

ANNUAL REPORT
ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (ARRT)
CY 2003

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES.

A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Situation reports and photos for Alaska spills are available on-line at http://www.state.ak.us/dec/dspar/perp/sr_fy04.htm.

1. WESTERN ALASKA CAPTAIN OF THE PORT (COTP) ZONE

Date	Vessel / Facility	Location	Summary
14-19 May 03	Barge <i>Harvester</i>	Steamboat Slough, approximately 3 miles North of the Bethel Harbor.	Sinking - diesel fuel released, volume of spill unknown. Majority of the free-floating fuel was recovered using sorbents.
25 Jun - 03 Jul 03	F/T <i>American Eagle</i>	Off-shore, near Port Graham	Capsizing - diesel fuel released, volume of spill unknown. Vessel scuttled at the EPA approved ocean-dumping site.
25-26 Jul 03	F/V <i>Lewis and Clark</i>	Whittier Small Boat Harbor	Sinking - approximately 2 gallons of diesel released (potential - 50 gallons of diesel and 15 gallons of lube oil). Divers successfully plugging fuel vents prior to salvage.
July / August, 2003	30 barrels washed up on beach	St. Lawrence Island	Contractor removed barrels by helicopter. Coord with DOI to address concerns for potential impacts on bird colonies from helicopter activities.
7-11 Aug 03	F/V <i>Chichagof</i>	Lazy Bay, south end of Kodiak Island	Grounding - No spill occurred (potential - 15,000 gallons of diesel). Responders successfully plugging fuel vents prior to salvage.
20-21 Aug 03	F/V <i>Donna Ann</i>	Tanglefoot Bay, Karluk, on Kodiak Island	Grounding and loss of vessel - 1,000 gallons of diesel lost to environment due to storm action. No sheen or beach impacts discovered.
26 Aug - 02 Sep 03	F/V <i>Decade</i>	Pavlof Bay, between King Cove and Sand Point.	Sinking - minimal amount of engine oil was lost (potential - 2,500-3,000 gallons of diesel). Magone Marine Salvage re-floated vessel
16-21 Oct 03	F/V <i>Raven</i>	Amak Island (approximately 30 air miles northwest of Cold Bay)	Flooding and stability issues - potential fro release of 11,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Flooding secured and vessel towed to King Cove for repairs.

2. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COTP ZONE

Date	Vessel / Facility	Location	Summary
19-22 Feb 03	F/V <i>Myra Jean</i>	Wells Bay	Sinking - divers removed 700 gallons of fuel from the vessels tanks. Approximately sixty bags of oiled sorbents were generated.
May, 2003	Abandoned leaking drums (old granite mine)	Wells Bays	Contractor removed the drums. Coord with USFS to provide CERCLA Administrative Order in order to ensure agency addressed cleanup.
16-18 Jul 03	Mystery sheen	Esther Passage	Alaska Chadux was contracted to collect the sheen. Shoreline survey conducted & 200 feet of sorbent boom and several bags of sorbents were utilized.
8 Aug 03	F/V <i>Valiant Maid</i>	Cordova boat harbor	Sinking - drivers flushed tanks, sheen was contained in 300 feet of boom and collected with sorbents (estimated 50-100 gallons of diesel fuel removed).
8-11 Aug 03	F/V <i>Jamie D</i>	Valdez Small Boat Harbor	Diesel discharge - oil spill sweep and out cold-water deluge of beachfront resulted in 50 - 100 gallons of recovered product.
27 Aug - 02 Sep 03	F/V <i>Orcrist</i>	Lake Bay, Ester Island	Sinking - sheen contained in 500 feet of boom and collected with sorbents (estimated 15 gallons of hydraulic oil and approximately 30 gallons of diesel fuel). Vessel re-floating.

3. SOUTHEAST ALASKA COTP ZONE

Date	Vessel / Facility	Location	Summary
12-13 Feb 03	F/V <i>Second Wind</i>	Foggy Bay, Revillagigedo Island.	Grounding - no spill occurred. Owner utilized two vessels to lighter 1,000 gallons of lube oil and diesel fuel.
21-24 Mar 03	F/V <i>Bering Sea</i>	NW coast of Yakobi Island, in vicinity of Cape Bingham	Grounding and loss of vessel - no source control was possible due to surf conditions. Approximately 1,000 gallons of No. 2 diesel released.
25 Jul 03	Petro Marine Services Ketchikan & SeaCoast Towing Barge 282	Ketchikan	Transfer release due to hose crack - approximately 200 gallons of No. 2 diesel released. Fuel transfer operations were immediately terminated, the spill was contained, and absorbent boom and sweep were deployed to initiate recovery actions.
5-10 Sep 03	M/V Reel Time (charter boat)	Auke Bay Boat Harbor, Juneau	Sinking - potential for 270 gallons of diesel, gasoline, and lube oils. Divers successfully sealed all fuel vents prior to salvage.

