 5

2200 Regional Preparedness and Planning – CANUSPAC 5

2300 Mutual Aid for Non-Adjacent Waters 5

3000 Key Roles and Responsibilities 6

4000 Notification and Activation Procedures 7

4100 Notification Obligation 7

4200 How to Notify 7

4300 Notification Form 7

4400 Activation 7

5000 Trans-Boundary Movement of Response Resources 8

6000 Post-Incident Reporting 9

7000 Access to the Plan 10

1000 Purpose of This Annex

This annex provides Sector Puget Sound (SPS) Area Contingency Plan (ACP) responders with an operational overview of the Canada-United States (CANUS) Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP), 2017 revision. The JCP is the governing bilateral framework under which the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) coordinate preparedness and response to harmful substance incidents occurring in shared boundary waters.

Responders activating this annex should understand how the JCP:

- Establishes the legal and operational basis for cross-border coordination;
- Defines notification, activation, and deactivation protocols during a spill event;
- Identifies roles and responsibilities for both CCG and USCG on-scene commanders;
- Provides the framework for movement of response resources across the international border; and
- Guides responders through the five defined response phases from discovery through deactivation.

1100 Scope

This annex applies whenever a harmful substance incident — oil spill, hazardous material discharge, or credible threat thereof — occurs in or threatens the shared boundary waters of the Salish Sea. Responders should reference this annex when:

- A pollution event originates in U.S. waters and has, or is likely to have, trans-boundary impacts to Canadian waters;
- A pollution event originates in Canadian waters and threatens U.S. waters within the SPS area of responsibility (AOR);
- A spill of unknown origin (mystery spill) is detected in the boundary waters; or
- Response resources from Canada are needed to supplement U.S. operations, or vice versa.

2000 Plan Purpose – Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan

The JCP is designed to promote a coordinated system and operational guidelines for national and regional preparedness, planning, and response to harmful substance incidents in Canada-U.S. adjacent waters that may exceed the capabilities of action under any single national response system. The JCP serves three primary purposes for pollution responders.

2100 Bilateral Coordination Framework

The JCP establishes a non-binding but operationally authoritative framework for the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and USCG to coordinate response to any discharge, or threatened discharge, of a harmful substance in the adjacent waters. It supplements each country's national response system and is intended to be consistent with the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC, 1990).

2200 Regional Preparedness and Planning – CANUSPAC

Through its geographically specific annexes (CANUS annexes), the JCP provides detailed guidance for the region most relevant to Sector Puget Sound: CANUSPAC (Pacific). CANUSPAC covers the Salish Sea including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, and the Strait of Georgia — waters directly within the SPS AOR.

2300 Mutual Aid for Non-Adjacent Waters

The JCP establishes a process by which either country may request assistance from the other for incidents occurring in non-adjacent waters (beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone boundary), providing a mechanism for spills of national significance that exceeds unilateral response capacity.

3000 Key Roles and Responsibilities

The following roles are central to JCP response operations involving SPS:

Field	Detail
USCG FOSC	The Sector Puget Sound Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) monitors and directs U.S. response operations; coordinates with CCG Incident Commander (IC) on trans-boundary impacts; determines if JCP activation is needed.
CCG Incident Commander (IC)	The CCG IC oversees the response to a marine pollution incident in Canadian waters; coordinates with USCG FOSC on shared impacts.
International Coordinating Officer (ICO)	A senior program officer (e.g., Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative (FOSC-R) or CCG Senior Response Officer) who facilitates cross-border coordination between the two command structures. Not required on every incident; activated by mutual agreement based on incident complexity.
Liaison Officer	A conduit of information between organizations. The Liaison Officer does not have decision-making authority but ensures situational awareness flows across organizational lines.
Joint Response Team (JRT)	A bilateral advisory team of CCG and USCG representatives responsible for the CANUSPAC Annex. Convened during significant incidents to provide advisory support to the FOSC and CCG IC. Co-chaired by the CCG Regional Director of Programs and the USCG District 13 Incident Management and Preparedness Advisor.

Polluter Pays Principle:

Response operations are primarily funded by the Polluter or Responsible Party (RP). If the RP cannot or will not take adequate response action, the FOSC and CCG IC will execute necessary response actions under their respective national authorities.

4000 Notification and Activation Procedures

4100 Notification Obligation

The Participant (CCG or USCG) that becomes aware of a harmful substance incident in the adjacent waters must notify the other Participant without delay. This obligation applies even when the spill is solely within one country's waters, if trans-boundary impacts are possible.

4200 How to Notify

Notifications are made to:

- USCG National Response Center (NRC): 1-800-424-8802 or (202) 267-2675 (24-hour)
- CCG National Command Centre: (613) 990-0123 (24-hour)
- CCG Western Region, Environmental Response: (250) 480-2722
- USCG District 13, Incident Management and Preparedness Advisor: (206) 220-4662

4300 Notification Form

Use the JCP Spill Notification/Activation/Deactivation Form (JCP Appendix 5) to confirm verbal notifications in writing. The form captures: incident type, location, pollutant type and volume, source status, weather conditions, RP information, and whether trans-boundary impacts exist.

