

**Oceania Regional Response Team
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2010, Standing Meeting
PJKK Federal Building
9th Floor Executive Conference Room
Honolulu, Hawaii**

Attendees:

Honolulu –

Harry Allen – USEPA
Michael Ardito – USEPA
CAPT Eric Brown – USCG
CAPT Barry Compagnoni - USCG
Terry Corpus – HDOH
LT Stacey Crecy – USCG
Chris Curatilo – ERRG, Inc
Carter Davis – HFD
LT Matthew Derrenbacher – USCG
Larry Dove – FEMA
Will Duncan – USEPA
Jeff Farris – HFD
Janis Heple – UC Davis
Stan Keolanui – DCE PACOM
CDR Scott Kim – USCG
Larry Lay - DOH
Mark Macovitz – USCG
Curtis Martin – DOH
Cynthia Pang – Navy Region Hawaii
Lance Richman – USEPA
Elizabeth Robnett – ERRG, Inc.
Sunny Rosales – DCE – PACOM
LCDR Marty Smith – USCG
LT Blair Sweigart – USCG
Chester Wong – PHNSY & IMF

San Francisco –

Robert Brown – GSA
Alvan Phillip – USDOL/OSHA
Patricia S. Port –DOI/OEPC
John Woytak – FEMA

Guam –

LCDR Felton Gilmore – USCG
John Bray - USCG

Saipan –

LT John Peterson – USCG
Max Simian – DEQ

Meeting Started (1220 Hawaii Standard Time): Video Teleconference (VTC) Locations included American Samoa, San Francisco, Samoa, Saipan, and Guam

Introduction: Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA, Co-Coordinator, (Acting) Co-Chair

Mr. Lance Richman began the Oceania Regional Response Team (ORRT) Standing Meeting by thanking all of the individuals for attending the meeting in Honolulu or by VTC. Mr. Brown, the new US Coast Guard Co-Chair, and Mr. Smith, the new US Coast Guard Co-Coordinator, both took a moment to introduce themselves and let everyone know how much they are looking forward to being a part of the ORRT. Mr. Richman then prompted a round of introductions by each attendee at the different locations. Mr. Richman then introduced Larry Lau to provide welcoming comments.

Welcoming Comments: Laurence Lau, Hawaii Deputy Director for Environmental Health

Mr. Lau took a moment to comment on the importance of preparedness work, coordination and teamwork being key elements. Because we are all facing the challenges of limited resources, anything we can do to coordinate and magnify our effort will be of great importance.

Updates from USCG Co-Chair: CAPT Eric Brown, Chief, USCG District 14 (D14) Response Division

CAPT Eric Brown began by acknowledging Mr. Richman for stepping up to the plate and showing his ability to fill the leadership role during the transition in USCG representatives. CAPT Brown also thanked CAPT Compagnoni for his efforts and leadership during the many challenging incidents and events throughout his tour in Hawaii and wishes him luck in Beijing. CAPT Brown also mentioned that LCDR Marty Smith would be leaving for the Gulf for an assignment to help with the recent spill, and wished him luck.

Updates from Co-Coordinators:

October 28, 2010 ORRT standing meeting in Saipan: schedule & training – Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

The next meeting will be held on October 28th in Saipan, CNMI (this would be the 27th in Hawaii, American Samoa, and the Mainland). We're trying to stick to this plan. If there is any issue please email me.

Status of Oceania Regional Contingency Plan – Jurisdictional Boundaries - Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

The Oceania Regional Contingency Plan (ORCP) has been signed and the appendices completed. Many “thanks” to Chris Curatilo from ERRG for completing this plan and doing all of the heavy lifting on pulling together the appendices as well. Everyone undoubtedly realized how important the ORCP is. Our next step will be to look at the inland plans for the Pacific. It is important that these be in the ORCP and we haven’t done it yet. Funding will be helped by having a solid inland contingency plan.

Status of ORRT Training Sub-Committee – Mr. Lance Richman, USEPA Region 9

There have been several starts to the training sub-committee and it has definitely been a grave concern of ours. We are committed to bringing training under the umbrella of the ORRT because we honestly believe that it will be helpful to everyone. We look to the committee to help identify what is needed and to keep track of what is ongoing. Please know that we will be pushing people to engage in this committee. Hopefully Max out in CNMI will be taking on a leadership role with the sub-committee.