B. RRT MEETINGS

The ARRT met August 27 in Juneau, Alaska.

C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

1. CULTURAL RESOURCES WORKING GROUP (CRWG)

The CRWG met once in February and is finishing up some loose ends. There are no major initiatives at this point. They worked with the USCG Contracting in Alameda, District 11, to establish some standard purchase agreements with individuals who could serve as Historic Properties Specialists for the CG FOSC. This important initiative was a followup to the completion of the Alaska Implementation Guidelines to implement the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA) to Protect Historic Properties in Alaska. This effort identified individuals that the FOSCs could immediately contact to get historic properties expertise, if there was a spill where the PA needed to be implemented. CRWG compiled 24-hour emergency contact information for the seven individuals who work within the framework of four different companies for the FOSCs. They also provided technical assistance, working with the USCG, for an NPREP exercise that included some historic properties considerations. That exercise was held in May. They continued working with the FOSC in implementing the PA when necessary on spills.

Alaska is the first place in the nation that has fully implemented guidelines to implement the nationwide PA. Last February the Department of the Interior (DOI) provided a presentation to all the oil spill cooperatives at their annual meeting in Juneau, on industry's role in protecting historic properties. Another presentation on the PA was provided to MSO-Valdez staff. At the International Oil Spill Conference in Vancouver in April, the presentation focused on the keys for success that other FOSCs could use to implement the PA. At the National DOI Conference on the Environment in May in Phoenix, the emphasis for that presentation was talking about how we, as interior partners, can help facilitate working with the FOSCs and implementing the PAs. MSO-San Francisco and a number of their partners in the California area brought together all of the key stakeholders, on behalf of the FOSC for MSO-San Francisco and did a day long workshop with them in May to help them with implementing the PA. They have also begun working with the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator in the Great Lakes Region and the XO from MSO-Anchorage, who now is the captain of the port for Milwaukee. He is interested in getting something going in the Great Lakes area.

2. WILDLIFE PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (WPWG)

For the Canada/United States Dixon Entrance (CANUSDIX) Wildlife Response Working Group, they were able to work with counterparts in Canada to reach consensus and agreement on the first-ever guidelines for addressing potentially oiled migratory birds and otters between a trans-boundary area. They had a working group meeting in Vancouver in conjunction with the International Oil Spill Conference in April and began the signatory process of the guidelines. The final signatures for the guidelines were completed in August. They participated in more wildlife related activities, including a tabletop discussion session with the Unified Command to make sure that everyone is familiar with how the guidelines work. This tabletop discussion took place in Prince Rupert in September. The WPWG will start looking at common issues associated with dispersant use and in-situ burning in the trans-boundary area. Pamela Bergmann with DOI was invited to attend the 7th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference in Hamburg, Germany in early October. One of the reasons for the invitation was because of Europe's and South

America's interest in learning how to develop trans- boundary guidelines for dealing with oiled wildlife.

No changes were made for the annual update to the Pribilof Island Wildlife Protection Guidelines. They received support for conducting an exercise for those guidelines, which is planned for 2004 with the USCG MSO-Anchorage representatives.

After the last meeting in November, an Endangered Species Act (ESA) working group was created. The ESA Memorandum of Understanding has been signed off by DOI in Washington, D.C., the USCG, EPA,-and the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The ESA MOU is similar to the PA on the protection of historic properties in that it can minimize any negative effects on endangered species during a spill response, and comply with ESA. The group plans to meet again in September.

The State Federal Tribal Trustee Natural Resources Damage Assessment Contingency Planning Work Group continues to meet quarterly. They share information and are working on initiatives to ensure that trustees are prepared to help enhance preparedness during a spill. No natural resource damage assessment activities with any spills have been discussed. The Northwest will be sharing their Biological Assessment for the MOA. Because the draft Change 3 to the Unified Plan will be out soon, in addition to the Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan, DOI and possibly NOAA will have some wording changes that will improve the wording in the documents.

3. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

The Science and Technology Committee of the RRT reconvened after the November meeting. The committee had a meeting in March 2003, which resulted in review and draft revisions to the committee's charter. They established two working groups: Dispersants Information Needs Work Group and the Dispersant Guide Work Group. The work groups are focusing specifically on the Prince William Sound Dispersant Use Guidelines. The Information Needs Work Group focused on the general concerns for the use of dispersants and their effectiveness in Prince William Sound. The stakeholders came up with various questions within the working group, dealing basically with the distribution and sensitivity of biological resources in Prince William Sound and the effects of dispersants or the net environmental benefit of using or not using dispersants. Other questions are more tailored to the effectiveness of the dispersants on Alaska North Slope Crude and the toxicity associated with the use of them.

One discussion dealt with the actual testing that takes place in order to list a dispersant on the National NCP product schedule list. Discussions have centered on which laboratories test dispersants best. The group has discussed real time dispersant effectiveness monitoring; protocols for monitoring dispersant use in Prince William Sound; the possibility of implementing dispersant monitoring during a spill in Prince William Sound; and whether a team could be activated to do the monitoring.