4400 Activation

Activation of a coordinated bilateral response may be made verbally between the FOSC and the CCG IC, followed by written confirmation. Activation triggers the provisions of the JCP including: coordinated response operations, trans-boundary resource movement procedures, and cost documentation requirements.

5000 Trans-Boundary Movement of Response Resources

One of the most operationally significant provisions of the JCP for SPS responders is the framework for moving equipment and personnel across the international border during a response. Clearance procedures for trans-boundary movement of response resources during a CANUSPAC incident are detailed in the CANUSPAC Annex, which supplements this JCP.

When an incident in the adjacent waters warrants joint operations, both Participants must promptly notify the National JCP Committee and initiate clearance procedures. Any issues with trans-boundary resource movement are to be resolved by the Participant with jurisdiction over the waters where the issue arises.

The FOSC should ensure that personnel designated as the ICO are familiar with applicable customs and immigration clearance procedures for the Puget Sound/Salish Sea boundary region, as detailed in the CANUSPAC Annex.

6000 Post-Incident Reporting

Within 180 days of completing joint response operations, the FOSC and CCG IC must jointly prepare a Post Incident Report (After Action Report). The Participant who initiated the coordinated response leads the first draft. Copies are submitted to the JRT co-chairs and the National JCP Committee. Lessons learned inform future planning, exercises, and JCP modifications.

7000 Access to the Plan

The full text of the 2017 Canada-United States JCP is available at the following link:

2017 Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan

The CANUSPAC Annex (Pacific Region), which provides geographically specific guidance for SPS, supplements the JCP and is maintained by USCG District 13 and CCG Western Region. Responders should consult the CANUSPAC Annex for detailed notification contacts, resource inventories, sensitive environment priorities, and trans-boundary clearance procedures specific to the Salish Sea.

2026 Canada-United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP) Annex 3-CANUSPAC

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Acronym List and Glossary of Terms

Annex AA

October 2026

AAR	After-Action Report
ACP	Area Contingency Plan
AOR	rea of responsibility
API	American Petroleum Institute
ARTES	Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
BLS	Basic life support
BMP	Best management practices
BOA	Basic ordering agreement
CANUSWEST	Canada-United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CG-MER	USCG Headquarters Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy
CMAD	Consequence Management Advisory Division
CMC	Certified Marine Chemist
COTP	Captain of the Port
CRA	Cost-Reimbursable Agreement
CST	National Guard Civil Support Teams
CWA	Clean Water Act
DHHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DOC	U.S. Department of Commerce
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOI	U.S. Department of Interior
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation

DRAT	District Response Advisory Team
DSL	Oregon Department of State Lands
ECC	Emergency Coordination Center
Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
ECY	Washington State Department of Ecology
EDRC	Estimated daily recovery capacity
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EMS	Emergency medical services
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act
ERMA	Environmental Response Management Application
ERT	Environmental Response Team
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESF	Emergency Support Function
ESI	Environmental Sensitivity Index
EU	Environmental Unit
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FIFRA	Federal Insecticides, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
FLAT	Federal Lead Administrative Trustee
FOSC	Federal On-Scene Coordinator
FPAAC	Fire Protection Agencies Advisory Council
FRERP	Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan
FRP	Facility Response Plan
FSE	Full Scale Exercise
FWPCA	Federal Water Pollution Control Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIUE	Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercises
GRP	Geographic Response Plan
GRS	Geographic Response Strategy

HAZMAT	Hazardous materials
HAZWOPER	hazardous waste operations and emergency response
HHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
HSRAF	Hazardous Substance Remedial Action Fund
HWG ID	Hazardous Waste Generator ID
IAA	Interagency Agreement
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IH	Industrial Hygienist
IMH	Incident Management Handbook
IMPA	Incident Management Preparedness Advisor
IMT	Incident Management Team
IRAT	Incident Report and Transmittal
ISB	*In situ* burn
JIC	Joint Information Center
L&I	Washington State Labor and Industries
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
LGR	Local Government Reimbursement
LOGCOM	Logistics Command
LOSC	Local On-Scene Coordinator
MFSA	Maritime Fire & Safety Association
MIPR	Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request
MOA	Memorandum of agreement
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MTS	Marine Transportation System
NCEH	National Center for Environmental Health
NCP	National Contingency Plan or National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFC	National Pollution Funds Center
NRC	National Response Center
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
NRF	National Response Framework
NRIA	Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex
NRS	National Response System
NRT	National Response Team
NSF	National Strike Force
NSFCC	National Strike Force Coordination Center
NWRCP	Northwest Regional Contingency Plan
NWS	National Weather Service
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
OCNMS	Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
ODEQ	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OERS	Oregon Emergency Response System
OHA	Oregon Health Authority
OPA	Oil Pollution Act (enacted in 1990)
OPRD	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OR-OSHA	Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division
ORP	EPA's Office of Radiation Programs
ORS	Oregon Revised Statutes
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator

OSFM	Oregon State Fire Marshal
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSLTF	Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
OSP	Oregon State Patrol
OSRO	Oil Spill Removal Organization
PA	Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties during Emergency Response
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
PIAT	Public Information Assist Team
PIO	Public Information Officer
POLREP	Pollution Report
POSSE	Program of Ship Salvage Engineering
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PRC	Primary Response Contractor
PREP	Preparedness for Response Exercise Program
PRFA	Pollution Removal Funding Authorization
PWS	Proposal worksheet
QI	Qualified Individual
RAR	Resources at Risk
RAT	Report and Transmittal
RCP	Regional Contingency Plan
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
REO	Regional Environmental Officer
RERT	Radiological Emergency Response Team
ROD	Record of decision
RP	Responsible Party
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
RRI	Response Resource Inventory
RRT	Regional Response Team

RRT10	Regional Response Team 10
RULET	Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SCAT	Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique
SCR ACP	Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan
SCR	Sector Columbia River
SERC	State Emergency Response Commission
SERT	Salvage Engineering Response Team
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SITREP	Situation Report
SORS	Small oil recovery systems
SMART	Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies
SME	subject matter expert
SOSC	State On-Scene Coordinator
SPR	Strategic Petroleum Reserve
SPS	Sector Puget Sound
SSC	Scientific Support Coordinator
SUPSALV	U.S. Supervisor of Salvage
T&E	Threatened and endangered
TCS	Tribal Coordination Specialist
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TOSC	Tribal On-Scene Coordinator
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
U&A	Usual and Accustomed
U.S.	United States
UC	Unified Command
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTC	Utilities and Transportation Commission
VOO	Vessels of opportunity
VOSS	Vessel of opportunity skimming system
VRP	vessel response plan
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WA DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WA DOH	Washington Department of Health
WCD	worst-case discharge
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WEMD	Washington Emergency Management Division
WMD	weapons of mass destruction
WRRL	Worldwide Response Resource List
WSDOT	Washington Department of Transportation
WSMC	Washington State Maritime Cooperative
WSP	Washington State Patrol

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Area Committee, as provided for by Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 311(a)(18) and (j)(4), is the entity appointed by the president that consists of qualified personnel from federal, state, and local agencies with responsibilities that include preparing an Area Contingency Plan (ACP) for an area designated by the president.

Area Contingency Plan, as provided for by CWA Sections 311(a)(19) and (j)(4), is the plan prepared by an Area Committee to be implemented in conjunction with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and Regional Contingency Plan (RCP), in part to address removal of a worst-case discharge (WCD) and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near an area designated by the president.

Average Most Probable Discharge is a discharge of 1 percent of the volume of the WCD.

Bioremediation agents are biological agents and/or nutrient additives deliberately introduced into a contaminated environment to increase the rate of biodegradation and mitigate any deleterious effects caused by the contaminant constituents. Bioremediation agents include microorganisms, enzymes, and nutrient additives such as fertilizers containing bioavailable forms of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Captain of the Port (COTP) is the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Commander designated to serve as the COTP and the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for the sector's area of responsibility under the NCP. The COTP is responsible for administering and directing all USCG activities relating to Port Safety and Security, Marine Environmental Response, and Waterway Management functions.

CERCLA is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA).

Claim for purposes of a release under CERCLA means a demand in writing for a sum certain; for purposes of a discharge under the CWA, it means a request, made in writing for a sum

certain, for compensation for damages or removal costs resulting from an incident.

Commander, USCG Sector Columbia River (SCR) is designated as the COTP and FOSC for the sector's area of responsibility under the NCP.

Commander, USCG Sector Puget Sound (SPS) is designated as the COTP and FOSC for the sector's area of responsibility under the NCP.

Commander, USCG Northwest District is the USCG District Commander (Admiral) who exercises operational and administrative control over all USCG units assigned to the district (with few exceptions) and acts as a direct representative of the Commandant.

Consist means the list of what each rail car is carrying. The engineer has this document.

Dispersants are substances that emulsify, disperse, or solubilize oil by promoting the formation of small droplets or particles of oil in the water column..

Federal On-Scene Coordinator is the federal official predesignated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the USCG to coordinate and direct responses under Subpart D of the NCP, or the government official designated by the lead agency to coordinate and direct removal actions under Subpart E of the NCP. This person represents the federal government in Unified Command.