Ex USS Chehalis – Success Story! – CAPT Barry Compagnoni, USCG, Sector Honolulu

Thank you to CAPT Brown for the recognition. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you here in Hawaii. I recently wrote a letter to the ORRT that gives a synopsis of the Chehalis operation. The Chehalis exploded and sank in Pago Pago Harbor (American Samoa) in 1948 and 6 sailors were lost. Over many years there was much confusion regarding the ownership of the Chehalis. This prevented the removal of the oil. We decided to look at this from a purely operational standpoint. After the US Navy claimed financial ownership, we were able to put together a team to conduct a dive assessment. 150k gal of fuel were estimated to be on board, however diving calculations proved only 68k gal. We were able to employ many agencies to help with the removal effort. Because of the planning and coordination we were able to remove the fuel faster than planned. The operation took 18days, which was a full week faster than estimated. On the last day of diving one of the navy divers experienced some dizziness, but because the efforts were so well coordinated, there was a decompression chamber on board and everything was fine. The fuel was transited to San Francisco, then sent to a concrete factory in Kansas and was recycled. Part of the success of the Chehalis operation can be attributed to the decision to have a cradle to grave plan prior to going forward.

(This presentation is available on the ORRT website)

Issue for ORRT Consideration:

Hawaiian Harbors and Marine Fire Fighting: Carter Davis, Chair - Honolulu LEPC

The goal in being at this ORRT meeting is to seek council and find solutions. We are seeing many of the same issues with firefighting maritime preparedness - there is much room for improvement.

(This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website)

Battalion Chief – We've been working with the USCG for roughly 9 months to prepare ourselves, because it is in all of our best interest to work together to better our knowledge. It is the policy of neither the HFD nor the USCG to board a vessel to fight fires. We are raising our standards for tanks and barges, which will require companies to have trained firefighting and salvaging capabilities. A potential method of allowing companies to meeting these standards is to include expanding the Clean Islands Council (CIC) to encompass this.

LT Derrenbacher – An option: the next time we inspect a facility that has a high capability for incidents to occur, it may be helpful for you to send a representative from the local fire department who might be the first responder to a fire there.

Temporary Suspension of Certain Oil Spill Response Time Requirements to Support Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill of National Significance (SONS) Response: LT Sweigart, USCG, Sector Honolulu

In mid-June the USCG and EPA release the interim final rule regarding response times for response equipment for pollution. We were forward thinking, looking at how to free up some equipment to release to the Gulf, which is not on the table at this time. Aside from dispersants we have not sent much in the way of equipment to the spill in the Gulf. We are prepared for a spill locally, but are concerned about sending our resources to the Gulf due to the time it takes to receive this equipment back in case of a local response. We have shipped out several people to the Deep Water Horizon response and will continue this kind of effort.

Federal Agency Program Updates

DOI: Ms. Patricia Port, Regional Environmental Officer

There are 8 regional environmental officers who are located all over the country. The 2 most impacted by the spill in the Gulf are the Regional Environmental Officer (REO) in Albuquerque and the one in Atlanta. Between them they have the 4 most effected states in their region. The REOs that back them up are in Philadelphia and Boston, and those who back THEM up are in Anchorage and Portland – both of which have been deployed. We are clearly fully engaged and are in it for the long haul.

GSA: Mr. Bob Brown, Region 9 Emergency Coordinator

To my knowledge, GSA has not been requested to respond to the Deep Water Horizon, however we are prepared to do so if needed. For a number of years an attempt has been made to get together with the US Agency for International Development to prepare plans for disaster response in RMI and FSM. A meeting to discuss plans will begin in August in Washington DC.

FEMA: Mr. John Woytak , HazMat Program Specialist

Beginning with the Deep Water Horizon, although it is not a declared disaster, a mission assignment was given a by Secretary General Janet Napolitano to support the ongoing efforts.

