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**ANNUAL REPORT
ALASKA REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (ARRT)
CY 2007**

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES.


A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities.

1. M/V APL Chile Hazmat Response: On January 10th the APL CHILE had a release of one drum of ETHYLENEDIAMONE from a container (78 drums in container) while in port at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, AK. Response issues were: Isolation and removal of container from the vessel with no hazmat response capability on the island; isolation of leaking container on shore until proper response team (Level B capable) could arrive on island.; removal of damaged drums and repacking for shipment to disposal facility.

2. F/V Exodus Explorer grounding/sinking: On March 18th the Fishing vessel EXODUS EXPLORER grounded and capsized near the remote Island of Adak, Alaska. Response issues were: removal of 4,000 gallons of fuel, fishing nets and various hazmat materials from partially submerged vessel before scuttling in 1700 fathoms of water under the Ocean Dumping Act, remote location with only weekly air service; and no salvage or response capability. Additional information is online at the Unified Command's website: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sr_fy07.htm. (under " F/V EXODUS EXPLORER).

3. P/V Empress of the North Grounding: On May 14th the Passenger Vessel EMPRESS OF THE NORTH grounded on Rocky Island, a charted and marked reef, at the intersection of Icy Strait and Lynn Canal (Southeast Alaska) about 25 air miles southwest of Juneau with 25,000 gallons of fuel onboard and a total of 281 persons. After the grounding, the disabled vessel drifted into the vicinity of Hanus Reef. Response issues were: evacuation of all 281 personnel onboard; transition from major Search & Rescue to oil spill response, proper communication between State and Federal OSCs, development of a transit plan (including identification of Places of Refuge (PoR) and protection of sensitive areas / historic properties along the route). Additional information is online at the Unified Command's website: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sr_fy07.htm. (under "P/V EMPRESS OF THE NORTH Grounding).

4. Other Response Activities: Overall 32 response summaries were completed and posted on the Unified Command's website for minor spills. A complete list of all response activities is online at the Unified Command's website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under Active Response and FY07/08).

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B. RRT MEETINGS/INCIDENT SPECIFIC ACTIVATION:

Meeting: August 28, 2007 in Anchorage. USCG-coordinated; 58 persons in attendance. Special presentation given on the following topics: 10-year summary of Alaska Spills [Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)], Additional information is online at the DEC/SPAR website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under 10 year spill data analysis); Aleutian Islands Emergency Towing System (ETS)[ADEC and FOSC Sector Anchorage] Additional information is online at DEC/SPAR website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under Aleutian Islands Emergency Towing System); 2007 Beaufort Sea Exploration Program [Shell Oil]; Special Bands for Oiled Birds; Historic Properties Protection Information for Potential Places of Refuge [DOI], NRT Places Of Refuge Guidelines and U.S. Coast Guard Places of Refuge Instruction.[DOI and U.S. Coast Guard].


Activation: 16 May 2007: P/V Empress of the North Grounding: An Incident specific activation occurred at the request of the FOSC to identify Places of Refuge (PoR) to move stricken vessel for temp repairs. Primary RRT attendees: EPA, USCG, ADEC AK Fish & Game, DOI and US Fish and Wildlife.

Activation: 27 Nov 2007: Port Heiden (Alaska Peninsula) Landfill Response: An Incident specific activation occurred at the request of the FOSC to discuss possible Responsible Party (RP) Identification and actions necessary to obtain a condition for declaring the end of the emergency response phase (removal of the "Substantial Threat of a Discharge") for the Port Heiden Landfill response. Primary RRT attendees: EPA, USCG, ADEC, DOD (ALCOM J511 & 611th COE), ACOE

C. Committee and Working Group (WG) Updates:

Science and Technology Committee – Instu-Burn Guidelines WG. USCG-coordinated, working on major update to the general Alaska guidelines (e.g. policy, science, zone criteria, definitions, monitoring, checklists etc). Current guidelines were last updated in 1994. Revised guidelines have passed the Science and Technology Committee and submitted to the RRT for agency review. Project final review and approval on 01 Feb 08.

