



INCIDENT-SPECIFIC ARRT ACTIVATION & INFORMATIONAL UPDATE PROCESS

Purpose

This document provides the process and guidelines for activation of the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) as an Incident-Specific RRT, in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (NCP; 40 CFR, Part 300). These activation procedures may also be used to activate the ARRT to support a FEMA-led response to a Presidential Declaration under the National Response Framework (NRF), Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF 10). This document also provides criteria to be considered in deciding to provide an informational update to the RRT.

NOTE: This document provides guidelines on the procedures for activation, or providing an informational update, of an Incident-Specific RRT and is not intended to inhibit or impede agency-to-agency requests. The role of the Incident-Specific RRT is determined by the operational requirements of the response to a specific discharge or release. Participation by RRT members will relate to the technical nature of the incident and its geographic location.

Background

The ARRT has duties outlined in the National Response System (National Contingency Plan and National Response Framework), to provide support during a response to an oil or hazardous substance spill or release. The NCP provides information concerning what conditions should exist for the ARRT to be activated and what services would likely be expected during activation.

As described in the NCP, the ARRT supports Federal On Scene Coordinators (FOSC) through two components: the Standing RRT and Incident-Specific RRT.

- **Standing RRT** – The role of the standing ARRT includes evaluation of communication systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region-wide basis.
- **Incident-specific RRT**- The Incident-Specific RRT is formed from the standing team when the ARRT is activated for response. The role of an Incident-Specific RRT is determined by the operational requirements of the response. An Incident-Specific RRT is Chair by the federal agency (EPA or USCG) who provides the FOSC. The ARRT may be activated for a response under the following conditions, as described in the NCP:
 - Upon a request by the OSC/Remedial Project Manager (RPM) or any RRT member.
 - When response exceeds capabilities available to the OSC, transects state boundaries, or may pose a substantial threat to public health or welfare or the environment.

Tasks Directed to the Incident-Specific RRT:

The NCP directs the Incident-Specific RRT to perform the following duties and responsibilities, as needed and/or requested by the OSC to support the incident response.

- Monitoring and evaluation of reports from the OSC/RPM; advise the OSC/RPM on the duration and extent of response; and recommend specific response actions.
- Request that other federal, state, local governments, or non-governmental organizations provide resources under their existing authorities;
- Assist the OSC/RPM in preparing information releases for the public and for communication with the

- National Response Team (NRT).
- Consult on and/or concur on the OSC decision to use NCP Subpart J products, including:
 - dispersants (refer also to *Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska*);
 - *in-situ* burning agents (refer also to *ISB Guidelines*);
 - surface washing and surface collecting agents;
 - solidifier agents;
 - bioremediation agents; and
 - herding agents.
- May also monitor and evaluate reports from the FOSC, advise the FOSC on the duration and extent of the response, recommend specific actions related to the response, assist the FOSC in preparing information for the public, and, if necessary, recommend the appointment of a different FOSC for the response.
- Submit reports to NRT as significant developments occur.
- If circumstances warrant, make recommendations to the regional or district head of the agency providing the OSC/RPM that a different OSC/RPM should be designated.

Informational Update

The Unified Command or the ARRT Co-Chair from the agency providing the FOSC may elect to provide the ARRT situational awareness of an incident through an informational update. An informational update may also be requested by any member of the RRT. The decision to provide an informational update to the ARRT would be made by the FOSC for the incident, in consultation with their respective ARRT Co-Chair or designee, and conducted by the ARRT Coordinators or their designees. The timing of the informational update would be at the discretion of the FOSC, in consultation with their respective ARRT Co-Chair. All members of the Standing ARRT and the Statewide Planning Committee would be alerted via the USCG Alert Warning System alert with follow-up emails to identified members.

Checklist for Potential Informational Update

Potential/Major pollution incident occurring that may significantly affect:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural resources, including tribal resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural resources, including tribal resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Socio-economic resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Likely to garner significant media
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congressional, or public attention
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incident involving fatalities or significant threats to life
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of response tactics that may affect responder life safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incident occurring that may require an incident-specific RRT activation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential or actual cross-boundary impacts (refer also to <i>Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan – CANUSNORTH and CANUSDIX annexes</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential or actual cross-jurisdictional impacts between EPA and USCG (refer also to <i>EPA and USCG Seventeenth District USCG-EPA FOSC Boundary</i>)

ARRT: Incident-Specific Informational Update, Example E-Mail/AWS Message

SUBJECT: *Informational Update on [Incident Name]*

TO: Alaska RRT

See below for an informational update on the current situation regarding [Incident Name].

Situation Update: A detailed update on the background and current status of the incident, including any significant developments and ongoing response efforts.

Potential for Future RRT Activation: Discussion for the potential need for activating the Alaska Regional Response Team in the future based on projected developments.

