

NRT-NRS

The National Response System

Federal, state, and local governments

working together to

protect Americans from threats to our land, air, and water

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Overview

- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
- National Response System
- How the National Response System Works

National Oil & Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)

- NCP describes the national preparedness and response system for oil and hazardous materials
 - Includes chemical, biological, and radiological releases to the environment
 - Both accidental and intentional (including terrorist) releases
- NCP is a regulation found in 40 CFR 300 and administered by the EPA



Chair



Co-Chair



NCP Authorities



- **Clean Water Act** as amended by the Oil Pollution Control Act (OPA 90) and earlier clean water legislation
- The **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**, a.k.a. “Superfund,” including the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA) amendments

National Response System (NRS)

- NRS is divided into local, regional, and national organizational levels
- Participants include federal, state, local, and private sector agencies and organizations, with interests in or responsibilities for oil and hazardous materials emergencies
- Federal agencies in the NRS provide on-site response capability at the local level



Why Federal Involvement On-Scene?



- Incidents can exceed capability of states and locals
- Public demand for national environmental response policy



- Incidents and impacts could cross state and international borders
- Response could involve foreign parties and international commerce

Overview of Key NRS Components

- NRS comprised of...
 - Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
 - 13 Regional Response Teams (RRTs)
 - National Response Team (NRT)
 - National Response Center (NRC)
 - Area Committees
 - State/Local Governments
 - Special Teams
 - Joint Response Teams with neighboring countries
 - Regulated Industry

National Response Team (NRT)

- Comprised of the same 15 federal agencies as the RRTs
- EPA Chair, USCG Vice Chair
- National-level planning, policy, and coordinating body
- Provides advice and assistance to the OSC and RRT during a response

- EPA
- USCG
- USDA
- DOC/NOAA
- DOD
- DOE
- HHS
- DOI
- DOJ
- DOL/OSHA
- DOS
- DOT
- GSA
- NRC
- FEMA

Regional Response Teams (RRTs)



- 13 RRTs comprised of 15 Federal agencies plus State representatives
- Co-chaired by EPA and USCG
- Engage in planning and training activities year-round
- Coordinate decision making process for alternative cleanup operations

- Provide technical expertise and resources to the OSC during a response

Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)

USCG for
coastal zone
&
EPA for inland
zone



- Coordinate all containment, removal, and disposal efforts/resources at the incident site
- Ensure proper notification
- Direct/coordinate, and/or provide technical assistance to response efforts at site
- Maintain decision-making authority
- Ensure access to information

OSC Response Assets



EPA Mobile Command Post

- Enforcement authorities to ensure that the responsible party (RP) cleans up the spill or release
- Access to federal technical assistance and contractors for cleanup and salvage
- Authority to access CERCLA and/or Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) funding
- Technical expertise from federal special teams
- Special equipment

NRS Special Teams

EPA - Environmental Response Team (ERT)

EPA - Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)

EPA – National Counter Terrorism Evidence Response Team (NCERT)

EPA – National Decontamination Team



USCG - National Strike Force (NSF)

USCG - Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)



OSHA – Specialized Response Teams

NOAA & EPA - Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs)

