

**ANNUAL REPORT
ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (ARRT)
CY 2004**

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES.

A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities.

1. M/V LeConte Grounding. On May 10th the 235-foot state ferry grounded in good weather on Cozian Reef in Peril Strait, approximately 70 nm north of Sitka (the nearest town) in Southeast Alaska. Response issues were: Limited on-scene to shore communications, a USCG away team deployment, evacuation and tracking of 86 passengers/crew, lightering of onboard fuel (approximately 23,000 gallons), removal of 15 vehicles, stabilization and re-floating of the vessel (S/V American Salvor coordinated), and development of a transit plan (including identification of Places of Refuge (PoR) and protection of sensitive areas / historic properties along the route). A lesson learned report is available upon request from CGD17 (mor) and additional information is available online at: http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/response/sr_fy04.htm (under “M/V LeConte Grounding”)

2. M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding. On December 8th the 738-foot bulk carrier (carrying 60,000 tons of soybeans en-route China from Seattle) grounded and split in half on the northwest side of Unalaska Island, approximately 70 nm from Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians. Response issues were: Emergency towing attempt, evacuation of 19 crew members, loss of a USCG helicopter and 6 deaths, deployment of protection boom for sensitive areas, recovery of oiled and dead wildlife (735 birds & 5 otters), staging of dispersant and on-water skimming capability for potential secondary releases, vessel lightering operations, logistics support for 100+ field responders and 12 vessels, oiled debris collection and disposal, potential economic impacts to tanner crab fishery, etc. Fuel onboard at time of grounding was approximately 424,000 gallons of IFO 380 and 18,000 gallons of marine diesel fuel. Operations are still on going (as of mid-January). Additional information is online at the Unified Command’s website: http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/response/sr_fy05.htm. (under “M/V Selendang Ayu Adrift”)

B. RRT Meetings.

1. January 27, 2004 in Anchorage.

USCG-coordinated, 49 persons in attendance.

Special presentations given on the following topics: 7-year summary of Alaska Spills [Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)] and Changes to the Alaska Regional Inter-agency Steering Committee (AK RISC) under DHS [FEMA]. Meeting was schedule sequentially with the quarterly AK RISC meeting.

2. September 29, 2004 in Juneau.

USCG-coordinated, 51 persons in attendance.

Special presentations given on the following topics: Rat Infestation Control Program for Island Shipwrecks [DOI-USFWS], EPA’s Environmental Response Team (ERT) West [ERT-West Deputy Director], 103rd Civil Support Team (CST) WMD Response Capabilities [103rd CST], Streamlined Permitting Tool for Responders [Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC)], and ShoreZone Mapping Project [Cook Inlet RCAC at: http://www.circac.org/emc_shorezone.html].

C. Committee and Working Group (WG) Updates.

Wildlife Protection WG. DOI-coordinated, revitalizing the membership and planning a workshop on migratory bird hazing, capture, and care for spring of 2005.

Endangered Species Act MOA WG. DOI-coordinated, conducted three planning meeting for an Alaska implementation workshop, which will be held on 27 January 2005.

Canada - United States (CANUS) Dixon Entrance (DIX) Wildlife Response WG. DOI-coordinated, met during the annual CANUS DIX exercise. Membership continues to grow and may expand to cover North Slope regional planning.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) WG. DOI-coordinated, met once to review/discuss mobilization plans.

Statewide HazMat Response WG. ADEC-coordinated, met on February 11th in Fairbanks; on May 13th in Anchorage; and on September 28th in Anchorage. Working to establish a deployable decontamination capability for cold weather throughout the state, to capitalize on joint training and coordination opportunities, and to update the state's current threat assessments (e.g. from know industry sources of extremely hazardous substances and past releases).

Science and Technology Committee - Dispersants Guidelines WG. NOAA-coordinated, working on major update to the general Alaska guidelines (e.g. policy, science, zone criteria, definitions, monitoring, checklists, etc.) and the Prince William Sound specific guidelines. Current guidelines were last updated in 1999.

Science and Technology Committee - Information Needs WG. USCG-coordinated, worked with responders, stakeholders, and trustees to developed a point paper that overviewed six unresolved issues/concerns related to dispersant use in Prince William Sound. The document was forwarded to the National Response Team's Science and Technology Committee (NRT STC), the National Academy of Science's (NAS) Committee on Understanding Oil Spill Dispersants: Efficacy and Effects, and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Technology Assessment and Research Branch in September 2004 for their review and feedback. Detailed feedback was provided by the MMS and the NRT STC advised that the NAS would be publishing a related report in February 2005. Following a review of the feedback/NAS report by the WG, they intend to identify a program manager and a funding source to address the remaining issues/concerns. The two page findings are available upon request from CGD17 (mor).

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

A. Training.

- EPA Alaska Operations Office (AOO) sponsored a 16-hour hazard categorization training in Ketchikan on October 9th and 10th; a 4-hour Clandestine Methamphetamine Laboratory Awareness training in Anchorage for Anchorage Fire Department, EPA, and ADEC on October 14th; a 16-hour methamphetamine awareness/hazard categorization training in Fairbanks for the Fairbanks Hazmat

Teams on October 16th and 17th; an 8-hour hazard categorization refresher training in Anchorage for Anchorage Fire Department (AFD) and EPA START responders on October 21st; and an 8-hour Radiation Fundamentals training for AFD, ADEC, and EPA START responders on November 17th.

- EPA AOO participated in an EPA sponsored two-week OSC ICS academy in Dallas, TX (position specific training and a 420 leadership/teambuilding course).
- 17th Coast Guard District (CGD17) Response Advisory Team (DRAT) conducted 56 HAZWOPER classes (i.e. combinations of All Hazards/WMD Awareness and Oil Operations Levels) throughout Alaska. 1,174 coast guard members and 50 personnel from other federal and state agencies received the training.
- U.S. Army Pacific sponsored a WMD first responder seminar on March 23rd in Fairbanks and on March 25th in Anchorage.
- ADEC sponsored an Ammonia/Chlorine Training Course in Valdez for emergency responders, USCG, industry, and communities. The course was held on November 19th - 21st.

B. Exercises/Workshops.

Unified Defense 04. JTTFAlaska-coordinated, February 20th - 24th. Port security component to the national level exercise involving a security incident on the state ferry Malaspina and a USCG Marine Safety and Security Team (MSST) deployment to the vessel while underway. The city of Juneau's EOC was utilized for the unified command post, which involved local EMS, state ferry system, FBI, DOD, and USCG participation. Other shore-side terrorist attacks were also simulated during the exercise. The new functions of the Principle Federal Official (under the draft NRP) were incorporated into the drill and the CGD17 district staff stood up its regional incident command (RIC).

Cold Weather Decontamination Exercise. 103rd CST-coordinated, February 10th. Their Fairbanks based HazMat team conducted a cold weather radiological response exercise. Exercise observers included the Anchorage and Fairbanks Hazmat teams, Pacific Strike Team, DEC, CST members from Colorado, and the 196th Brigade from Hawaii.

State Ferry WMD Exercise. USCG-coordinated, March 29th. Simulated ricin incident on the state ferry Tustumena in Seward. Vessel was in dry-dock at the time so actual passenger coordination issues did not complicate the exercise. CG PST, City of Fairbanks, and City of Anchorage provided entry teams for the vessel. The 103rd CST and City of Anchorage provided shore-side lab and decontamination support. A tabletop exercise was also conducted at the Anchorage City EOC on March 26th prior to the field drill. A detailed after action report is available upon request from CGD17 (mor).

PWS Dispersant Exercise. Industry-coordinated, April. C-130 aircraft training focused on precise application tactics in Prince William Sound (PWS).

PWS Lightering Exercise. Industry-coordinated, April. Pier-side demonstration of the capabilities of the SERVS dedicated lightering barge "570".

611th Air Force Spill Exercise. DOD/EPA-coordinated, May. Conducted a field deployment at Six Mile Lake in Anchorage on the first day of the exercise. On the second day, conducted a tabletop for a simulated tank failure and release into the Yukon River at Galena Air Force Base (350 mile northwest of Anchorage).

Tesoro Spill Exercise. Industry/EPA-coordinated, June. Scenario involved a pipeline rupture by an Anchorage school. Major objectives included a school evacuation, fire department response, and industry cleanup.

Fairbanks Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Spill Exercise. Industry-coordinated. Focused on source control (innovative hydraulic clamp design), lesson learned from the Mile Post 400 incident of October 2001, and health and safety of responders (proximity suits and SCBAs).

Tazlina River TAPS Spill Exercise. Industry-coordinated. The major objective was the deployment of fast water booming tactics, which utilized an innovative boom vane.

Prince William Sound (PWS) USCG-led PREP Area Exercise. USCG-coordinated, ConocoPhillips as plan holder / responsible party, August 3rd-5th. Exercise was combined with state's annual requirement for the industry coordinated PWS Tanker Drill. Major objectives focused on a Tier-1 equipment deployment, incident management team transitions from the initial responders to the plan holder's IMT (Lower-48), geographic response strategy validation, Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) liaison with the command staff, joint ICS training, and validation of Place of Refuge (PoR) draft guidelines. Design team planning information and the detailed after action report are available online at: <http://www.akrrt.org/pwsareaex04/index.html>

North Slope Mutual Aid Drill. Industry/state-coordinated, August. Drill was scaled back to an on-water demonstration since BP (this year's industry sponsor) received response-credit for an actual incident, which occurred earlier in the year.

St. Paul Island Wildlife Response Exercise. USCG/DOI-coordinated, August 23rd-27th. The Pribilof Islands Wildlife Response WG planned and conducted an on-island training program that included; rat infestation prevention, site visits/evaluations of potential response facilities, live bird capture and stabilization training (with farm ducks), ICS training, and a tabletop exercise.

Canada - United States Dixon Entrance Exercise (CANUS DIX). USCG-coordinated, September 20th-24th. Conducted joint boom deployments, a USCG VOSS deployment, and several workshops (e.g. historic properties, wildlife response, dispersants and in situ burning options, rat infestation control, etc.). A lesson learned report is available upon request from CGD17 (mor).

USCG PREP Gov't Initiated Unannounced (GIU) Drills. USCG MSOs conducted nine facility drills under the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). Overall industry preparedness at these facilities was found to be good (e.g. familiar with response plan, made appropriate notifications, equipment was maintained and readily available, conducted timely and safe deployments, etc.). However, five of the facilities did experienced initial difficulties with their on-water boom deployments (i.e. skiffs not working and/or trouble with deploying anchors in changing current/tidal conditions). A summary report is available upon request from CGD17 (mor).

ADEC Industry Preparedness Program - 35 exercises were conducted of various types and scope with industry.

Cook Inlet USCG-led PREP Area Exercise. USCG-coordinated, Crowley Marine Services as plan holder / responsible party, Oct-Nov. Conducted two planning meetings with joint response community representatives in preparation for an April 2005 exercise. Exercise planning suspended due to M/V Selendang Ayu response operations. Exercise will likely be cancelled, pending request of response-credit.

C. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination.

Alaska Unified Plan. ADEC-coordinated, joint WG researched issues for major update (Change-3) to the plan. Anticipating the release of the NRP in January of 2005, the update is scheduled for completion during the summer of 2005.

Alaska Sub-area Contingency Plans (SCPs). ADEC-coordinated, joint WGs published Change-1 to the Cook Inlet SCP, held an initial meeting for Change-1 to the Southeast SCP (to be published in summer of 2005), and will initiate the public review process in Spring 2005 for Change-2 to the Prince William Sound SCP.

Statewide Spill Response Tactics Manual. ADEC-coordinated, working on a statewide tactics manual for oil spill field operations. Working with OSROs/RACs to compile best documentation from various sources. Additional information is available online at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/asrtm/index.htm>.

Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs). ADEC-coordinated, participated with industry to conduct field validations for 15 GRSs in Prince William Sound and 18 GRSs in south west Cook Inlet. Also developing plans various locations in the Aleutians. Additional information on Alaska GRSs is available on-line at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/grs/home.htm>.

Places of Refuge (PoR) Guidelines. ADEC-coordinated, developed Alaska-wide guidelines and compiled detailed site information for Prince William Sound (PWS). The PWS WG maintains a detailed website at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/pwspor/wg.htm>.

Risk Management Program (RMP). EPA-coordinated, conducted outreach and compliance assistance with facilities and LEPCs for extremely hazardous substances (EHS) tier-two reporting requirements.

Statewide HazMat Commodity Flow study. ADEC/EPA-coordinated, working with contractor to publish report in early 2005.

Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC). EPA-coordinated, conducted SPCC outreach for implementation of new requirements and updating plans.

Community Oil Spill Response Agreements. ADEC-coordinated, increased community oil spill response agreements from 39 to 43 and conducted six training sessions in remote communities with pre-staged equipment. Focus of program is to developing partnerships with local communities to expand Alaska's oil and hazardous substance spill response capabilities. Additional information is online at: http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/local_resp.htm.

USCG Oil Spill Response MOU with Village of Chenega. USCG-coordinated, signed MOU with the native village of Chenega [located in central Prince William Sound (PWS)] for the use of pre-staged USCG response equipment. The agreement is designed to address potential spills, which may occur from the 150 to 200 fishing

vessels that work out of the village each summer. The previous year a similar agreement was signed with native village of Eyak (located south of Valdez Arm in PWS).

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES / ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES.

New Rep	Organization	Date	Departed Rep
Chris Myskowski (CDR)	CGD17 mor (Juneau, AK)	01-Sep-04	Spencer Wood (CDR)
Ron Britton	FEMA - Region X (Bothell, WA)	01-Sep-04	Mike Hammond
Dave Neander (LCDR)	DoC - NOAA (NOS - OR&R - HMRD/ Seattle, WA)	19-Aug-04	Michael Devany (LCDR)
Douglas Wooten	DoL - OSHA (Region 10 - AK Area Office - Anchorage, AK)	Dec-04	Virgle Howell

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION.

None.