The Dispersant Guidelines Revision Work Group met last June. The guidelines for Prince William Sound were signed in 1989 and since then, there has been lots of research and scientific information. The group is looking to revise the decision making matrix and adding a section for actual monitoring for the use of dispersants. They met again in October. There may be action items for the RRT to approve or address at the next meeting. Lt. Shawn Essert asked to be involved when they need assistance with the SMART protocols.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. TRAINING

1. STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP

Statewide Hazmat teams have been coordinating training, primarily between the Anchorage Fire Department, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. They have agreements with the state to activate them if there are HAZMAT incidents. Training on emergency response to Hazmat incidents was conducted with 18 emergency responders from 17 communities.

Recent training exercises included a cold weather decontamination exercise and an exercise at the Ben Boeke Ice Arena in Anchorage. In Bethel, with DEC's help, EPA conducted a 24-hour HAZWOPER class with 16 hours of oil spill response aimed at the rural community. EPA sponsored a basic radiation safety course and attended that with the Anchorage Fire Department Hazmat team. They are continuing to schedule and deliver specialized training for statewide Hazmat teams and they just completed a one-week emergency response air-sampling course.

All EPA FOCSS are going through 400 level ICS training. With the US Forest Service (USFS), they are shadowing some of the incident management teams at wildland fires. They are developing the concept of incident management assist teams where FOCSS from other regions can come to the aid of a region that has several large incidences or a mega incidence going on. They are also working with a national approach to response, with organization, procedures, and policies in place for managing very large responses.

USCG is considering a joint exercise/training session for shipboard hazmat response and exploring the possibility of using USCG cutter for the training instead of a cruise ship.

Kodiak is interested in creating a Level A team for immediate response to chemical releases in their community. Linda Freed received a recommendation to consult Cheryl Easterwood, City and Borough of Juneau to gain more insight into the annual operations and maintenance costs for a Level A team.

Proponents for the Southeast Regional Hazmat Team initiative provided additional information to the Statewide Hazmat Response Steering Committee. The Committee decided to proceed with a regional Hazmat Team for Kodiak, and also support local Hazmat enhancements in the Southeast for communities such as Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan.

Statewide Decontamination Strategy

Work has been completed to detail the costs for purchasing full and modified decontamination systems, which include shipping to selected communities in Alaska. Funding for training and public awareness, and shipping costs for the decontamination systems has been identified in the strategy. The Work Group will develop standard guidelines for equipment custody, maintenance and exercising of the system, and setup and operation during an incident.

The work group began addressing standard protocols for sampling and shipping unknown substances to analytical laboratories. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines cover the shipment of dangerous goods.

EPA Team

EPA reported to the work group that at the national level, there is a strong, continued focus on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and counter-terrorism initiatives, with a lot of drills and training. Locally, EPA has been holding biweekly, in-house training and drills with their START contractor, Ecology and Environment, Inc. EPA participated in a large WMD drill last September in Portland. EPA has a new, larger warehouse off Dimond Boulevard, which houses the EPA response trailer, mobile command post trailer, personal protective equipment (PPE) and detection gear. They have acquired more monitoring equipment, to include another mercury vapor analyzer, PID, FID devices, two-way radios that interface with the SCBAs, and additional Kappler first responder level A suits. They have also purchased the AP2C detection instrument, which is the French equivalent to the APD 2000 and regarded by the START contractor as more user-friendly.

With the influx of new equipment come the challenges of continued maintenance and training to sustain a constant level of readiness. For a large event, assets in Seattle would augment EPA. The core team in Seattle consists of five individuals (primarily chemists and environmental scientists) from the EPA START contractor, who are available for emergency response on a 24/7 basis. The team can be expanded to 20 people fairly quickly. EPA's in-state capability consists of eight individuals trained for Level A response and they maintain four Level A entry suits (EPA START contractor assets).

EPA can support the Statewide Hazmat Team by offering training courses. In October, the EPA START contractor conducted HAZCAT refresher courses for both the Anchorage and Fairbanks Hazmat Teams, which were very well received. Any requests for specific training needs should be directed to Matt Carr or Carl Lautenberger.

Valdez Hazmat Team

The Valdez Hazmat Team expects delivery of a new response vehicle in December. They have ordered a Wells Cargo response trailer too. The Emergency Response to Hazmat Incidents course was held November 3-7. Valdez has a total of 40 staff trained to Level A entry, and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC) is also interested and has two chemists who will be part of the team. The City of Valdez is also looking at taking over maintenance responsibilities for the new hospital. The new hospital has two decon tents and two Level A suits, although the hospital staff have not been trained and are not familiar with the equipment. This presents a good opportunity for the Hazmat Team to provide training to the hospital staff.

