



Re: CRRT General Meeting Summary – Spring 2025

From 20-21 May 2025, the Caribbean Regional Response Team semi-annual General Meeting convened at the Courtyard Marriott Isla Verde, Puerto Rico. This focus of the meeting was hurricane preparedness generally and any changes to pollution response specifically due to recent policy and administrative changes at the federal and territorial levels.

Meeting Focus: The focus of the meeting was hurricane preparedness, emerging environmental threats, and generally any changes to pollution response policies, capabilities, or authorities specifically due to recent policy and administrative changes at the federal and territorial levels.

Co-Chair Comments: The Co-Chairs discussed the need to address the growing pollution threat posed by lithium-ion batteries, and the significant challenges faced by federal and territorial governments in properly disposing of abandoned and derelict vessels. In addition, there was an in-depth conversation about the efficacy of chemical dispersants during offshore oil pollution response.

New CRRT Members: The CRRT welcomed Mrs. Valincia Darby from the Department of Interior as our new federal trustee! And a big Thank You to Dr. Joyce Stanley for all her years of service and incredible support to the CRRT. We wish you all the best in retirement!

Workshop/Symposium Requests:

- Basic ICS
- Lithium-Ion Battery
- Basic Spill Response

Action Items:

- Establish subcommittees on Lithium-Ion Battery Response, Debris Management, and CRRT Policies and Procedures.
- Incorporate chemical dispersant use training and a session on specific CRRT document review into next CRRT meeting

Subcommittee Membership:

- Lithium-Ion Battery Pollution Response Subcommittee.
 - Chair/POC: Eric Daly (EPA)
- Debris Management Subcommittee.
 - Chair/POC: Lori Loughran (USCG)
- CRRT Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.
 - Chairs/POCs: Carl Pellegrino (EPA), Felix Lopez (FWS), Brad Benggio (NOAA)

Upcoming Training Opportunities: We are working on populating the [CRRT Event Calendar](https://www.nrt.org/event/events.aspx?site_id=42) (https://www.nrt.org/event/events.aspx?site_id=42) on the CRRT Website. This will be a repository for training opportunities.

Next Meeting:

St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands: December 2, 2025, through December 4, 2025

Enclosures:

- 1) Meeting Agenda is located on the [Document Page](#)
 - 2) CRRT May 2025 Meeting Presentations are located on the [Document Page](#)
- Meeting Attendee Sign-In Sheets are located on the [Document Page](#)