Federally-recognized Tribe (Indian Tribe), heretofore referred to as Tribe, as defined by Section 101(36) of CERCLA, means any Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community including any Alaska Native village but not including any Alaska Native regional or village corporation, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States (U.S.) to Indians because of their status as Indians. "Indian tribe," as defined by Oil Pollution Act of 1990 Section 1001, means any Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, but not including any Alaska Native regional or village corporation, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians and has governmental authority over lands belonging to or controlled by the Tribe.

First Federal Official is the first federal representative of a participating agency of the

National Response Team (NRT) to arrive at the scene of a discharge or a release. This official coordinates activities under the NCP and may initiate, in consultation with the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), any necessary actions until the arrival of the predestinated OSC. A state with primary jurisdiction over a site covered by a cooperative agreement will act in the stead of the first federal official for any incident at the site.

Fund or *Trust Fund* means the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by Section 9507 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Incident Commander (IC) is the person who is directly responsible for coordinating and directing a comprehensive response to an emergency situation, and is designated by the responsible party (RP) or Lead Agency.

Joint Harbor Operations Center Command Duty Officer directs operational responses at the direction of the SPS Commander, holds the ultimate responsibility for all operational decisions delegated to the watch, and determines which partners must be informed regarding a particular incident or operation.

Lead Agency means the agency that provides the OSC/Remedial Project Manager (RPM) to plan and implement response actions under the NCP. EPA, the USCG, another federal agency, or a state (or political subdivision of a state) operating pursuant to a contract or cooperative agreement executed pursuant to Section 104(d)(1) of CERCLA, or designated pursuant to a Superfund Memorandum of Agreement entered into pursuant to Subpart F of the NCP or other agreements may be the lead agency for a response action. In the case of a release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant, where the release is on, or the sole source of the release is from, any facility or vessel under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) or U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), then DOD or DOE will be the lead agency. Where the release is on, or the sole source of the release is from, any facility or vessel under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of a federal agency other than EPA, the USCG, DOD, or DOE, then that agency will be the lead agency for remedial actions and removal actions other than emergencies. The federal agency maintains its lead agency responsibilities whether the remedy is selected by the federal

agency for non-National Priority List (NPL) sites or by EPA and the federal agency or by EPA alone under CERCLA Section 120. The lead agency will consult with the support agency, if one exists, throughout the response process.

Local On Scene Coordinator (LOSC) is the designated Community Emergency Coordinator under the Local Emergency Response Plan (LERP) or by other local emergency guidance references. Where no LERP exists, the police, fire chief, or other emergency services official will generally serve as the LOSC.

Higher Volume Port Areas include the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Port Angeles, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward); Puget Sound to the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Cape Flattery, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward); and Puget Sound.

Management of Migration are actions taken to minimize and mitigate the migration of hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants and the effects of such migration. Measures may include, but are not limited to, management of a plume of contamination, restoration of a drinking water aquifer, or restoration of surface water.

Manifest Train is a train in which each car does not carry the same commodity.

Marine Firefighting Coordinator is the officer at SPS responsible to the COTP, for overall supervision of the USCG marine firefighting support operations and execution of this plan.

Marine Inspector is the officer at the respective USCG Sector responsible for on-scene execution of COTP marine firefighting support responsibilities.

Maximum Most Probable Discharge is a discharge of the lesser of 1,200 barrels or 10 percent of the volume of a WCD.

National Pollution Fund Center is the entity established by the Secretary of Transportation whose function is the administration of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF). The center's duties include providing appropriate access to the OSLTF for federal agencies and states for removal actions and for federal trustees to initiate the assessment of natural resource damages; providing appropriate access to the OSLTF for claims; and coordinating cost

recovery efforts.

National Strike Force Coordination Center is defined by CWA Sections 311(a)(23) and (j)(2), as amended by OPA, and refers to the entity established by the secretary of the department in which the USCG is operating at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Its responsibilities include providing a variety of technical assistance and other resources to a FOSC, and administration of the USCG Strike Teams established under the NCP.

Natural Resources are land, fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, groundwater, drinking water supplies, and other such resources belonging to, managed by, held in trust by, appertaining to, or otherwise controlled by the United States (including the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) defined by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976), any state or local government, any foreign government, any Tribe, or, if such resources are subject to a trust restriction on alienation, any member of a Tribe.

Navigable Waters are Waters of the United States (WOTUS) subject to jurisdiction under the CWA, excluding prior converted cropland. Although other federal agencies may determine whether an area qualifies as prior converted cropland, EPA retains final authority for determining CWA jurisdiction, as defined in 40 CFR §230.3.

Non-floating oils refer to heavy oils and Group V oils that exhibit qualities that could, due to the oil characteristics, weathering, environmental factors, or how they are discharged, potentially submerge or sink. Examples of these types of oils include, but are not limited to, Diluted Bitumen (dilbit), Group V Residual Fuel Oils (GPVRFO), Low API Oil (LAPIO), Asphalt, and Asphalt Products.