The other major issue is the delay in transferring funds from DEC to the City of Valdez for the purchase of equipment for the Hazmat Team. Valdez has a formal agreement with APSC to utilize the APSC decon trailer and set up at the hospital for decon operations. APSC may also have similar trailers in the Fairbanks area in support of TAPS spill response operations. The Valdez team stressed the need to establish formal agreements beforehand.

103rd Civil Support Team (CST)

The 103rd CST was re-certified following testing in Kenai this past July. Certification is valid for 18 months. The 103rd CST participated in the Northern Edge exercise in Valdez this past spring and received training from the Soldier Biological Chemical Command (SBCCOM) group on acquiring samples from clandestine drug labs. They also received PCR FTIR training. The 103rd CST has Draeger rebreather systems, which significantly extends the length of time for entries into the hot zone, which averages approximately two hours using the system. Once the system is used, there is a 48-72-hour down time for maintenance.

The 103rd CST provided training to first responders in Juneau and Kodiak. The Kodiak exercise tested the movement of the entire team through existing National Guard airlift assets.

They sent several responders to an incident involving an unknown substance at Kodiak on July 8. The team performed two Level A entries, but found nothing (someone had swept the area prior to the team's entry). The lesson learned from that incident was the need for flash protection suits, as the substance in question flashed when exposed to water. The Elmendorf AFB Fire Department provided suits for their response to Kodiak. The 103CST has subsequently purchased flash suits as part of their response inventory. There are several other types of specialized Level A suits including cryogenic protective suits and suits for extremely corrosive substances.

The 103CST is also EMT B trained at a minimum, and several staff have higher EMT qualifications. They have switched over to a dry decon process and trained with the Northern California CST.

Recent enhancements include the addition of an Iridium satellite phone base station in their command vehicle. Their mobile lab has also been upgraded with a larger glove box.

Fairbanks Hazmat Team

The Fairbanks Hazmat Team has been doing lots of training with the local fire departments in the Fairbanks area and also provided training to the Fairbanks airport emergency response crew. The team responded to four recent drug lab busts in the Fairbanks area. Drug lab activity appears to be on the increase. They also conducted decon training for staff members at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, but noted that the Fairbanks Hospital does not possess decon tents or Level A suits. The team also attended HAZCAT refresher training provided by the EPA START contractor.

Anchorage Hazmat Team

The Anchorage Hazmat Team is continuing to work on its new Hazmat response vehicle. They have permanently mounted the Travel IR in the vehicle to improve their response capability. They have also had an increase in white powder callouts, primarily from the post offices. They have also been responding to a lot of natural gas releases. One of their key issues for the team is maintaining the response-readiness of their team members. They recommended an interactive video entitled "Managing Hazmat Incidents" as an excellent tool for training team members. They have had several good training opportunities with the 103rd CST and the HAZCAT refresher training provided by the EPA START contractor.

They sent several flash suits to the Fairbanks Hazmat team. The Anchorage hospitals have similar issues with patient decon stations, and there is no requirement for hospital staff to be Level A qualified. The Manilaaq Corporation has a built-in controlled air system in the hospital in Kotzebue. Also, the Alaska Native Medical Center appears to be the most proactive amongst the hospitals in Anchorage.

The Anchorage team performed an out-of-jurisdiction response in support of the Mat-Su Borough. During any out-of-jurisdiction response, the local emergency manager or fire chief should be contacted by the requesting party to be sure they are aware of the request for external support. DHS stressed that a courtesy call should also be made to the SECC to document the request, as this would be information that could be used to justify future Federal funding.

Alaska State Troopers (AST) Update

The AST's approach to Hazmat is from a law enforcement perspective. They have ordered and acquired PPE for law enforcement staff throughout the state. There are 1,500 sets of PPE, which includes protective masks, boots, gloves, and Tyvek suits for splash protection. These assets are ready to go into law enforcement vehicles throughout the state after the formal training component is implemented. The intent is to use the PPE as immediate, on-scene protection for law enforcement officials, but not for any emergency entries.

The Information Technology Group (ITG) for the state is now working on statewide protocols for using the Alaska Land Mobile Radio system (ALMR). Hazmat teams should be included into the overall ALMR picture, as this would provide for a common communications system whether at home or deployed somewhere in the state. Work group members desiring more information on ALMR should contact Bill Rasmussen of ITG (269-5748, or bill_rasmussen@admin.state.ak.us).

Clandestine drug lab activities are seasonal and are on the rise again. The Alaska Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Enforcement will be focusing more of their attention on the producers, as opposed to the street sellers, and there will probably be an increase in requests for Hazmat team support during the take down of clandestine drug labs.

Regarding support to the Hazmat teams, the AST has a helicopter that can be deployed in 15-20 minutes upon request. The request should be directed to the State Trooper Dispatch (428-7200, or 800 478-9300), which will coordinate approval of the request. The helicopter is capable of carrying four responders with full response gear.

