



U.S. Department of the Interior

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The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) is the official Department of the Interior (DOI) point of contact for oil and hazmat emergency preparedness and response. Under the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (NCP), Federal On Scene Coordinators (FOSCs) are responsible for notifying DOI through OEPC's Regional Environmental Officers, who, in turn, contact the appropriate Bureaus and coordinate DOI participation where necessary.

GENERAL

DOI protects, manages, and provides access to our Nation's natural and cultural resources that are located on over 507 million acres across America, approximately one-fifth of the land in the US. DOI accomplishes its mission through its many member bureaus holding direct responsibility for specific resources, including land, water, recreation, and cultural opportunities, Native American lands and needs, domestic energy needs, scientific research, and fish and wildlife stewardship and management. The member bureaus and services include:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs,
- Bureau of Land Management,
- Bureau of Reclamation,
- Minerals Management Service,
- National Park Service,
- Office of Surface Mining,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and
- U.S. Geological Survey.

Under the National Response System, in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, and Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 of the National Response Plan, DOI serves many roles: In a response, DOI:

- Provides response related scientific/technical advice and assistance to Federal OSCs and Remedial Projects Managers to help avoid or minimize injury to natural and cultural resources such as public lands, national parks, threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, and associated habitats.
- Provides leadership, coordinates, and promotes consistency in carrying out the Department's roles and responsibilities under the NCP (40 CFR Part 300). This includes oil discharges and hazardous substance releases contingency planning, emergency and remedial response activities, technical assistance, training, and exercises, in addition to representing the Department on the National, Joint (International), and Regional Response Teams.

- Participates in interdepartmental and intergovernmental efforts relating to the preparedness and response to natural disasters and continuity of government operations. This includes serving on the Departmental Emergency Management Council and coordinating with the Regional Environmental Officers pertaining to such preparedness and response activities nationwide.
- Serves as natural resources trustee in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, the Clean Water Act as amended by the Oil Pollution Act, and implementing Executive Orders and regulations.

Mission and Goals

The Mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

Interior has established five Departmental goals that encompass the major responsibilities of the Department. These goals provide a framework for the strategic plans of Interior's bureaus. The Departmental goals are as follows:

- Protect the environment and preserve our Nation's natural and cultural resources.
- Provide recreation for America.
- Manage natural resources for a healthy environment and strong economy.
- Provide science for a changing world.
- Meet our trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and our commitments to Island communities.



Organization/Structure

OEPC, who FEMA Region III would coordinate with during ESF 10 and other function activations, has eight regional offices:

- Boston, MA
- Philadelphia, PA
- Atlanta, GA
- Denver, CO
- Albuquerque, NM
- Oakland, CA
- Portland, OR
- Anchorage, AK

The Philadelphia Office covers the jurisdictional area served by FEMA Region III.

Role/Responsibility

- Provide assistance and expertise in fish and wildlife resources, geology and hydrology, earthquakes and other natural hazards, minerals, soils, vegetation, mining activities, identification of hazardous substances, biological and general natural resources, cultural resources, matters affecting lands administered by DOI, and matters affecting Indian lands and resources, national parks, wildlife refuges, and fish hatcheries.
- In developing the fish and wildlife and sensitive environments plan for the Area Contingency Plan, the OSC should contact all trustees with natural resources in the area under consideration. This will usually include DOI, the Department of Commerce, and other Federal agencies that manage land in the area, the State, and any tribal trustees in the area.
- Trustees participate on area committees to identify fish and wildlife and sensitive environments and strategies for protecting and treating them. OSCs must obtain concurrence from DOI and the Department of Commerce trustees for pre-approval of application of specific countermeasures such as use of dispersants, in situ burning, bioremediation, and so on.

DOI and FEMA Region III have interfaced during exercises to address hazardous materials related issues, and participate in RRT and RISC activities and exercises.

Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- The National Oil and Hazardous Materials Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- 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
- HSPD-5 Management of Domestic Incidents
- HSPD-7 Critical Infrastructure
- HSPD-8 National Preparedness
- HSPD-9 Defense of United States Agriculture and Food

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 Emergency Support Functions (ESF).

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), DOI and its member bureaus and services play 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		X
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	x
12 Energy		x
13 Public Safety and Security		x
14 Long-Term Community Recovery		x
15 External Affairs		x