Non-persistent or Group 1 Oil means a petroleum-based oil that, at the time of shipment, consists of hydrocarbon fractions.

> (1) At least 50 percent of which by volume, distill at a temperature of 340 degrees Celsius (645 degrees Fahrenheit); and
>
> (2) At least 95 percent of which by volume, distill at a temperature of 370 degrees Celsius (700 degrees Fahrenheit).

Offshore Facility as defined by Section 101(17) of CERCLA and Section 311(a)(11) of the CWA, means any facility of any kind located in, on, or under any of the navigable waters of the United States, and any facility of any kind that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and is located in, on, or under any other waters, other than a vessel or a public vessel.

Oil as defined by Section 311(a)(1) of the CWA, means oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil. Oil, as defined by Section 1001 of OPA means oil of any kind or in any form, including, but not limited to, petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse, and oil mixed with wastes other than dredged spoil, but does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof, that is specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under subparagraphs (A) through (F) of Section 101(14) of CERCLA and that is subject to the provisions of that act.

Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund is the fund established under Section 9509 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 United States Code 9509).

The On-Scene Commander is a designation per the National Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan who directs the SAR mission on-scene and has operational control of all SAR response units on scene. This is not to be confused with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) definition for “Incident Commander,” who is the person responsible for all aspects of an emergency response, including quickly developing incident objectives, managing all incident operations, applying resources, and having responsibility for all persons involved.

Primary Resource Provider is listed in the vessel response plan (VRP) as the principal entity contracted for providing specific salvage and/or marine firefighting services and resources, when multiple resource providers are listed for that service, for each of the COTP zones in which a vessel operates. The primary resource provider will be the point of contact for the plan holder, the FOSC, and the Unified Command (UC) in matters related to specific resources and services, as required in 33 CFR § 155.4030(a).

Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service is a Branch of the Waterway Management Division of SPS. Its mission is to prevent groundings, collisions, and environmental damage while supporting navigation safety mission goals.

Onshore Facility means any facility (including, but not limited to, motor vehicles and rolling stock) of any kind located in, on, or under any land within the United States other than submerged land.

Persistent Oil means a petroleum-based oil that does not meet the distillation criteria for a non-persistent oil. For the purposes of this subpart, persistent oils are further classified based on specific gravity as follows:

(1) Group II - specific gravity of less than .85.

(2) Group III - specific gravity equal to or greater than .85 and less than .95.

(3) Group IV - specific gravity equal to or greater than .95 and less than or equal to 1.0.

(4) Group V - specific gravity greater than 1.0.

Preliminary Assessment under CERCLA means a review of existing information and an off-site reconnaissance, if appropriate, to determine if a release may require additional investigation or action. A Preliminary Assessment may include an on-site reconnaissance, if appropriate.

Primary Dispersant Staging Site means a site designated within a COTP Zone that has been identified as a forward staging area for dispersant application platforms and the loading of dispersant stockpiles. Primary staging sites are typically the planned locations where platforms load or reload dispersants before departing for application at the site of the discharge and may not be the locations where dispersant stockpiles are stored or application platforms are home-based.

Radiation Emergency Response Team is a group composed of individuals who will respond to any radioactive materials incident.

Rail Car Owners are the car owners who are responsible for keeping the tank car in compliance with the Hazardous Materials Regulations (inspections/repairs etc.). Railcar owners often lease the cars to the shipper for use.

Rail Commodity Owner is the owner of the product being shipped by rail. In Washington State, the owner of the oil being shipped is responsible for responding to incidents involving that oil and may be the shipper, consignee, or beneficial owner. The shipper would be contacted through the submitted emergency response contact listed on the shipping papers. It would be the shipper's responsibility to contact the owner of the oil. If using Chemtrec or another service provider, the papers must identify the person (by name or contract number) who has a contractual agreement with the service provider (49 CFR 172.201 (d)).

Rail Consignee is the company receiving the rail shipment at the destination.

Rail Shipper is the party that certifies and offers the hazardous material package for transportation. The hazardous material must be properly classified and packaged by the shipper. The shipper will then submit shipping instructions and hazardous material information to the transporter (carrier). The shippers are also required to provide and maintain emergency response information.

Rail Trackage Agreements means a type of agreement that allows carriers to operate on lines owned by other companies. Regardless of whose trains are operating on the line, the track owner is responsible for the Emergency Response phase of the incident. Once the emergency is over, cleanup or other monitoring work may be transferred to the transporter. Where trackage rights do not exist, the shipment continues to destination after transferring the material at an "Interchange Point." At this "Interchange Point" the responsibility shifts to the new line owner.

Rail Transporter (carrier) is the company required by federal law to transport from origin to destination hazardous materials that meet the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements and as certified by the "shipper." Carriers are responsible for materials that are

in transport on their system. Carriers usually operate on their own lines but often have trackage agreements in areas where they don't own the lines.

Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team means a team of local emergency responders who are trained, equipped, and organized to respond to oil and hazardous materials incidents in a given geographic area.

Release, as defined by Section 101(22) of CERCLA, means any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment. This includes the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles containing any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. For purposes of the NCP, release also means the threat of release. Release does not include:

- Exposure to persons solely within a workplace, with respect to a claim those persons may assert against the employer;
- Emissions from the engine exhaust of a motor vehicle, rolling stock, aircraft, vessel, or pipeline pumping station engine;
- Release of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material from a nuclear incident, as those terms are defined in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, if the release is subject to financial protection requirements established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under Section 170;
- For purposes of Section 104 of CERCLA or any other response action, release of source, byproduct, or special nuclear material from any processing site designated under Section 102(a)(1) or 302(a) of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (42 United States Code. 7901 et seq.); or
- The normal application of fertilizer.

Remove or Removal, as defined by Section 311(a)(8) of the CWA, refers to containment and removal of oil or hazardous substances from the water and shorelines or the taking of such other actions as may be necessary to minimize or mitigate damage to public health or welfare of the United States (including, but not limited to, fish, shellfish, wildlife, public and

private property, and shorelines and beaches) or to the environment. For the purpose of the NCP, the term also includes monitoring of action to remove a discharge. As defined by Section 101(23) of CERCLA, remove or removal means the cleanup or removal of released hazardous substances from the environment; actions necessary in the event of the threat of release of hazardous substances into the environment; actions necessary to monitor, assess, and evaluate a release or threat of release of hazardous substances; the disposal of removed material; and other actions necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to public health or welfare of the United States or to the environment that may otherwise result from a release or threat of release. The term includes, but is not limited to, security fencing or other measures to limit access, provision of alternative water supplies, temporary evacuation and housing of threatened individuals not otherwise provided for, action taken under Section 104(b) of CERCLA, post-removal site control, where appropriate, and any emergency assistance that may be provided under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. For the purpose of the NCP, the term also includes enforcement activities related thereto.

Resource Provider is an entity that provides personnel, equipment, supplies, and other capabilities necessary to perform salvage and/or firefighting services identified in the VRP.

Response Community is any person who has a role in spill response.

Responsible Party (RP) Incident Commander is the representative designated by the spiller to coordinate and direct the spillers' assets and actions. This person represents the spiller in UC. They do not use the title OSC, because that term is for those with regulatory authority for spill response.

Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator is a designation per the National SAR Plan. This person is responsible for planning and operational coordination and control of SAR missions. This position has overall responsibility for execution of SAR responsibilities normally designated by the Commander of the cognizant USCG Sector or USCG Northwest District.

Spill Management Team refers to the personnel identified to staff the organizational structure identified in a response plan to manage response plan implementation.

State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) means the representative designated by the state to coordinate and direct state assets and authorities during an oil or hazardous substance response. This person represents the state in UC.

State means the several states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession over which the United States has jurisdiction. For purposes of the NCP, the term includes Indian tribes as defined in the NCP, except where specifically noted. Section 126 of CERCLA provides that the governing body of an Indian tribe shall be afforded substantially the same treatment as a state with respect to certain provisions of CERCLA. Section 300.515(b) of the NCP describes the requirements pertaining to Indian tribes that wish to be treated as states under CERCLA.

Sinking Agents are substances introduced into an oil discharge for the purpose of submerging the oil to the bottom of a water body.

Site refers to the area covered by the extent of contamination and all suitable areas in very close proximity to the contamination necessary for the implementation of a response action.

State Emergency Response Commission is a group of officials appointed by governors to implement the provisions of Title III of SARA

Substantial Threat of a discharge means any incident or condition involving a facility that may create a risk of discharge of oil. Such incidents include, but are not limited to, storage tank or piping failures, aboveground or underground leaks, fires, explosions, flooding, spills contained within the facility, or other similar occurrences.

Superfund. See CERCLA.

Surface Collecting Agents are chemical agents that form a surface film to control the layer thickness of oil.

Surface Washing Agent are substances that separate oil from solid surfaces, such as beaches, rocks, metals, or concrete, through a detergency mechanism that lifts and floats

oil. Product and oil are generally to be collected and recovered from the environment with minimal dissolution, dispersion, or transfer into the water column.

Tank vessel as defined by Section 1001 of OPA is a vessel that is constructed or adapted to carry, or that carries, oil or hazardous material in bulk as cargo or cargo residue, and that:

(1) is a vessel of the United States;

(2) operates on the navigable waters; or

(3) transfers oil or hazardous material in a place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Tier is the combination of required resources and the times within which the resources must arrive on the scene.

