

REGION I REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 2007 ANNUAL REPORT
Period of Report: January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

Ms. Karen Burgan
National Response Team
USEPA Headquarters
OEM/ MC 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Burgan:

As required by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan, the Region I Regional Response Team Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Middlebury, VT Train Derailment: EPA Region I responded to an oil spill of several hundred gallons of gasoline to Otter Creek, a tributary of Lake Champlain, on October 22, 2007, due to a 15-car train derailment. Each car carried approximately 25,000 gallons of gasoline, with a total potential spill amount of 375,000 gallons of gasoline. Fortunately, none of the cars were significantly damaged, but several were leaking through a top-side vapor collection/ventilation system. A mandatory evacuation of approximately 500 people was put into place immediately after the incident and remained in effect until the following morning. EPA OSC's integrated into the command structure and conducted air monitoring with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) and Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team (VTHMRT) in support of the incident. U.S. Coast Guard personnel from station Burlington, VT were also present at the scene. Two additional Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team members mobilized to the site at the request of the EPA OSC to provide air monitoring support and assist in health and safety oversight.

Chelsea River, MA Oil Spill: U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston responded to a reported sheen on the Chelsea River on September 19, 2007. Approximately 10 gallons of oil product was found in the water surrounding an outfall, which had been boomed off with sorbent and hard boom. A thin sheen was noted outside of the boom and along the shoreline. Opening up manhole covers proximate to the release location revealed more spilled product. Following a shoreline walk conducted by response personnel, small areas of dark oil product were also found on the rocks. The spill was federalized on September 19, 2007. Gulf Oil took responsibility that same day and hired an Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO) to conduct the cleanup. On October 2, 2007, the source of the spill - a

leaking cargo pipe beneath the loading rack at Gulf Oil - was found and secured. It was determined that 47,268 gallons of product leached into the soil, with less than 500 gallons reaching Chelsea River. EPA Region I and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) are coordinating with USCG on enforcement. (MassDEP) continues remediation efforts through the use of sump wells and automatic collection pumps.

Danbury, CT Anthrax Response: On September 5, 2007, EPA Region I was notified of two confirmed cases of cutaneous anthrax at a private residence in Danbury, CT. The naturally occurring anthrax was believed to have originated from imported animal hides used by the resident to assemble African drums in his backyard shed. The contaminated areas on the property included a two-story primary residence, an unattached shed in the backyard, and the vehicle used to transport the hides. EPA, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP), and the Connecticut National Guard Civil Support Team (CST) collected samples and obtained positive results for anthrax. U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team personnel provided safety oversight. Fumigation with chlorine dioxide was used to decontaminate the affected areas. Post-fumigation sample collection showed no anthrax spore growth on any of the cultured samples, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) authorized re-occupancy of the residence.

B. RRT MEETINGS

Spring: RRT I convened on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, at EPA's New England Regional Laboratory (NERL). The meeting featured case studies that included U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound's fishing vessel pollution cases and challenges, EPA's Danversport explosion emergency response, and the Overseas Shipping Group penalty action. Other presentations included laboratory response development at EPA New England, a Selection Guide update, Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) issues from the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC), updates on hurricane preparedness efforts and regional exercises, a drinking water preparedness update, a discussion of the Canadian / U.S. Joint Response Team for the Eastern Region (CANUSEAST) exercise report, update of mutual aid agreements, and a discussion of assessment tools development.

Fall: RRT I convened on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at the Ashworth by the Sea Hotel in Hampton, New Hampshire. The meeting featured a case study on the StarMet fire radiation emergency response. Other meeting presentations included oil response capabilities (CAPS), Vessel Response Plans (VRPs), salvage and lightering regulatory updates, National Response Framework (NRF), MassDEP oil spill preparedness issues, Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee seminar out-brief, Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Defense (FEMA/DOD) hurricane preparedness efforts and regional exercises, Canadian / U.S. Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region (CANUSLANT) 2007

exercise, Places of Refuge, Science and Technology subcommittee projects, fisheries management workshop, radiation emergency response planning, University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center, Portsmouth Harbor response initiatives, and incident communication issues. The RRT meeting followed the Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee's Oil Spill seminar, "Oil Spill Response in Fast Currents," and fast current oil spill response issues were discussed.

C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Selection Guide Workgroup: The Selection Guide Work Group was established in fall 2004 to develop a Volume II of the Oil Spill Response Technologies Selection Guide for Region 1. An update of the workgroup progress was presented at the fall 2007 RRT I meeting.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING

Incident Command System: First Coast Guard District undertook a major Incident Command System (ICS) training initiative. ICS-300 training sessions were conducted district-wide for all middle managers and first responders. ICS-400 training was provided to senior management. Seats were made available to port partners, other federal agencies, and state and local government responders.