CGD17 (drat)

The 17th Coast Guard District Response Advisory Team {CGD17 (drat)} conducted 39 HAZWOPER classes (i.e. combinations of Awareness and Operations-Oil Levels) throughout Alaska. 1090 students received instruction, including 597 other federal/state agencies. This year's training incorporated weapons of mass destruction elements into the curriculum in accordance with CG headquarter's "draft" guidelines {i.e. COMDTINST 3400.3, WMD and Catastrophic Hazardous Materials Releases (FOUO)}.

2. Other Updates

Governor Murkowski recently enacted House Bill 59 and DEC is now developing cleanup standards for re-occupation of facilities and residences that were formerly used as drug labs. There are several chemicals of concern, many of which do not have any pre-existing cleanup standards. DEC will be required to maintain a list of drug lab sites, plus provide property owners with a list of contractors that are qualified to clean up facilities that were used as methamphetamine labs.

Operation Respond Incorporated (ORI), a nationwide group based in Washington DC, recently visited Alaska. They have been given a Congressional mandate for improving access to emergency response information. ORI serves as a clearinghouse for data and can quickly provide emergency responders with information regarding systems used for rail, air, or highway transportation (such as specifics regarding a tanker truck involved in a rollover accident). The system is still in its infancy, but should provide a good networking tool for accessing emergency information at no cost to the user. Work group members desiring more information on the system can call Tom Wells.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) has now achieved Level 2 status from the Centers for Disease Control. DHSS is continuing to build on their capability for analyzing chemical warfare agents. They are also trying to network with other chemists in the state and would appreciate any information the work group can provide on in-state chemist and analytical lab capability. DHSS recently acquired an ICPMS, which enhances their capability for analyzing inorganic substances.

Southeast Regional Hazmat Team Initiative

The Regional Level A Team initiative was presented to the Southeast Conference and has received their general support. Resolutions have been passed in Sitka and Ketchikan, with other resolutions pending in Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, and Skagway.

Ketchikan is not ready to respond to a Hazmat incident, because the existing response equipment is antiquated and has sat in a trailer exposed to hot and cold temperatures through the years. The approved list of items under the ODP grant includes lots of detection gear. However, first responders would not be able to use the gear without the proper PPE. Ketchikan has 4 Hazmat Technicians, 20 Hazmat Ops level staff (Firefighter-2), and 25 Hazmat Awareness level (Firefighter-1). The Regional Team would be centrally administered by Sitka and Ketchikan. Daily and annual operations and maintenance (O&M) costs would be part of the normal local fire department budget. For Ketchikan, the allotted budget is \$5,000.

In terms of initial funding, Juneau received \$600,000 through a grant for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). \$25,000 of that has been tentatively earmarked for training and travel support for the Southeast Regional Hazmat Team. The MMRS grant was awarded under conditions that it would be used in support of Hazmat capability enhancement.

An aggressive cost reclamation program would also be instituted to have responsible parties reimburse the local community for expenses incurred during a Hazmat response.

Statewide Hazmat Team Budget Status

Currently, there is approximately \$70K remaining in CIP funding for support of the Hazmat Teams. The DEC 470 Fund (which is the source of CIP funding) is being depleted, and other sources of funding will need to be explored such as Federal ODP funds. DEC will not be forwarding a Hazmat CIP request for consideration this year. The issue of continued sustainment of the Hazmat Teams was discussed in light of diminished funding from DEC. Hazmat Teams will need to submit and clearly articulate their need for funding through the federal ODP grant process.

ODP Funding Status

None of the Hazmat or decon funds were expended last year; however, Valdez will be expending \$204,000 once the funding is formally transferred from DEC to the City of Valdez. The decon funding will expire on June 30, 2004, and the equipment list has been forwarded to ODP for their approval. Two RSAs (one for decon equipment and another for contractor support) will be finalized with DEC. The 2004 federal ODP grant applications are due at the end of October, with funding allocations anticipated by the end of November. Additional ODP funding (possibly \$14 million) may be available next year as well. Categories for grant applications include training and exercises, planning, administrative support, law enforcement, terrorism prevention, and citizen corps or community emergency response team (CERT) support.

Disembarkation and Decontamination of Cruise Ship Passengers

USCG District 17 raised discussion within the work group on the aspects of disembarkation and decontamination for the passengers of a cruise ship that may be involved in a biological or chemical attack. How would emergency responders handle a large passenger disembarkation scenario, and how would the passengers be field decontaminated prior to transport to the nearest medical facility? DHSS recently discussed several cruise ship scenarios in terms of emergency medical care following a shipboard incident and will provide notes for future discussion on these scenarios.

B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

ARRT members participated in several Industry sponsored spill drills and exercises; including Alyeska doing booming operations and training on the Yukon River, which involved spill response teams, ACS on the North Slope, as well as some from SERVS. One of the exercises included using a boom vane in the current, which allowed deployment to go quicker with less people. They conducted another fast water booming exercise on the Gulkana River.