Tribal On-Scene Coordinator (TOSC) is the person designated by the Tribe(s) whose areas of concern are impacted or threatened by the discharge/release.

Trustee is an official of a federal natural resources management agency designated in subpart G of the NCP or a designated state official or Tribe or, in the case of discharges covered by OPA, a foreign government official, who may pursue claims for damages under Section 107(f) of CERCLA or Section 1006 of OPA.

Unit Train is a train that is carrying a single commodity in all cars. For example, a unit train of crude oil would be one in which every car being transported by the engines is full of crude oil.

United States Coast Guard Group/Air Station means Group Commands are established to provide coordination and efficiency of achievement of the basic missions by all operating units in their geographical area.

United States Coast Guard Sector Columbia River is responsible for administering and directing all USCG activities relating to applicable navigation, shipping, transportation, and environmental laws and regulations within the COTP. In addition, the Sector Commander provides coordination and efficiency in the achievement of the basic missions by all

operating units in their geographical area.

United States Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound is responsible for administering and directing all USCG activities relating to applicable navigation, shipping, transportation, and environmental laws and regulations within the COTP Puget Sound. In addition, the Sector Commander provides coordination and efficiency in the achievement of the basic missions by all operating units in their geographic area. Sector Puget Sound was established in 2010 which merged SPS and United States Code (USC)/Air Station Port Angeles into one command.

Vessel, as defined by Section 101(28) of CERCLA, means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water; and, as defined by Section 311(a)(3) of the CWA, means every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water other than a public vessel.

Waterfront Facility means all piers, wharves, docks, and similar structures to which vessels may be secured; areas of land, water, or land and water under and in immediate proximity to them; buildings on such structures and equipment; and materials on or in such buildings.

Worst Case Discharge, as defined by Section 311(a)(24) of the CWA, means, in the case of a vessel, a discharge in adverse weather conditions of its entire cargo, and, in the case of an offshore or onshore facility, the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions.

Sector Puget Sound
Area Contingency Plan
(SPS ACP)

Additional Factors to Consider for a Full and Rapid Response

Annex BB

October 2026

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1	New Annex		OCT 2026	Sector Puget Sound AC
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Table of Contents

1000 Additional Factors to Consider for a Full and Rapid Response 4

1000 Additional Factors to Consider for a Full and Rapid Response

While the Northwest Region has one of the best spill response systems in the world, there are certain weaknesses in the response community's ability to mount a fully effective response. These challenges are:

- **Coastal Response.** During certain times of the year, it is very difficult to mount an effective response action for spills in the outer coastal environment. Difficulty is due to long transit distance from the major Columbia River and Puget Sound equipment stores to the outer coast, which is often hampered by road closures. Once equipment arrive on scene in the coastal environment, sea state, and meteorological conditions (such as fog, wind, and rain) may dramatically limit or terminate effective oil booming and on-water oil recovery efforts.
- **Response in Shallow Marine Embayment's.** Diversion and containment booming and intertidal shoreline cleanup are very difficult in many of the Northwest's environmentally sensitive shallow marine estuaries such as the Padilla Bay and Nisqually Delta. Once oil enters these intertidal areas, extensive environmental damage is likely and recovery technology has minimal effectiveness. In these environments, conventional shoreline cleanup activities themselves can cause extensive damage and are, therefore, seldom used.
- **Response to Catastrophic Oil Spills.**[1] Should a catastrophic oil spill occur, it is likely that there will not be adequate response resources in the Northwest Area to manage and clean up the spill. Therefore, the Northwest Area will rely in part on mutual aid from other jurisdictions to provide much of the necessary response resources. In order to expedite decision-making on West Coast mutual aid, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force adopted a Mutual Aid Plan.

Significant Weather Factors for the Outer Coast

There are significant weather factors for Vessel Response Plan holders to consider when evaluating the operability of response equipment from the Hoh River north along the outer

[1] Note: Where a catastrophic onshore oil discharge or hazardous material release may impact or potentially impact a navigable waterway, it may be that both the USCG and EPA, upon consultation, provide Unified Command representation during the initial phases of an incident.

coast of Washington State to the entrance of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. This is Washington's northern outer coast.

Reference: Appendix B to Part 33 CFR 155 – Determining and Evaluating Required Response Resources for Vessel Response Plan 33 CFR 155, 2.5

A vessel owner or operator must refer to the SPS ACP to determine if ice, debris, and weather-related visibility are significant factors in evaluating the operability of equipment.

Weather Factors to Consider When Planning Oil Spill Response Tactics and Evaluating Safety Plans

All mechanical equipment used in oil-spill cleanup, including oil spill recovery vessels, have operating limits. Alternate technologies for spill cleanup such as dispersant application and *in situ* burning also have operating limits. These limits can cause recovery operations to be halted, making response situations dependent on weather, fog, or daylight.