Future Informational Updates: The frequency of informational updates moving forward will be determined at the discretion of the FOSC or Unified Command in charge of the incident to ensure effective communication and coordination.

Please reach out if you have any follow-up questions or recommendations.

Respectfully,

[Name]

[FOSC or Tri-Chair]

[Contact Information]

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation Checklist

SECTION 1. <u>Type of Situation:</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been a request by the FOSC or SOSC to the RRT Chair lead Agency (with jurisdiction) to activate the RRT?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been a request by an RRT member to the RRT Chair lead Agency (with jurisdiction) to activate the RRT?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Has there been an oil discharge or hazardous material release which may pose a serious threat to the public health, welfare, the environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the incident an oil discharge or hazardous material release that is or has the potential to be a worst case discharge ² , (determined by the RP/PRP IC or other Unified Command member)
	² <i>Worst Case Discharge (WCD) 40 CFR 300.324 directs OSC to the ACP for WCD definition for the planning area. WCD planning volumes are calculated using specific formulae depending on the source of the release outlined in relevant regulations, and are typically based on maximum storage, transfer and production volumes as well as pump rates or oil types: Vessels - 33 CFR 155 Appendix B; Onshore Storage and Production Facilities - 40 CFR 112, App D; Onshore Pipelines – 49 CFR 194.105; Offshore Facilities – 30 CFR 254.47</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the incident cross multiple FOSC or other government jurisdictions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
SECTION 2. <u>Who Chairs the Incident-Specific RRT?</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chaired by lead Agency (agency that provides FOSC for response) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard, District 17 <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation Checklist

SECTION 3. RRT Activation Process:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 1: OSC or designated representative provides a brief summary of issues to Incident-Specific RRT Chair.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 2: The Incident-Specific RRT Chair, in consultation with others as needed, decides to activate the RRT and identifies participating agencies . Select participating agencies below:
<p>ARRT Members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Agriculture (USFS)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Commerce (NOAA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Defense (Navy)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Energy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Justice</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Labor (OSHA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation (FAA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Homeland Security (FEMA)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Health and Human Services (ATSDR)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Interior</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Services Administration (GSA)</p>	<p>Service Agencies & Land Managers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Department of Fish and Game</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Department of Natural Resources</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Office of History and Archaeology/ State Historic Preservation Office</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska State Parks</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Mental Health Trust</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> University of Alaska</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard, Port Zone</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Marine Fisheries Service</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Land Management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Park Service</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> U.S. National Forest (Chugach or Tongass)</p>
<p>Tribes/Communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Other</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation Checklist

SECTION 4. Notification Procedures	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 1: Incident-Specific RRT Chair directs staff (RRT Coordinators / Command Centers) to set up a phone conference to formally initiate activation. RRT Coordinators utilize CG Alert Warning System (AWS) for notification and information dissemination.</p> <p>Call-in Time, Number: _____</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 2: Incident-Specific RRT Chair initiates an activation meeting for all participating members (see Section 7 Points of Contact).</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Staff directed to text, call, email all members expected to participate in the activation with the teleconferencing information and a short synopsis of the situation. (see attached example).</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> All other members of the RRT, the NRT Chair, and ADEC are to be notified by e-mail with a general synopsis of the situation.</p>
SECTION 5. Incident-Specific Meeting(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Step 1: During the initial phone conference, the Incident-Specific RRT Chair has available and will provide the following information (Prior to this call, the use of alternative countermeasures requires the IC/UC to forward of a packet of information for RRT) :</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Designation of lead agency Chair for the activated RRT.</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Reason for and background of the activation;</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Status of the incident and the response, as known;</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Relevant RRT activities to date;</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The agencies/states involved and why they were selected;</p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> For all cases that involve dispersant decisions, the Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska and the following citation from the NCP should be read for clarification: 40CFR300.915(b) <i>For spill situations that are not addressed by the preauthorization plans developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents on the oil discharge, provided that the products are listed on the NCP Product Schedule.</i></p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> For all cases that involve in-situ burning agent decisions the ISB Guidelines and following citation from the NCP should be read for clarification: 40CFR300.915 (c) <i>The OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of burning agents on a case-by-case basis.</i></p>
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> For all cases that involve the use of other countermeasures (Subpart J products) the following citation from the NCP 40CFR300.915(b), <i>described above.</i></p>