EPA's START contractor, E&E, provided a basic ICS overview during the Community Emergency Response Plan training held in Ft. Yukon during the second week in November. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council coordinated the training to introduce their emergency response planning template created for tribes through an EPA grant. EPA will also offer the basic ISC training to AK tribal members during the week long statewide Alaska Forum on the Environment that will be held in Anchorage during the second week of February.

CGD17 (mor), CG MSO Juneau, and CG NSFCC conducted a Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Area exercise with Delta Western of Juneau and SEAPRO (Southeast Alaska's OSRO) during May. The three-day event involved several joint training opportunities, a command post exercise, and an equipment deployment.

Three government initiated unannounced (GIU) exercises were conducted by CGD17 MSOs under the PREP program. These events focused on evaluating industry emergency response procedures and equipment for Marine Transportation Related (MTR) facilities in accordance with 33-CFR-154, Subpart F.

The annual Canadian / U.S. Dixon Entrance (CANUSDIX) exercise was conducted in Prince Rupert, BC during September. This comprehensive exercise included formal Joint Planning Group meetings, international wildlife workshops, field exercises combining command and control, training and deployment of offshore / near shore oil response equipment, a logistics/operations centered tabletop exercise, and several work group meetings.

CGD17 (drat) conducted one VOSS and two SORS deployments for CG Buoytenders in Alaska.

CGD17 (mor) developed a comprehensive "Event and Exercise Schedule" for Alaska, which is available on the ARRT website at http://www.akrrt.org/ARRTEventsCalendar_Oct03.pdf. The calendar summarizes all major meetings, conferences, and exercise for FY-04 that deal with all hazards emergency response (e.g. oil spills, HazMat, WMD, Earthquake, etc.). Point of contact information and website links (if available) are provided for each event. The list will be updated following each ARRT meeting.

CGD17 (mor) and CG MSO Valdez conducted a series of marketing / scoping meetings with ConocoPhillips-PolarTanker and SERVS to set the groundwork for an upcoming PREP Area exercise. The exercise will take place in Prince William Sound during August of 2004 and will be the first Alaska exercise conducted under the new PREP guidelines (i.e. addressing new Tier 1 worst case discharge capability requirements for equipment deployments).

DMVA Division of Homeland Security (DHS) has formed the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Counsel Alaska (ATACA). The counsel has formed a separate subcommittee for training and exercises. The subcommittee is planning to provide one-stop shopping on all exercises and training in Alaska through an Internet website. DHS is planning a Homeland Security Conference in Juneau on March 9-11, 2004. They would like to have recommendations for vendor products and services demonstrations.

DHS feels that if a large joint exercise is planned featuring the different AK Hazmat teams, the exercise should involve multiple incidents requiring a coordinated response of the different teams. This would realistically test the command and control aspects of a multi-team response. The 103rd CST went through similar joint drills with other CSTs. The CST would like to conduct another joint cold weather response exercise with the Fairbanks Hazmat Team during the February 9-13, 2004 timeframe.

C. LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION EFFORTS:

1. STATE/LOCAL/INDUSTRY LIAISON:

ADEC reported that there were slightly over 2,000 spill reports this year, and the numbers have declined in FY 2003. Of the 2,000 spills, 685 involved field visits or technical support by telephone with the responsible parties. There were 32 situation reports generated and posted on the ADEC website. ADEC spent more time working on the community response base concept, signing additional Response Agreements with the cities of Valdez, Whittier and King Cove. There are a total of 39 agreements. They accessed 15 of the state response depots throughout the

state for 38 different spills. The state added more equipment depots in Unalakleet, Whittier, King Cove, Angoon, Kake, Cordova, Kenai, Glennallen, Palmer and Seldovia. There are a total of 42 equipment depots statewide.

Communication Systems

The Alaska Incident Management System Guide (AIMS) was completed last November and is available. ADEC assisted with enhancements to the communication systems along the pipeline corridor, which included improvements to Alyeska's Fairbanks Emergency Operation Center (a facility which provides VHF communications). Also, upgrades were made to the North Slope office for network connections and improvements to the mobile command post. ADEC is transitioning to the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System—an interoperative communication system where the state can communicate with all of the other state and federal agencies. They have purchased 33 new VHF radios that will work with the system and the existing communication system. They purchased more flyaway repeater kits and King radios.

Seven Year Spill Analysis Report

The Seven Year Spill Analysis Report should be completed by the end of November. It is a comprehensive report of spills data from July 1995 to June 2002. The objective of the report is to get a clearer understanding of spill trends. The report includes information on the size of the spill, frequency, type of product spilled, type of facilities that experience spills, spill causes, an analysis of spills by geographic area as it relates to the planning and response subareas, and an analysis of spills from state regulated facilities versus unregulated facilities.