Fog

Fog can curtail or reduce the effectiveness of:

- Spill reconnaissance/monitoring, either by boat or by air;
- On-water recovery; and
- *In situ* burn or dispersant activities.

Fog can create a boating safety hazard. This can be true anywhere in Washington's marine waters, but is a special problem on the northern outer coast, especially if vessels are operating close to shore where there are numerous rocks and reefs.

Fog can also be a major factor affecting where and when crews can be deployed. On Washington's northern outer coast, dense summer fogs can materialize very quickly. This presents a special challenge because many sites on this remote stretch of coastline are not accessible via boat or land trail and, thus, require a helicopter to insert/extract personnel, such as:

- Response contractors tasked with deploying or maintaining booming strategies;
- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique/sampling/Natural Resource Damage Assessment teams; and/or
- Oiled wildlife search and collection crews.

Any response planning that considers inserting personnel on remote beaches using helicopters will need to include provisions for intensive weather monitoring and ensuring that sufficient helicopters are available to accomplish the safe extraction of beach personnel within a very short timeframe. Only the rarest of these sites is accessible via boat and very few can be accessed by trail. A good guideline is that no more people should be transported to an isolated beach site than can be retrieved within one hour or less with available helicopter assets.

Small craft operating in near shore waters along the northern Washington coast (from Point Grenville north to Cape Flattery) should also implement safety procedures to address the possibility of fog. It is highly recommended that such vessels maintain a continuous global positioning system (GPS) track line that will allow them to retrace their route back to safe waters in case fog develops before they have a chance to clear nearshore hazards such as reefs, kelp beds, rocks, and islands.

Wind/Waves

There are many operating limits that can shut down recovery operations. Generally, when winds reach a Beaufort Wind Scale of 6 and seas are in excess of 8 feet, mechanical skimming is no longer viable. There are instances when the limits can be pushed, such as when seas have long period swells. Conversely, there are other instances when operations are no longer safe and effective, even at lower wind speeds, such as when seas are short and choppy. At Beaufort 5 and above, it is necessary to consider skimming vessel safety, equipment integrity, and the physics of a vessel working in waves.

The specific gravity of recoverable black oil and water are close in magnitude. The oil will float on a calm day; however, when energy from the wind and waves is introduced, the oil will roil with the sea and be naturally dispersed under the surface. There, it can attach to

small debris and sink or wash up on a beach or resurface as emulsified oil. In these high energy states, the oil is not at the surface and available for skimmer collection.

From northern outer coast weather data, one can roughly extrapolate that the winter months do not favor open-water containment and mechanical recovery or the use of alternate technologies. In weather conditions such as these, the marshaling of resources would be better aimed at shoreline protection and cleaning versus open water operations.

Severe weather also impacts *in situ* burning and air-assisted dispersant operations. In the case of *in situ* burning, severe weather creates difficulties getting to and corralling the oil with a boom. In the case of aerial dispersant operations, the dispersant would likely be carried with the wind and either dry out on the way to the surface or not land as targeted.

Other Weather Conditions

Severe wind, surf, and tide conditions can present safety hazards to boat and/or shoreline operations in any area or season, and such conditions are routinely addressed via the Site Safety Plan. Special attention, however, must be paid to situations where personnel are deployed onto beaches from which egress or extraction is limited. Examples include narrow beaches backed by bluffs or cliffs or pocket beaches located between impassible headlands. Such conditions occur throughout the Northwest, but are especially common on the northern Washington coast. Strong onshore winds, because of their amplifying influence on tidal height, can dramatically reduce the available amount of time during which some of these beaches are safe for personnel conducting reconnaissance, beach cleanup, or other response-related tasks. The safety instructions for individual work assignments should emphasize the need for scheduling on-site work such that ample time is provided for safe egress (or extraction via boat or helicopter, if feasible) before crews get trapped.

Mitigating Factors

Vessel plan holders have a number of significant mitigating factors along this northern outer coastal area, including the following.

- The implementation of the emergency response towing vessel (ERTV) at Neah Bay reduces the potential of drift grounding.
- The International Maritime Organization Area to be Avoided designation applies to all ships and barges carrying cargoes of oil and hazardous materials, and all ships 1,600 gross tons and above solely in transit. The Area To Be Avoided along the outer coast moves vessel traffic away from the coastline to reduce the risk of a marine causality.
- The response community has been conducting HAZWOPER trainings to increase response capacity among local first responders, including Tribal, state, and local partners.
- Both industry and the state of Washington have pre-positioned additional response equipment in the northern outer coast area.
- To address the uncertainties associated with response in remote areas with dynamic weather, the Outer Coast GRP incorporates procedures to ensure that response assets are not committed to a remote site until reconnaissance has been performed or real-time information has been obtained regarding conditions at the strategy site.
- Finally, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 regulations have addressed many other mitigating factors, including the required use of double hulled barges and tankers to transport oil.