



Department of Homeland Security/ U.S. Coast Guard

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Pollution responses can involve a large number of organizations due to the potential for widespread and diverse impacts. Government agencies at several levels may have jurisdiction over different aspects of a pollution response. To ensure effective coordination, lead agencies have been designated within the National Response System to coordinate or direct pollution response efforts. While many pollution incidents are small and are cleaned up by the responsible party under the supervision of local authorities, the National Response System ensures that state and federal resources are available to ensure adequate cleanup on larger or more complex spills. Within the National Response System, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has been designated as a lead agency for oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents occurring within the coastal zone of the U.S. As the co-chair of the Region III Regional Response Team (RRT3), the USCG coordinates the regional RRT decisions and actions necessary to support an incident specific discharge or release of an oil or hazardous substance within the coastal zone.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Primary

24-Hour: (757) 398-6231

Alternate

24-Hour: (757) 398-6231

The 5th Coast Guard District serves as the Co-Chair for the RRT3 for Oil Spills and Hazardous Materials releases and is the Region III USCG point of contact. In addition, the 5th District has assigned each USCG Sector Commander or his designee to act as the FOSC for spill incidents that occur within their area of responsibility (AOR).

GENERAL

The USCG is a military, multi-mission, maritime service within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and one of the nation's five armed services. Its core roles are to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

Mission Statement

The USCG's mission is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests – in the nation's ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Organization/Structure

The USCG in Region III comprised of three districts: District 5 (D5), District 9 (D9), and District 8 (D8). The Units that are available to Region III during an incident under the National Contingency Plan or Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 activation:

1. Sectors:
 - Sector Maryland-National Capitol Region (NCR) (D5)
 - Sector Delaware Bay (D5)
 - Sector Hampton Roads (D5)
 - Sector North Carolina (D5)
 - Sector Ohio Valley (D8)
 - Sector Buffalo (D9)
2. Marine Safety Units:
 - Pittsburgh, PA (D8)
 - Huntington, WV (D8)
 - Wilmington, NC
3. Sector Field Offices:
 - Atlantic City, NJ

- Cape Hatteras, NC
 - Eastern Shore, VA
4. Air Stations
 - Atlantic City, NJ
 - Elizabeth City, NC
 - Support Center, Elizabeth City, NC
 5. Boat Stations
 6. Cutters
 7. USCG Auxiliary (D5), Southern Region

The 5th District Commander is the main contact for the jurisdictional area served by Region III and is the link to all agency resources within the USCG.

Role/Responsibility

USCG provides unique benefits to the nation because of its distinctive blend of military, humanitarian, and civilian law-enforcement capabilities. To serve the public, the USCG has five fundamental roles:

1. **Maritime Safety:** Eliminate deaths, injuries, and property damage associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating.
2. **Maritime Security:** Protect America's maritime borders from all intrusions by: (a) halting the flow of illegal drugs, aliens, and contraband into the U.S. through maritime routes; (b) preventing illegal fishing; and (c) suppressing violations of federal law in the maritime arena.
3. **Maritime Mobility:** Facilitate maritime commerce and eliminate interruptions and impediments to the efficient and economical movement of goods and people, while maximizing recreational access to and enjoyment of the water.
4. **National Defense:** Defend the nation as one of the five U.S. armed services. Enhance regional stability in support of the National Security Strategy, utilizing the USCG's unique and relevant maritime capabilities.



5. **Protection of Natural Resources:** Eliminate environmental damage and the degradation of natural resources associated with maritime transportation, fishing, and recreational boating.

As the co-chair of the RRT3, the USCG coordinates the regional RRT decisions and actions necessary to support an incident-specific discharge or release of an oil or hazardous substance within the coastal zone. In addition, the USCG also supplies:

- Pre-designated FOSC, or lead federal official, for oil or hazardous substance pollution incidents occurring within the coastal zone, including coordinating all containment, removal, and disposal efforts and resources during a pollution incident including federal, state, local, and responsible party efforts.
- Support and carryout the broad, national priorities, and framework delineated within the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) to ensure efficient, coordinated, and effective action to minimize the effects of oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents.
- Develop, support and carryout the regional priorities and framework delineated within the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) to ensure efficient, coordinated, and effective action to minimize the effects of oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents.
- Provide the coordination for the development and maintenance of the Coastal Area Contingency Plans (ACPs); the focal point of response planning, providing detailed information on response procedures, priorities, and appropriate countermeasures.
- Ensure that the plans of the National Response System are regularly exercised and that the plans are current and that responsibilities assigned by the plan are tested and understood.
- Properly manage the use of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Fund to adequately fund the proper emergency response actions of the Unified Command.

Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) – 40 CFR Part 300
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as Amended
- Executive Order 12148 – Federal Emergency Management
- Executive Order 12656 – Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities
- Executive Order 13148 – Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management
- HSPD-5 Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-7 Critical Infrastructure
- HSPD-8 National Preparedness
- HSPD-9 Defense of United States Agriculture and Food
- HSPD-10 Biodefense for the 21st Century

Response Requirements

During times of national threat or a Presidential Declaration, the DHS serves as the planning integrator for the President for a more robust federal incident management capability and in order to coordinate all federal incident management activities in support of our state and local partners. All federal departments and agencies may play significant roles in incident management and response activities, depending on the nature and size of an event. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) by calling up, as needed, one or more of the ESFs.

Each of these functions are coordinated by a single agency (Primary ESF Coordinating Agency) but may rely on other agencies (Support Agencies) to provide resources for each functional area. The mission of the ESFs is to provide the greatest possible access to capabilities of the Federal Government regardless of which agency has those capabilities. Under the National Response Framework, the USCG and its member units and services plays a role (either as the Primary or as a Support agency) for the following ESFs:

ESF #	Primary Agency	Support Agency
1 Transportation		X
2 Communications		
3 Public Works & Engineering		X
4 Firefighting		X
5 Emergency Management		
6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services		
7 Logistics Management and Resource Support		
8 Public Health and Medical Services		X
9 Search and Rescue	X	
10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response	X	
11 Agriculture and Natural Resources		
12 Energy		
13 Public Safety and Security		X
14 Long-Term Community Recovery		
15 External Affairs		