

## Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

<b>Region:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Calendar Year:</b>	<b>2019</b>
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### A. Annual Meetings

	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	6/18-19/2019	Somerville, NJ	52	<a href="http://www.nrt.org/RRT2June2019">www.nrt.org/RRT2June2019</a>
2.	12/17-18/2019*	Staatsburg, NY		*Postponed until March 2020 due to an ice storm
3.				

### B. Activations / Notifications

1.	<b>Dates:</b>	5/17-23/19	<b>Event:</b>	Alden Leeds Warehouse Fire	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Fire and explosions at a pool supply facility				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	NJDEP, EPA, Kearny FD, Bayonne and Jersey City Hazmat, NJOEM, NJDOT, DHS, OSHA, Hudson Regional Health Commission				
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	<p>On the night of 5/17/19, a fire was reported at the Alden Leeds Inc facility in Kearny. This swimming pool supply company is located adjacent to the Pulaski Skyway and the Passaic River. Due to a large smoke plume and a strong chemical odor from the fire, the Hudson County Health Commission (HCHC) advised residents in portions of Jersey City and Bayonne to shelter in place. According to NJDEP records, the facility could store up to 50,000 pounds of granular pool chlorine. In the early hours of 5/18, EPA arrived on site. NJDEP informed EPA that rudimentary air monitoring had been performed. EPA ERT established four air monitoring stations in the surrounding area. Although the fire was extinguished early in the morning of 5/18, the chemicals inside the building were water reactive and continued to react with water from the sprinkler system, generating vapors of chlorine compounds. Air monitoring was conducted in the surrounding area as far as 1.5 miles downwind, with no readings detected.</p> <p>At 1600 hours on 5/19, there were two explosions in the building. There were no injuries, but a large cloud of chemical vapors was released from the rear of the building, which drifted across the Passaic River towards Newark. EPA, NJDEP and HRHC monitored the status of the PRP's air monitoring equipment, readings, maintenance and calibration activities and determined they were sufficiently capable of performing the air monitoring tasks required for the response. EPA continued to receive the data from the contractors monitoring equipment, and displayed it in Deployment Manager, which allowed NJDEP and HRHC to maintain real time data access and receive alerts if any exceedances of Cl2 were detected, until response actions were completed. Additional information can be found at: <a href="https://response.epa.gov/Aldenleedswarehouse">https://response.epa.gov/Aldenleedswarehouse</a></p>				
2.	<b>Dates:</b>	6/19 – 12/19	<b>Event:</b>	DeeZee Chemical, Inc. Site; Camden, NJ	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Abandoned warehouse with large vagrant occupancy in Camden, NJ				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	EPA, NJDEP				
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	In June 2019, NJDEP requested EPA assistance in conducting an assessment of an abandoned warehouse at the inactive DeeZee Chemical, Inc. facility in Camden, NJ. The facility was initially visited by Camden County Code Enforcement officials, who noted vagrants using the building and the presence of hazardous material containers. A site assessment on 6/13 identified over 300 drums, totes and other small containers, as well as two tanks. The assessment team confirmed the presence of acids, solvents,				

		flammable liquids and oxidizers. Based on Site conditions, NJDEP requested USEPA that EPA conduct a CERCLA removal action. On 6/24, EPA and its ERRS contractor mobilized to the Site. Removal activities continued for the next several months, until all personnel and equipment were demobilized from the site on 12/19, concluding on-site activities. Additional information can be found at: <a href="https://response.epa.gov/DeeZeeChemical">https://response.epa.gov/DeeZeeChemical</a>			
3.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		<b>ACT</b> <b>NOT</b>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>				
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>				
4.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		<b>ACT</b> <b>NOT</b>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>				
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>				

**C. RRT Exercises**

1.	<b>Dates:</b>	7/24/19	<b>Event:</b>	Sector Delaware Bay PREP Functional / Full Scale Exercise	
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG, EPA, DOI, NOAA, NJDEP			
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	PREP exercise which included a request by the OSC/Unified Command for the use of dispersants. An incident-specific RRT was activated to provide consultation and concurrence on the dispersants request, and to initiate Endangered Species Act emergency consultation.			
2.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>				
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>				
3.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>		
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>				
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>				

**D. Changes in RRT Leadership**

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) USCG	LCDR Annjea Cormier, RRT Coordinator	LCDR Jesse Diaz, RRT Coordinator
2)		
3)		

#### **E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)**

#### **F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts**

Dispersants Workshop, July 22, 2019 – In preparation for the Sector Delaware Bay PREP Exercise, a Dispersants workshop was conducted in Paulsboro, NJ. Participation included leadership and members from both RRTs 2 and 3.

Executive Order 13650 Continued Coordination: EPA, DHS and OSHA continue to share facility-specific information in accordance with each agency's requirements, policies, and procedures. EPA shares such information on an as-needed basis with federal, state, and local partners. EPA recently conducted a General Duty Clause inspection at the Fiabila USA Inc. facility located in Linden, NJ. The facility was referred to the Prevention Section by DHS and OSHA due to a small explosion at the facility. EPA provided a copy of the inspection report to DHS and OSHA. EPA is currently comparing DHS, NJDEP and EPA inventory data on facilities that use and store nitrocellulose in New Jersey to identify potential inspection candidates.

#### **G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)**

In November 2018, RRTs 1 and 2 sent a letter to the NRT, requesting NRT efforts to enhance the nationwide availability of information for the planning, preparedness and response to spills of dielectric, synthetic and mineral insulating oils. The region continued to receive notifications for spills of these oils in 2019, and requests that the NRT continue to pursue this issue at the national level.