



# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) for inland spills and Remedial Project Managers (RPM) for hazardous waste remedial actions under Superfund. As the co-chair of the Regional Response Team, EPA coordinates the Regional Response Team (RRT) decisions and actions necessary to prepare and respond to a discharge or release of an oil or hazardous substance in the inland zone.

## POINTS OF CONTACT:

### Primary

**Mr. Dennis P. Carney**

Phone: (215) 814-3241  
Fax: (215) 814-3254  
24 Hour: (215) 814-3255  
Email: carney.dennis@epa.gov

### Primary Alternate

**Mr. Gerald Heston**

Phone: (215) 814-3273  
Fax: (215) 814-3254  
24 Hour: (215) 814-3255  
Email: heston.gerald@epa.gov

### Back-up

**Mr. Stephen Jarvela**

Phone: (215) 814-3259  
Fax: (215) 814-3254  
24 Hour: (215) 814-3255  
Email: jarvela.stephen@epa.gov

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## GENERAL

EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people.

EPA Region III is the Mid-Atlantic regional office and is responsible for programs in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the region has field operations and laboratories in Wheeling, WV, Annapolis and Ft. Meade, MD., Richmond, VA, Sandersville, PA and Pittsburgh, PA.

Federal environmental programs include air and water pollution control; toxic substances, pesticides and drinking water regulation; wetlands protection; hazardous waste management; hazardous waste site cleanup; and some regulation of radioactive materials. Activities include compliance and enforcement, inspection, engineering reviews, ambient monitoring, analysis of environmental trends, environmental planning, pollution prevention, risk assessment, and education and outreach.

The regional office and its partner state pollution control agencies are responsible for regulating more than 21,000 air pollution sources; 12,000 water pollution sources; and 425 hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. Together, the agencies are responsible for the investigation of 1,500 potential hazardous waste dump sites and the cleanup of 165 sites that have been included or proposed to be on the Superfund National Priorities List.

The region's major program divisions are: Air Protection, Environmental Assessment and Innovation, Hazardous Site Cleanup, Waste and Chemicals Management, Water Protection, and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

## Role/Responsibility

In general, EPA provides:

- Expertise on the environmental effects of oil discharges or releases of hazardous materials and environmental pollution control techniques
- Chair for NRT and Co-Chairs for RRT
- Management of special teams under the NCP, including the Environmental Response Team, National Decontamination Team, and Radiological Environmental Response Team, which provide technical advice and assistance to responders
- Coordination, investigative support, intelligence analysis, and legal expertise on environmental statutes related to oil and hazardous materials incidents, including criminal cases, in support of responders
- Management of the National Counter-Terrorism Evidence Response Team, composed of investigative and scientific personnel to provide investigative, scientific, and forensic technical advice, assistance, and other threat assessment in support of responders

In addition, EPA also provides for the:

- Pre-designated Federal OSC, or lead federal official, for oil or hazardous substance pollution incidents occurring in the inland zone, including coordinating all containment, removal, and disposal efforts and resources during a pollution incident including federal, state, local, and responsible party efforts.



- Support and carryout the broad, national priorities, and framework delineated within the NCP to ensure efficient, coordinated, and effective action to minimize the effects of oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents.
- Development, support and conduct of the regional priorities and framework delineated within the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) to ensure efficient, coordinated, and effective action to minimize the effects of oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents.
- The coordination for the development and maintenance of the Inland Area Contingency Plans (ACPs); the focal point of response planning, providing detailed information on response procedures, priorities, and appropriate countermeasures.
- Assurance that the plans of the National Response System are regularly exercised and that the plans are current and that responsibilities assigned by the plan are tested and understood.

For incidents in which EPA is the primary agency for Emergency Support Function #10, the agency:

- Maintains close coordination between EPA Headquarters and the affected regional office(s), DHS/USCG, and the NRT
- Provides damage reports, assessments, and situation reports to support ESF #5
- Facilitates resolution of conflicting demands of hazardous materials response resources and ensures coordination between the NRT and RRT activities. Coordinates, through Headquarters, the provision of backup support from other regions to the affected area
- Provides technical, coordination, and administrative support and personnel, facilities, and communications for ESF #10
- Coordinates, integrates, and manages the overall Federal effort to detect, identify, contain, decontaminate, clean up, dispose, or minimize, discharges of oil or releases of hazardous materials, or prevent, mitigate, or minimize the threat of potential releases
- Provides OSCs for incidents within its jurisdiction

### Laws/Authorities Governing their Response

- National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) 40CFR 300 et. Seq.
- Clean Water Act as Amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 33 U.S.C. 1321 & Pub. L. 101-380
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act as Amended by the Superfund Reauthorization Act 42 U.S.C. 9605 & Pub. L. 99-499
- Executive Order 12580 – Delegation of Authority
- Executive Order 12777 – Delegation of Authority
- National Response Framework (NRF)
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Stafford Act, as Amended
- Executive Order 13148 – Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management

### 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 EPA and its member offices and services plays a role (either as the Primary or as a Support agency) for the following ESFs:

ESF #	Primary Agency	Support Agency
1 Transportation		
2 Communications		
3 Public Works & Engineering		X
4 Firefighting		X
5 Emergency Management		X
6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services		
7 Logistics Management and Resource Support		
8 Public Health and Medical Services		X
9 Search and Rescue		
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