Legislative

House Bill 59 passed during the 2003 State Legislative session, and tasks ADEC with developing cleanup criteria for levels of indoor contamination for methamphetamine laboratories. The state is coordinating with the Department of Public Safety and the Alaska State Troopers. ADEC will work on cleanup criteria for the top four contaminants with the intent of having the homeowner responsible for cleanup through professional contractors. The property will be listed as a property used as a drug lab until cleanup reaches the stipulated cleanup level.

Senate Bill 35 also passed, extending the three-year renewal process for ADEC approved Contingency Plans to five years. This will put ADEC on track with the federal renewal time period, and with that extension ADEC will be able to conduct more unannounced drills and inspections focusing on prevention and preparedness.

2. FEDERAL LIAISON:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported that Counter Terrorism (CT) Preparedness has included a lot of internal training, new equipment purchases, joint exercises with statewide Hazmat teams and the Civil Support team. EPA recently purchased response vehicles and a mobile command post trailer. Nationwide, EPA is trying to standardize all of their equipment purchases with the idea that as OSCs, they should be able to quickly respond, not just in their regions, but be able to back up other regions as needed.

Spill Prevention Regulations

EPA revised the Spill Prevention Regulations for their Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness Mission. When the revision came out, EPA was immediately tied up in litigation nationwide, and continues to be over various aspects and interpretation of those regulations. That has created a lot of internal policy and work groups discussing implementation of those regulations and how they will provide outreach to the affected industries.

As a lesson learned from the TAPS Milepost 400 event, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company purchased a very large mobile command post, which will enable a response team to support on-scene operations quickly and link information better. The mobile command post is a 55-foot trailer with a hydraulic slide out and has self-contained generators, telephone, conference room, satellite phones, VHF radios, a separate radio communications room for radio dispatch along with equipment, and can accommodate 20-30 personnel. There are eight to 10 workstations with computers, landlines, satellite phones, and using the technology of fiber optics along the pipeline, they are able to access the internet and internal company computer system. This is a great asset that improves the ability to manage and pass information from a remote area and is available within the state.

B. CONTINGENCY PLANS

1. UNIFIED PLAN

The Unified Plan is not out for public comment yet, but preliminary comments from RRT members were solicited. Comments were received from the State of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, DEC, and Department of Natural Resources. Federal agencies providing comments included the Department of Defense, specifically Alaska Command and Elmendorf AFB, Department of Energy, and DOI. Industry comments were received from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. Other inputs were received from the Prince William Sound Regional Citizen's Advisory Council. Comments are available on the ARRT website <http://akrrt.org>.

The public review draft will be developed this fall/winter, depending on whether the RRT would prefer to wait for the in-situ burn guidelines and the dispersant guidelines to be revised, updated, and inserted as part of the change. The public review period is Fall/Winter 2003 and the publication date is forecasted for Summer 2004.

2. COOK INLET SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

Public review for the Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan has been completed with public meetings held in Homer, Soldotna, and Anchorage. Only one person attended each of the public meetings held. Comments were received from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Department of Law, DOI, Kenai Peninsula Borough, CIRCAC, CISPRI, and a private citizen. Publication is estimated by early 2004.

3. SOUTHEAST SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

The Southeast Subarea Contingency Plan, Change 1 will undergo public review in January/February 2003. 60 GRSs have been completed, plus general updates to the Sensitive Areas section. There was an NPREP drill in Juneau in May and the USCG has been active in updating the resource listings.

4. PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN, CHANGE 2

The Prince William Sound Subarea Contingency Plan, Change 2 will undergo public review following the PREP exercise in August 2004. The major addition will be the GRSs that have been developed.

5. OTHER SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLANS

Updates for other subarea contingency plans:

North Slope	Summer 2004
Interior	Fall 2004
Kodiak	2004
Aleutians	Winter 2005
Bristol Bay	2006
Western Alaska	2006
Northwest Arctic	2006

6. GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES (GRSs)

GRSs are oil spill response strategies tailored to protect a specific sensitive area from impacts following a spill. These response strategies are map-based strategies that can save time during the critical first few hours of an oil spill response. They show responders where sensitive areas are located and where to place oil spill protection resources. GRSs and the number completed are available in the following areas:

Southeast	60
Prince William Sound	29
Cook Inlet	74
Southwest	20
Northern Zone	15
Kodiak	21
North Slope	Alaska Clean Seas Tech Manual serves as a GRS (135 maps and tactics for specific sites)
Aleutian	Initial planning to begin in December 2003

7. ARRT EXTRANET PROJECT

EPA initiated this draft project after DEC, EPA, USCG, and DOI discussions regarding the Subarea plans and better ways to share revisions to documents. They wanted to be able to share large documents and get edits from the various work groups within the Subarea Work Groups. EPA Region 10 in the Northwest area had created a private website separate from the public RRT website to work on their Northwest Area Contingency Plan. They agreed that was a great idea and the cost for developing the site was reasonable, because the contractor would use the Northwest RRT's site as a template. They are currently improving on it and in the process of coming up with guidelines for the private website, i.e., how they would use it, what they would use it for, maintenance responsibilities for each group, etc. EPA handed out draft guidelines for the private website and provided a live demonstration of the website.

8. COOK INLET MARINE FIRE FIGHTING SURVEY

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, the US Coast Guard, Cook Inlet fire departments and the dock/facility fire teams, the Work Group will inventory regional capabilities, identify areas for improvement, develop a means to address identified shortfalls and, finally, develop a comprehensive Marine Fire Fighting and Salvage Plan for Cook Inlet.

The Marine Fire Fighting and Salvage Plan for Cook Inlet will:

- Identify Cook Inlet resources and expertise;
- Identify and address deficiencies in response capability;
- Identify regional, national and international firefighting and salvage capabilities and the manner in which they may be called in for a major vessel casualty;
- Lay out a model training plan and resource bibliography;
- Provide an Incident Commander's checklist for marine fighting and salvage response.

9. PLANNING MEMBER AGENCY ROUNDTABLE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA has created a CD-ROM showing oceanographic details, which was made available to ARRT attendees. NOAA and USCG sponsored an Oil Spill Aerial Observation course October 6 in Kodiak, October 7 in Anchorage, and October 8 in Juneau. The Anchorage course included an aerial observation guide on the use of dispersants and what dispersed oil looks like.

Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)

FEMA Region 10 produces a monthly "HazMat Update" newsletter that provides training exercises and general information in the Hazmat field. Last June FEMA held a Comprehensive Hazmat Emergency Response – Capability Assessment Program (CHER-CAP) in Kotzebue. CHER-CAP brings together the entire community for review of all the plans and procedures for responding to oil or hazardous substance spills. Under the new Department of Homeland Security, they are developing CHER-CAP into an all hazards approach for preparing communities. CHER-CAP will be the acronym for Community Hazards Emergency Response Capability Assurance Process. Due to fiscal constraints, FEMA did not conduct any CHER-CAP projects in 2003. The usual CHER-CAP budget is \$5,000.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs (BIA)

BIA has a Native Allotment Data Collection and Access Project (NADCAP), which combines GIS data and information on Native allotments that have been conveyed to Native landowners and Native-owned town sites. The information identifies areas that potentially could be impacted from a vessel or spill. BIA can coordinate with DOI to notify the landowner of impacts and share the landowner's concerns regarding the property, and BIA environmentalists can be at the response scene.

BIA is working with the Native Village of Nelson Lagoon in getting a grant to develop a GRS for a new fuel tank farm. The tank farm is contracted through the Denali Commission. The annual Service Providers Conference was held December 1-6, 2003, at the Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. USCG, ADEC, DOI, and EPA presented on joint planning efforts and disaster preparedness at the conference.

Department Of Health and Human Services (DHSS)

DHSS has been working on response procedures for chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological, and explosive incidents (CBRNE). Since 9/11, there has been a great deal of interest in bioterrorism response and they have seen a number of funding streams made available to the states. The office in Anchorage had the opportunity to review some of the bioterrorism grants and Alaska is very well poised for a good solid response.

The Alaska Health Alert Network has taken an all hazards approach, which has been instituted and incorporated as a result of this two-year effort. The network was mobilized and practiced

recently through the SARS outbreaks and with the Norwalk-like virus. More recently, the Alaska Health Network was mobilized during an influenza Type A outbreak on a cruise ship. They have seen a good deal of practice and institutionalization of a health care emergency Incident Command System (ICS), which creates a structure in health care organizations that closely model the ICS, which is a requirement for hospitals and clinics nationwide. For anyone interested in Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS), go to the following website: www.hazmatforhealthcare.org.

As the result of ongoing initiatives and funding from the administration, the Commission Core Readiness Force has deployed licensed certified commissioned officers to Kuwait and have pre-positioned these officers prior to the outbreak of war in Iraq. They have had contingents in Afghanistan and currently contingents are in Iraq. There are 2,000 licensed, certified, deployable health care professionals within the Commission Core.

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

New Rep	Organization	Dates	Departed
Kevin Biscoe	ADES - Alaska Alt	21-Aug-02	Terry Smith
Donna J. Goldsmith	AK Inter-Tribal Council - Pri	14-Aug-03	Deborah Vo
Jerry Pardilla	AK Inter-Tribal Council - Alt	14-Aug-03	Roland Shanks
Rob Sterling (CAPT)	DoD - ALCOM (J5) - Pri	21-Aug-03	Gary Klink (CAPT)
Timothy E. Griffith (LTC)	DoD - USACE - Pri	26-Aug-03	Richard L Gingras (LTC)
Linda Melton	GSA - FSS - Alt	18-Mar-03	Don Beadle

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

None.