EPA OSC Training: EPA OSCs continued to participate in a variety of training this past year, including Facility Response Plan (FRP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) training and Level A hazardous materials response training at the Department of Fire Services Academy in Stowe, Massachusetts and an industrial facility in Coventry, Rhode Island. Level A training goals included conducting hazard assessments, practicing decontamination procedures, achieving proficiency in operation of monitoring and sample collection equipment, and improving dexterity and maneuverability in Level A suits.

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

CANUSLANT 2007: The Canadian / U.S. Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region (CANUSLANT) held a Canada-United States Atlantic full-scale exercise in September 2007. The exercise was conducted in Passamaquoddy Bay around Grand Manan Island and along the Canadian and United States coastlines near the border between the Province of New Brunswick and the State of Maine. This latest in an ongoing series of biannual exercises was preceded by both a trans-boundary Incident Management and Communications Workshop held in Portland, Maine in May 2007 and a regional command center Communications Notification/Activation Drill in August 2007. The goal of the exercise was to

examine procedures and assumptions in the Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan Atlantic Geographic Annex and to recommend appropriate changes for maintaining optimal joint contingency response capabilities.

11th Annual Maine and New Hampshire Area Committee Oil Spill Seminar: The seminar was sponsored by the Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), EPA, USCG, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The focus of the September 25-26, 2007 seminar in Portland, Maine was on oil spill response in fast currents. Presentations, equipment demonstrations and case studies focused on understanding fast current environments, safety considerations in fast water response, protection, response and recovery tactics, capabilities of oil spill removal organizations, planning for fast water response, improving facility discharge planning, new technologies for fast water response, and lessons learned and the future of fast water response.

Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP):

EPA partnered with the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant (TMLP) to host an industry lead area exercise involving a 2.2 million gallon, worst case discharge in Taunton, Massachusetts on September 18, 2007. Initial boom deployment was completed by TMLP personnel using company-owned equipment, subsequently enhanced by the facility's Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO). Participants in the event included the Coast Guard, Massachusetts State Police, MassDEP, the Taunton Emergency Management Agency and police department, and police and fire departments from neighboring communities.

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Boston industry-led PREP exercise was held on October 25, 2007. Global companies (Global) and Irving Oil, Inc. (Irving) participated in the joint Industry Led Area Exercise. The exercise focused on implementation of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP), standing up an ICS, deployment of oil spill response equipment, and coordination between industry, local, state and federal trustees and stakeholders.

C. FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL PLANNING/COORDINATION EFFORTS

Area Contingency Plan Updates: The Plymouth to Salisbury, Massachusetts Area Committee, under the coordinated direction of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC) established marine firefighting, salvage and offshore LNG bunkering response committees following their October 24-25, 2007 PREP exercise. The committees were set up to update the Plymouth to Salisbury, Massachusetts (Boston) Area Contingency Plan, which is due for a major update by September 2008.

D. MAJOR LESSONS LEARNED FROM RESPONSES, TRAININGS, EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS AND OTHER RRT ACTIVITIES

None to report at this time.

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

USCG: There are no personnel changes to report for the USCG this year.

EPA: There are no major personnel changes to report for EPA this year.

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

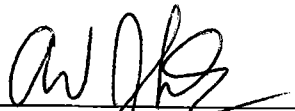
RRT I is requesting NRT assistance in improving communication and coordination with the US Customs and Border Patrol (USCBP) when USCBP intercepts shipments contaminated with hazardous materials that could potentially result in EPA cleanup actions. Shortly after EPA's initial response to the anthrax contamination in Danbury, CT, EPA was notified by CTDEP that USCBP had intercepted, sampled, and identified anthrax-contaminated packages at several New England airports. No further information was provided to EPA following this initial notification from CTDEP.

V. FUTURE PLANS


Next RRT I Meetings: The fall Region I meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay hotel in Portland, ME. The fall meeting will follow the Maine/New Hampshire Area Committee seminar on September 22-23, 2008. This year's seminar topic is "Oil and Ice – Response in Cold Weather."

NEW U.S. COAST GUARD RRT CO-CHAIR: CAPT Craig A. Gilbert assumed the duties of RRT Co-chair in March 2008. His predecessor CAPT Mark H. Landry will retire from active duty in May 2008.

VI. CONCURRENCE



Mr. Arthur V. Johnson, III (Date) 4/9/08
EPA Co-Chair
U.S. EPA, Region I



Captain Craig A. Gilbert (Date) 4/9/08
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair
First Coast Guard District