



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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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 US Department of Defense (DOD) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been designated as a supporting agency for oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents occurring within the U.S.

DOD has responsibility to take all action necessary with respect to releases where either the release is on, or the sole source of the release is from, any facility or vessel under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of DOD. In addition to those capabilities provided by USACE may also, consistent with its operational requirements and upon request of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), provide specialized equipment and personnel for maintaining navigation channels, for removing navigation obstructions, for accomplishing structural repairs, and for performing maintenance to hydropower electric generating equipment. The USACE can also provide design services, perform construction, and provide contract writing and contract administrative services for other federal agencies.

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

### Primary

**Mr. Michael Crosby, North Atlantic Division  
(Regional Office)**

Phone: (718) 765-7133  
Fax: (718) 765-7221  
24 Hour: (718) 765-7141  
Email: michael.l.crosby@usace.army.mil

### Alternate

**Ms. Kathleen (Micky) Mulvenna,  
Emergency Management Office (Regional Alternate)**

Phone: (215) 656-6757  
Fax: (215) 656-6767  
24 Hour: (215) 656-6760  
Email: kathleen.a.mulvenna@usace.army.mil

### Baltimore District

**Ms. Maria de la Torre**

Phone: (410) 962-4223  
Fax: (410) 962-0076  
24 Hour: (410) 962-2013  
Email: maria.e.delatorre@usace.army.mil

### Pittsburgh District

**Mr. T.J. Fichera**

Phone: (412) 395-7269  
Fax: (412) 644-3593  
24 Hour:  
Email: thomas.j.fichera@usace.army.mil

### Norfolk District

**Mr. Carl Ballard, Jr.**

Phone: (757) 201-7633  
Fax: (757) 201-7833  
24 Hour: (757) 201-7575  
Email: carl.s.ballard@usace.army.mil

### Huntington District

**Mr. Carl Miller, Jr.**

Phone: (304) 399-5383  
Fax: (304) 399-5592  
24 Hour:  
Email: carl.e.miller@usace.army.mil

The USACE is comprised of nine divisions and 45 districts covering the entire United States and more than 91 foreign countries. In the U.S., USACE is divided into eight regional divisions. Each division is further divided into subordinate districts. Division and district boundaries, for the most part, are determined by watersheds. The districts are the operational level of USACE, seeing to the day-to-day activities in all of the mission areas. The USACE has three separate regional business centers that cover the areas within the Region III Regional Response Team area of responsibility: The **North Atlantic Division** – that covers Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, and eastern parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia from the Baltimore, Philadelphia and Norfolk Districts; The **South Atlantic Division** – which addresses the southern areas of Virginia from the Wilmington, NC District; and the **Great Lakes and Ohio River Division** – that covers western and southern parts of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia with their Buffalo, NY, Pittsburgh, PA, Huntington, WV, and Nashville, TN districts.

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## GENERAL

The USACE is made up of approximately 34,600 Civilian and 650 military members. Their military and civilian engineers, scientists and other specialists work hand in hand as leaders in engineering and environmental matters as biologists, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, natural resource managers and other professionals to meet the demands of changing times and requirements as a vital part of America's Army.

Their mission is to provide quality, responsive engineering services to the nation including:

- Planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects (Navigation, Flood Control, Environmental Protection, Disaster Response, etc.)
- Designing and managing the construction of military facilities for the Army and Air Force. (Military Construction)
- Providing design and construction management support for other Defense and federal agencies. (Interagency and International Services)

In the area of oil spill response, USACE has specialized equipment and personnel for use in ship salvage, shipboard damage control, and diving. The traditional role of USACE under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan is to respond to requirements from the National Response Team and to provide general engineering and construction support to that body. In responding to the Exxon Valdez spill, and other spills of national significance (SONS) the Corps can go beyond its traditional role.

## Role/Responsibility

USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities -- the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, and the Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act.

Under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act, the USACE provides disaster preparedness services and advanced planning measures designed to reduce the amount of damage caused by an impending disaster.

Under the Stafford Act, the Corps supports the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in carrying out the National Response Plan, DOD has designated USACE as the primary agency for planning, preparedness, and response under the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3, Public Works and Engineering.

Public Works and Engineering support includes technical advice and evaluations, engineering services, construction management and inspection, emergency contracting, and real estate support. Some of the activities within the scope of ESF #3 include:

- Emergency clearance of debris for reconnaissance of the damage areas and passage of emergency personnel and equipment.
- Temporary construction of emergency access routes which include damaged streets, roads, bridges, ports, waterways, airfields, and any other facilities necessary for passage of rescue personnel.

- Emergency restoration of critical public services and facilities; assessment and repair of water and wastewater treatment facilities.
- Emergency demolition or stabilization of damaged structures and facilities designated by state or local governments.
- Technical assistance and damage assessment, including infrastructure assessment and/or structural inspection of structures.
- Provision of Commodities (Ice, Water); Emergency Power; Logistics Support; GIS/Remote Sensing; Hurricane Impact Modeling; Temporary Housing; Temporary Roofing; Urban Search and Rescue; Local Government Liaison; Deployable Tactical Operations Systems.
- Marine Engineering Services; Rapid HTRW Response Support.

While the USACE is coordinating public works and engineering activities under the Federal Response Plan, it may also be simultaneously providing direct assistance under its own Flood Control and Coastal Emergency authorities.

## Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (P.L. 84-99, as amended)
- Stafford Act, as Amended
- Executive Order 12148 — Federal Emergency Management
- Executive Order 12656 — Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities Executive Order 12656 — Assignment Of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- 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



## Response Requirements

During times of national threat or a Presidential Declaration, the Department of Homeland Security 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. FEMA coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain NGOs by calling up, as needed, one or more of the 15 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 (formerly known as the National Response Plan), the DOD/USACE 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		X
6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services		X
7 Logistics Management and Resource Support		X
8 Public Health and Medical Services		X
9 Search and Rescue		X
10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response		X
11 Agriculture and Natural Resources		X
12 Energy		X
13 Public Safety and Security		X
14 Long-Term Community Recovery		X
15 External Affairs		X