Navy SUPSALV

Other teams

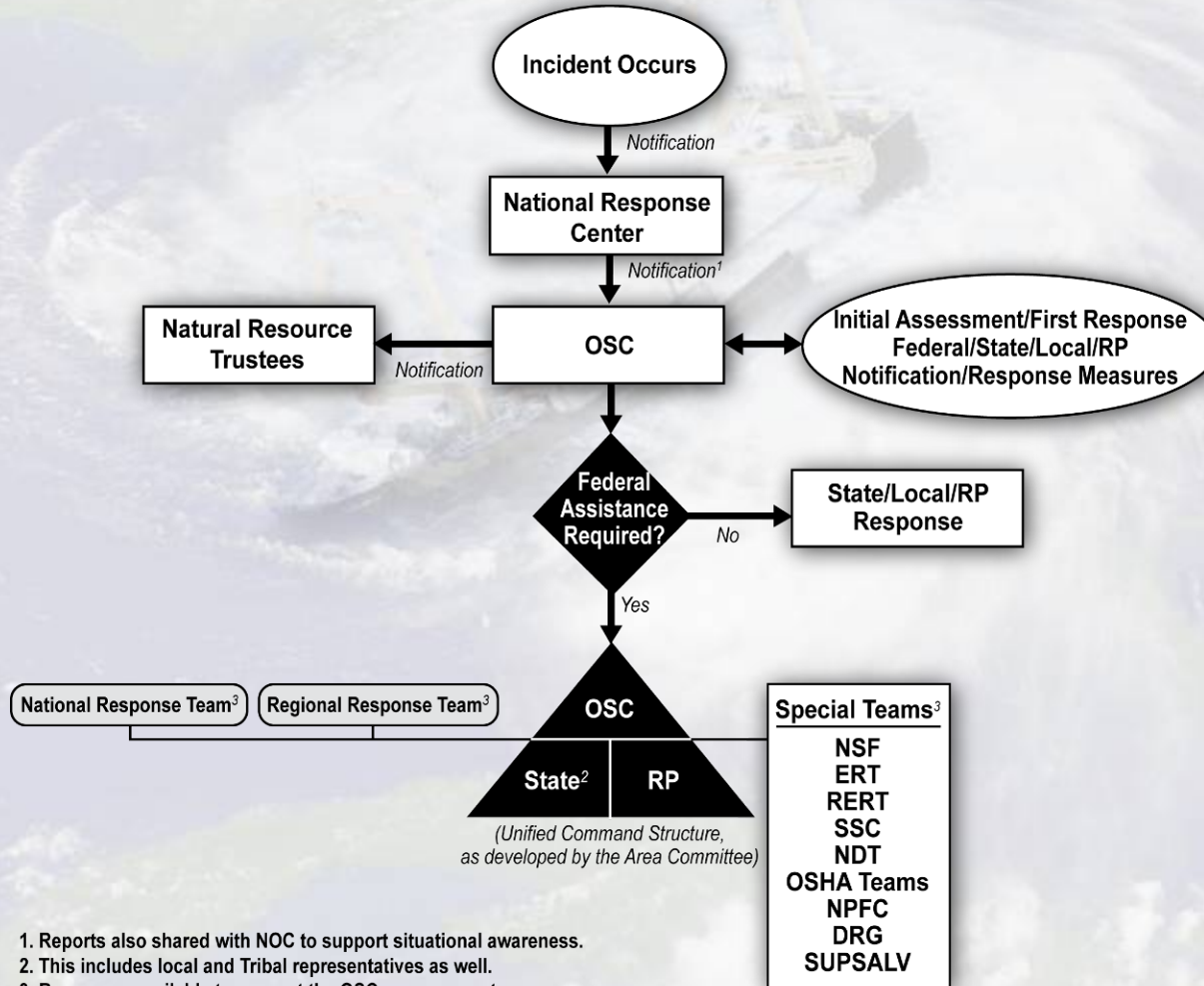


National Response Center (NRC)

- Receives all reports of releases involving oil and hazardous substances including, infrastructure security breaches, suspicious activities, and terrorist related events involving hazardous substances & oil that trigger federal notification requirements
 - **Approximately 30,000 incident notifications each year**
- Notifies Federal and State OSCs
- Notifies DHS/NOC & EPA/USCG Headquarters
- Preparedness role – supports NRS planning activities



NRS Notification & Decision Process



1. Reports also shared with NOC to support situational awareness.
2. This includes local and Tribal representatives as well.
3. Resources available to support the OSC upon request.

NRS Funding Mechanisms

Oil Spills

- OPA 90
 - Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF)



Hazardous Substances

- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), a.k.a., Superfund

Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

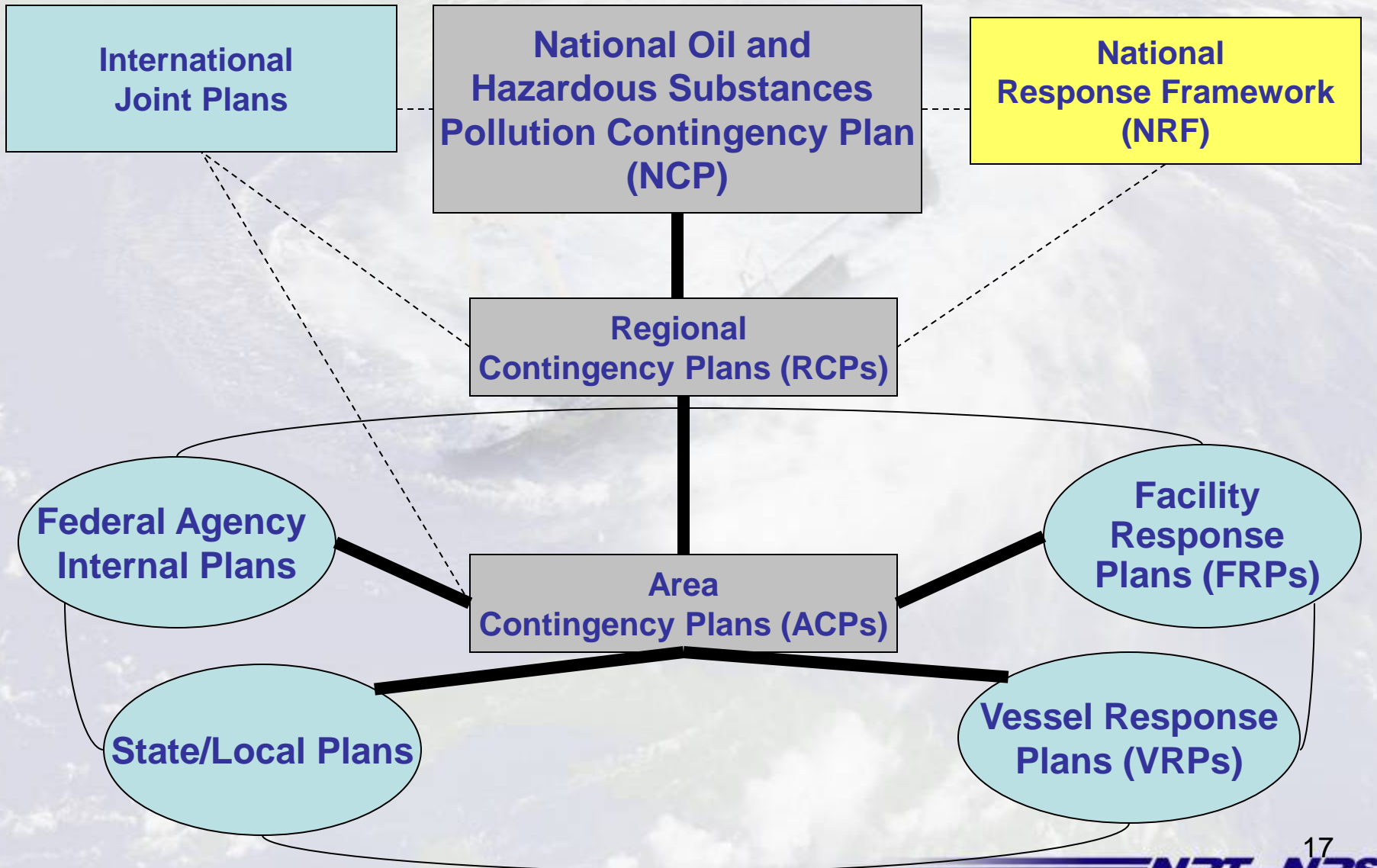
- Administered by National Pollution Funds Center
- OSLTF Emergency Fund established to provide funding for:
 - Emergency response actions to protect public health, safety and environment
 - Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) initiation
 - Compensation for claimants who demonstrate that oil pollution caused damages