We have 2 x 16 member teams on a 2 week rotation. We have mobiles that were supposed to be out there for 30 days which have been extended another 30 days and will be asked for a 3rd round as well. Our team members are out there doing community relations and media stuff. Our training schedule: 2012 training in Samoa and CNMI, 2013 Marianas Trench earthquake and tsunami exercise, 2014 American Samoa. Region 9 office will be moving to Sacramento in early 2012.

Harry Allen, EPA – In light of this potential stress in the Gulf – we're deploying 2 OSC to serve as EPA representatives to do beach cleanup.

OSHA: Alvan Phillip

We have given 27 million dollars to deal with the response on to the Deep Water Horizon. OSHA's role is to monitor the training and observe the clean-up efforts for the spill in the Gulf. Our homepage is full of the activities that OSHA has identified to help clean-up workers www.osha.gov. There are also multilingual factsheets. We have an OSHA publication 3172 that deals with marine oil spills and an emergency oil spill number 800-321-6742. This number is for any region impacted to coordinate through that number. We'll be sending out a team to the region.

National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences: Janis Heple, UC Davis, Program Director

We are working with OSHA to put together a booklet that can be downloaded from the web, regarding health and safety issues for oil spill clean-up. More of the ground side of it. Harry Allen helped with this. We're putting our trainers through a system we have to help do training for the folks going in and doing the oil spill clean-up. There had been a good amount of involvement through NIEHS.

Regional and State agency updates:

Hawaii Department of Health: Curtis Martin, DOH - HEER

Nothing of significance as far as Hawaii is concerned. We are looking at sending resources to the Gulf. We have met regularly with other agencies to make sure that we will be covered if something goes wrong with all of our equipment deployed to the Gulf should something happen here. It would take easily a month to get our equipment back, so this is a concern.

1345-1358 Break

Lance Richman gave a brief presentation regarding the Inspector Information and Compliance Outreach Presentations that have been going on during the week surrounding the ORRT meeting.

Presentations

Deepwater Horizon SONS impact on local Oil Spill Response Assets: LT Stacey Crecy, USCG, District 14, DRAT Supervisor

(This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website)

U.S. Coast Guard Activities in Guam: LCDR Felton Gilmore, USCG, Sector Guam, Chief Prevention Division

There is very little to report in Guam. There were a couple of vessel groundings and a spider invasion from a port vessel. Currently we are preparing for typhoon season.

John Bray – the Guam Area Contingency plan is the Marianas Island contingency plan. It is undergoing a major overhaul right now. We are adding a marine firefighting annex to the plan and updating many other items, names and numbers. We are preparing for an upcoming Table Top Exercise (TTX). There is currently a Mid-Planning Conference scheduled for next month and a Final Planning Conference planned to follow.

USCG Activities in Hawaii and American Samoa: LT Blaire Sweigart, USCG, Sector Honolulu, Assistant Chief of Incident Management Division

(This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website)

Recent EPA response activity for the Hawaii & Pacific Territories : Will Duncan, US EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator

(This PowerPoint presentation is available on the ORRT website)

(1452 Hawaii Standard Time) CLOSING REMARKS: ORRT Co-Chairs & Co-Coordinators

CAPT Eric Brown – Is very much looking forward to working with CAPT Nguyen who will be coming to fill the position of Chief of Prevention. CDR Kim made us aware that CAPT Nguyen may continue to have extended absences due to his work on the Deep Water Horizon.

Lance Richman – Confirms the next standing meeting for October 28th, 2010 in Saipan, CNMI. They are looking to the training subcommittee to check out the action plan for October.

Thanks very much to everyone for attending the meeting. It's valuable that we continue to work together and coordinate.

We very much hope to see everyone in October.

Acronyms

CAPT	Captain
CDR	Commander
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DOH	Department of Health
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOL	United States Department of Labor
ERRG	Engineering Remediation Resource Group, Inc.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GSA	United States General Services Administration
HDOH	Hawaii Department of Health
HEER	Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response
HFD	Honolulu Fire Department
LCDR	Lieutenant Commander
LT	Lieutenant
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PACOM	Pacific Command
PHNSY & IMF	Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency