

THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Working together to protect against threats to our land, air, and water.

SURVEY REQUEST

The National Response Team (NRT) is seeking feedback through an online survey regarding the current state and future direction of area contingency planning nationwide. Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) are a *critical* component of our National Response System (NRS).

What is the NRT?

40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 300 outlines the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and the role of the National Response Team (NRT). The NRT is a national-level planning, policy, and coordinating body comprised of representatives from 15 federal agencies, each with responsibilities and expertise in various aspects of planning and emergency response to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents. The NRT has a robust organization of chartered committees and subcommittees preparing response guidance and other resources for regional and on-scene response efforts.

What is the NRS?

The NRT is part of a larger system known as the National Response System (NRS). The NRS is comprised of federal, state, and local responders and private sector partners. The NRS provides a framework for coordination to respond effectively and efficiently to oil discharges; releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants; and radiological substances. Specific components of the NRS are the Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs), Area Planning Committees (APCs), Regional Response Teams (RRTs), State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and the National Response Center (NRC). These components are responsible for leading contingency planning efforts that ultimately guide response activities.

What is an ACP?

Required by federal statute (33 USC 1321), Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) represent oil and hazardous substance response planning at the local level. ACPs contain specific oil and hazardous substance spill response, incident management, and all-hazards preparedness elements and provide effective implementation of response actions. Additionally, ACPs describe the strategy for the FOSC to achieve a unified and coordinated response with Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, responsible party (RP), and other stakeholders. The responsibility of overseeing the development of ACPs falls on Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs). The FOSC is pre-designated by EPA for inland areas and by USCG for coastal areas.

Why is this survey being conducted?

In 2016, the NRT established a new "NRT-Area Contingency Planning Workgroup." This workgroup is charged with improving and modernizing our national area contingency planning products. The overall objective is to develop NRT guidance which provides a nationally consistent architecture to better support tactical, accessible, and field friendly ACPs for all end users (industry and government). This survey is designed to collect observations and data from stakeholders who use or have a role in the development of ACPs.

Who should take the survey?

The target audience of the survey includes, but is not limited to:

- Federal agencies with a nexus to the National Response System
- EPA and USCG FOSCs
- NRT and RRT Members
- Tribal representatives
- State and local agencies (LEPCs, emergency managers, response personnel)
- Oil Spill Removal Organizations and environmental consultants
- Non-profit and voluntary organizations
- Industry plan holders
- Generally speaking, all organizations active in area committee functions.

What is the Scope of the Survey?

Consisting of approximately 60 questions, the online survey will collect the following information:

- Familiarity with ACPs
- Experience with ACPs
- Negative observations
- Positive observations
- Recommendations/how to improve ACPs

 **The time needed to complete the survey should range from 10-25 minutes.**

HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY

To complete the survey, please log on to the following website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5QHKM89>

The survey will be open from March 1st – April 30th, 2018