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- As delineated by the OPA, uses of the OSLTF include:
 - Response costs incurred by the Coast Guard and EPA
 - State access for response activities
 - Payments to federal, state, and Indian tribe trustees to conduct natural resource damage assessments and restorations
 - Payment of claims for uncompensated response costs and damages
 - Research and development
 - Other specific appropriations

NCP Preparedness



Regional Contingency Plans

- Developed by multi-agency RRTs
- Provide for effective regional response coordination
- Ensure clear roles & responsibilities
- Include information on government, commercial, academic, facilities, & resources in each region
- Follow NCP format
- Should be coordinated with Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) & LEPC plans
- Designates the boundary between the coastal & inland zones

Area Contingency Plans (ACPs)

- Developed by Area Committees led by Federal OSCs
- Provides for effective response coordination for worst case discharges

ACP Contents

- The area covered by the plan
- Responsibilities of public and private entities
- Procedures for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants

- How the plan is integrated into other ACPs and response plans
- A fish and wildlife and sensitive environments plan
- Booming strategies
- Equipment available

More information on the NRS can be found at www.nrt.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the U.S. National Response Team (NRT) website. The browser address bar displays <http://www.nrt.org/>. The page features a navigation menu with links for [About NRT](#), [Member Agencies](#), [RRTs](#), [Sitemap](#), and [Contact Us](#). A search bar is located in the top right corner with the text "SEARCH NRT" and a "GO!" button. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome to the U.S. National Response Team Website** - providing technical assistance, resources and coordination on preparedness, planning, response and recovery activities for emergencies involving hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants, hazmat, oil, and weapons of mass destruction in natural and technological disasters and other environmental incidents of national significance.
- Hot Topics and Current Events** - more...
- Laws, Regulations & Directives** - Laws, Regulations, Directives
- Guidance, Technical Assistance & Planning** - Counter-Terrorism & Homeland Security, Hazards, ESA MOU, Health & Safety, Environmental Restoration, Risk Communication, Technical Assistance, Incident Command System/Unified Command, Databases & Software Tools, Plans, Grants & Funding, Use of Volunteers for Oil Spills Guidelines
- Training, Exercises & Lessons Learned** - Training & Educational Materials, Exercises & Drills, Lessons Learned
- International Coordination** - General Information, [Canada](#), [Mexico](#), [Panama Canal](#)
- To Report Oil and Chemical Spills, and Hazardous Material Releases** - Call the National Response Center: 1-800-424-8802 or 202-267-2675

Additional sections on the right include **Contacts** (Nat'l Response Center, Regional Response Teams, Submit Content Idea), **Quick Links** (NRT Publications, Nat'l Contingency Plan, National Incident Management System, NIMS Online Training, National Response Framework, NRF Training Course, Chemical Hazards: ORGs and other links (excludes oil), Biological Hazards: ORGs and other links, NRT Private Side Login, NRT-RRT Co-Chairs meeting Website, Worker Safety & Health Technical Conference, Selection Guide), **Responder's Toolbox** (Logistics, Media & Public Relations, Resources, Weather), and **User Assistance** (Download Acrobat, Resolve Technical Issues).

The footer contains logos for various partner agencies including EPA, DHS, DOI, USDA, NOAA, and GSA.

Questions?