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 2: The Incident-Specific RRT Chair of the activated RRT will lead discussions and decisions on the following:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specific information and assistance requests to be made to other agencies and the state by the Incident-Specific RRT and the point person for those activities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication mechanism and schedule for briefing participating member agencies/states with planned response actions from Unified Command.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identification of Incident Command Center responsible for support of the activated RRT; (i.e. EPA Regional EOC, USCGD17 or State Operations Centers).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prioritization of requests and established deadlines for completion of tasks;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identification of point of contact for providing updated information to each member agency/state;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dissemination of Incident-Specific RRT Chair’s 24-hour contact information;
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establishment of schedule for future conferences.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Step 3: Incident-Specific RRT Chair continues to conduct and lead meetings, conferences, briefings, etc. as needed and take responsibility for action on requests to/from RRT. Next Meeting(s) Date/Time:
SECTION 6. <u>Conference Call Services</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The National Response Center (NRC) is equipped and ready to provide conference call services by contacting 1-800-424-8802 . Provide a point of contact, number of participants, time, and duration of call. They will provide a phone number for the participants to call into (“meet-me” conference). EPA Region 10 also has this capability.
SECTION 7. <u>Points of Contact:</u>	
	Use Current Member Contact List on ARRT internet private site. (http://private.alaskarrt.org)
	For Contacts for other State and Federal Agencies, Tribes and Local Governments:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to the ADEC References and Tools page (https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/tools/) for the ACP Contact Directory; and/or
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refer to the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs, Alaska Community Database (https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/)

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation, Example E-Mail/AWS Message

SUBJ: Activation of ARRT for EPA Thermo Fluids response in Fairbanks, AK - May 19, 2025 @ 10:00 AST

TO: Alaska RRT

EPA Region 10 Federal On Scene Coordinator Pat Smith is requesting an activation of the Alaska RRT to discuss funding issues that have arisen during our response to the Thermo Fluids fire that occurred on Monday, May 15th, 2025 in Fairbanks, AK. The purpose of this Incident-Specific RRT activation is to make the RRT aware of the funding issue and address the possibility that ARRT will need to inform the NRT of this issue, if necessary.

A conference call line has been set up for 10:00 - 11:30 Alaska time on May 19, 2025, and the call-in number is 907-555-2174.

While the entire ARRT is welcome to join in on the conference call, the specific agencies being requested for this activation are:

- EPA
- US Coast Guard, District 17
- Dept of Interior
- Dept of Commerce (NOAA)
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Background:

After ADEC's request for assistance, EPA began its response to the fire and resulting oil release from the Thermo Fluids facility into the Tanana River, a tributary to the Yukon River, on Monday afternoon, May 15th. The fire broke out earlier in the day. Although the responsible party is conducting much of the response work, EPA is directing the response as required by the NCP. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSTLF) was opened to initiate EPA's response. A PRFA (Pollution Removal Funding Authorization) was also issued by the FOOSC to US Fish and Wildlife Service for assistance in protecting fish and wildlife species and habitat in the area.

Shortly into the response, the presence of hazardous substances has been identified and EPA has initiated a concurrent CERCLA assessment, with CERCLA funding, to evaluate the potential threat caused by these hazardous substances. The majority of the response efforts has been and continues to be focused on protection of Tanana and Yukon Rivers from the impacts of the released petroleum products.

EPA has set up a web site for the Thermo Fluids response. The website also includes the POLREPS that have been developed to date. Please do not release this website to the public at this time.

http://www.epaosc.org/site_profile.asp?site_id=999

ARRT: Incident-Specific Activation, Example E-Mail/AWS Message

Issue:

The responsible party has inquired about the use of dispersants as a response tactic for this response. In accordance with the *Dispersant Use Plan for Alaska* and Section 40 CFR 300.915(b) of the NCP which states that “*For spill situations that are not addressed by the preauthorization plans developed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the OSC, with the concurrence of the EPA representative to the RRT and, as appropriate, the concurrence of the RRT representatives from the states with jurisdiction over the navigable waters threatened by the release or discharge, and in consultation with the DOC and DOI natural resource trustees, when practicable, may authorize the use of dispersants, surface washing agents, surface collecting agents, bioremediation agents, or miscellaneous oil spill control agents on the oil discharge, provided that the products are listed on the NCP Product Schedule.*”

Ancillary Issue:

EPA wants to confirm that USCG Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic are aware of the response and supportive of EPA's role as the FOSC. The USEPA/USCG jurisdictional boundary on the Yukon River is the 1000 ft. upstream of the confluence of the Yukon River with the Bering Sea. In the geographic boundaries section of Chapter 1000 of the ACP it states:

"According to Section 300.140(b) of the NCP, if a discharge or release affects more than one zone, determination of the FOSC shall be based on the area vulnerable to the greatest threat. If the area vulnerable to the greatest threat cannot be determined, the Unified Command shall establish an Incident Command System that adequately accounts for effective response in both zones. If transition of FOSC from one agency to another is necessary, the transition shall follow the guidelines outlined in Section 1410 of this plan."

Please reach out if you have any follow-up questions or recommendations.

Respectfully,
[Name]
[FOSC or Tri-Chair]
[Contact Information]