Statewide HazMat Response WG. ADEC-coordinated, met on February 20th in Anchorage; on May 22nd in Fairbanks; on August 15th in Fairbanks and on November 16th in Anchorage. The working group developed WMD Sampling Protocols after two HazMat incidents involving the Anchorage and Fairbanks Fire Departments regarding possible ANTHRAX cases. Additional information is online at the DEC/SPAR website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm>. (under Hazmat response).

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II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING.


A. Training.

- EPA Alaska Operations Office (AOO) sponsored a 4-hour EPA Air Sampling Course and a 4-hour Sampling Refresher Course in Anchorage.
- 17th Coast Guard District (CGD17) Response Advisory Team (DRAT) conducted 34 HAZWOPER classes (i.e. combination of All Hazards/WMD Awareness and Oil Operations Levels) throughout Alaska. 771 Coast Guard members and 92 personnel from other federal and state agencies received the training. In addition, DRAT sponsored 5 ICS 300 and 1 ICS 400 training courses (courses were taught by U.S. Coast Guard PACAREA ICS instructors) in the cities of Valdez, Anchorage, Juneau, Kodiak, and Sitka.
- U.S. Army Pacific; 103rd CST sponsored a DOE Radiological Assistance Program (RAP), and CIA Recognition of Small Scale Bio-Lab setup training.
- ADEC sponsored a Safe Handling and Emergency Response to Anhydrous Ammonia training and exercise for emergency responders, USCG, industry, and communities. The course was held Sept 11th – 13th in Ketchikan, AK. Additional information can be obtained at the following website:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>.
- TOPOFF IV Training – DHS-coordinated, Oct. EPA region 10 (Alaska office) and DHS (Alaska office) personnel participated in Portland Oregon.

B. Exercises/Workshops.

USCG/EPA Workshop. EPA-coordinated November 27th. Purpose of workshop was to cover basic NCP concepts regarding FOOSC roles and responsibilities, CWA/ OPA/ CERCLA authorities, EPA/USCG MOU regarding response boundaries and to increase familiarity between the two agencies since the Coast Guard reorganized.


Cold Weather Decontamination Exercise. 103rd CST-coordinated, January 29th. Their Fairbanks based HazMat team conducted a cold weather Decon response exercise. Exercise observers included the Anchorage and Fairbanks Hazmat teams, EPA and ADEC Additional information can be obtained at the following website:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>.

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Hospital Emergency Decon. Exercise.-103rd CST-coordinated, July 1st. Their Anchorage Elmendorf based HazMat team conducted a Decon training/exercise for hospital and local HazMat Team staff. Additional information can be obtained at the following website: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>.

National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Exercises.

- Prince William Sound (PWS) Area Exercise. Industry led; with representatives included: USCG, ADEC, RCAC, BP TANKER Company, ALYESKA/SERVS (OSRO) and Native Groups in PWS. A simulated grounding on Zaikof Point on Montague Is was used as a Scenario. USCG personnel shadowed Operations and Plans Section Chiefs and staffed the CG Room for information collection and dissemination. One CG MSU member deployed with the SERVs team to view/evaluate OSRO response in the field. An equipment deployment was conducted by the OSRO and BP personnel in Two Moon Bay which was observed by CG MSU Personnel. Cost: \$6,000.00.
- PREP Government Unannounced Drills (GIUs). Eight (8) unannounced drills – four (4) each in Sector Anchorage and Sector Juneau zones were conducted at a cost of \$5,432.00.
- PREP Equipment Deployments Exercise: Ten (10) equipment deployments occurred throughout the three COTP zones at a cost of \$97,745.00. Cost and type listed below:
 - Alaska Aerial Dispersant Delivery System (ADDS) Deployments in Anchorage and Kodiak; cost: \$6,800.00
 - Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) Deployment.
 - CGC Anthony Petit Ketchikan, AK in conjunction with International Exercise (Can USDix); cost: \$35,972.51
 - Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) Deployments:
 - CGC Maple in Sitka, AK; cost: \$ 8,779.00
 - CGC Hickory in Homer, AK; cost: \$12,425.00
 - CGC Spar in Kodiak, AK; cost: \$9,500.00
 - CGC Sycamore in Cordova, AK; cost: \$8,485.00
 - Internal Pre-staged Equipment Deployments:
 - Sector Juneau in Sitka, AK; cost: \$4,000.00
 - Sector Anchorage in Kenai & Homer, AK; cost:\$2,793.00
 - Sector Anchorage in Unalaska, AK; cost: \$9,040.00
 - MSU Valdez in Cordova, AK cost: \$2,240.00

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

Alaska Unified Plan. ADEC-coordinated, joint WG researched issues for major update (Change-3) to the plan. Anticipate release of Change-3 by end of 2008.

Alaska Sub-area Contingency Plans (SCPs). ADEC-coordinated, joint work groups (WGs) published Change-1 to the North Slope and Interior SCP. Held initial meeting for Change-1 to Aleutians and Change-2 Kodiak SCP.

Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs). ADEC-coordinated, participated with industry to conduct field validates and/or develop 44 GRS in the Northern, Western, and Mainland Zones.

Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Guidelines. ADEC-coordinated, developed and approved PPOR for Kodiak and Cook Inlet SCP. Detailed information on the PPOR guidelines and process can be accessed at:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/index.htm> (under special projects)


Canada – United States Dixon Entrance (CANUSDIX) Wildlife Response WG. DOI-coordinated, working on update and posting of the CANUSDIX Wildlife Response Guidelines. Additional information is online at AKRRT website:
http://www.akrrt.org/Canus_dixonEntrance/. Participated in CANUSDIX exercise, which included activation of the guidelines; held working group annual meeting following the CANUS DIX exercise.

Canada – United States Dixon Entrance (CANUSDIX) Resource Agency WG. DOI coordinated, updated and posted CANUSDIX Guidelines for Resource Agency Input to Places of Refuge, Dispersant Use, and In-Situ Burning Decision-Making. Additional information is online at AKRRT website: http://www.akrrt.org/Canus_dixonEntrance/. Participated in CANUSDIX exercise, which included activation of the guidelines; held working group annual meeting following the CANUS DIX exercise.

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

D. Major Lessons Learned from Responses, Trainings Exercises/Workshops and Other RRT Activities:

To be developed at a later date due to short notice format change.

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III. PERSONNEL CHANGES / ORGANIZATIONA CHANGES.

New Rep	Organization	Date	Departed Rep
Ricardo (Rick) Rodriguez, (CDR)	CGD17 (DX) (Juneau, AK)	03/01/2007	Chris Myskowski (CDR)
Christopher Abramson	DHS - NPFC - NRDA Claims Division	Unk	George Silva
Robert Forgit	DHS - FEMA Director, AK Ops	11/01/2007	Ron Britton
Tom Blanchard	SeaRiver Maritime, Inc. (Valdez Marine Operations)	08/08/2007	Douglas Wooten
Clark Pitchford	"DoD - Navy Region NW - Alt	08/01/2007	Hayden Street
Cecil McNutt, Jr.	CCGD17 ARRT Coordinator	06/01/2007	Thomas, (Mitch) Deely
Steve Osborne	"AK Inter-Tribal Council Acting Director	07/01/2007	Jerry Pardia
Brian Swanson	"GSA - FSS - Pri (Northwest/Arctic Alaska Emergency Coordinator - Anc	08/01/2007	Ray Robins
Steve Pearson (CDR)	Sector Anchorage Chief of Response	07/01/2007	Bill Jeffries
Juliana Grant (Dr.)	"DoHHS - IHS - Pri (AK Native Tribal Hlth Consort - Anc)"	12/01/2007	Jeff, Smith (CAPT)
Steve David	GSA - FSS - Alt (Northwest/Arctic Alaska Emergency Coordinator - Anc	08/01/2007	Brian Swanson
Scott Ketcham	"DoL - OSHA - Alt (Region 10 - Alaska Area Office Director - Anchorage)"	11/01/2007	Randy White

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION.

None.