

Karen Burgan
Executive Director
U.S. National Response Team
USEPA Headquarters - MC 5104A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Burgan:

This Region 4 RRT report is submitted for the period of January 2006 through December 2006 in accordance with Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan and the NRT request that Regional Response Teams (RRT) provide an annual letter report to the NRT, summarizing recent activities, organizational changes, operational concerns, and efforts to improve state and local coordination.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

A. Major/Noteworthy Response Activities

Coastal Incidents:

Port Manatee Oil Spill, Tampa Bay, Florida: On September 18, 2006 Florida Power and Light reported a small breach in their underground pipeline located at berth #10, Port Manatee. An undetermined amount of Bunker C (#6 oil) was contained in the containment pit, but approximately 900 gallons impacted the waterway. The pipeline was secured upstream but product still remained in the line which was leaking at a rate of approximately one gallon per minute. Vacuum trucks were able to keep up with the leak rate and no additional oil entered the waterway. Water skimming operations were conducted along with shoreline cleanup crews.

M/V Clipper Lasco, Fort Lauderdale, FL: On 14 September 2006 the USCG was notified that the M/V Clipper Lasco grounded near the Port Everglade entrance channel; position 26-07.07N; 080-05.03 W. The vessel is 644.9 foot in length with a draft of 32.1 feet. The ship was loaded with 27344 MT of bauxite. It also had 28.5 MT of diesel on board and 295.5 MT of HFO. On 17 September the contractor began lightering of 2000 MT of cargo. The amount of cargo to be offloaded was expected to allow the vessel to float free. The operation was scheduled to take 24 hours. The dive plan, safety plan, and salvage plan were reviewed and approved. Plans were in place to insure the egress route selected provided adequate clearances. Any high relief of concern was to be marked for avoidance. The RP estimated that post lightering and deballasting, the vessels maximum draft would be 9.6 meters plus or minus 10 cm. Continuous GPS position was recorded during the entire refloat and egress operation for use by later diver assessment teams. On September 20 the vessel was refloated without a spill event.

Coastal Barge #501 Miami FL: On 4 September 2006 a 300 foot barge operated by Coastal Fuel went outside the channel entering the Florida Power & Light Turkey Point facility. The barge was double hulled and reportedly on hard bottom 1/2 mile offshore and 30 feet north of the channel at position 25-27.262N; and 080-18.339W. The barge was loaded with 600,000 gallons of HFO #6 with an API gravity of either 9.8 or 10.9. The Barge was successfully refloated the same day and continued on to the facility. No pollution occurred.

Mystery Spill, Savannah River, GA: At approximately 0640 17 July 2006, MSU Savannah received a report of an oil spill in the Savannah River. An over flight confirmed approximately 5 miles of shoreline was heavily impacted. Product appeared to be a black sludge-like substance, possibly bilge waste. Source was unknown. Oil samples were collected from potential sources. COTP closed the Savannah River from Buoy 24 to Buoy 53 and issued a BTM. The OSLTF was accessed, cleanup contractor hired, and a Unified Command established. Spill estimated at 5,000 gallons of #6 oil. 18 July the Savannah River was opened to one way traffic. Contractor began clean up operations, SCAT team were deployed. Revised estimate of oil was 22,000 gallons. On 11 August the clean up was concluded, the investigation into the spiller continues. A hotwash with lessons learned was held 17 August. Response costs to that time were about 7.5 million dollars.

M/V SPAR ORION, Port Everglades, FL: On May 17, 2006, the bulk carrier MV Spar Orion ran aground near Port Everglades, FL. The cargo was unknown at that time. The vessel was reported to have 480 MT of a heavy fuel oil. The incident occurred at approximately 0630 hours EST. The vessel was reported to be aground on a reef one mile off shore of Port Everglades, FL. The vessels location was 026-07.35N and 080-05.22W. On 18 May 2006, the MV Spar Orion was refloated off the reef under her own power with no pollution. Reef damage assessment was conducted.

Asphalt Barge M-53, Louisville, KY: On January 26, 2006, a runaway barge "M-53" loaded with 19,500 barrels of asphalt allided against a railroad bridge on the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky. The tug M/V Kelly Lee was heading down river with 3 asphalt barges when the breakaway occurred. Two of the barges were recovered, but one barge was trapped against the K&I Railroad Bridge at river mile 607.4. The USCG reported that the barge was lying on its side with the bottom of the barge against the bridge. The barge was also carrying 15,000 gallons of diesel used to keep the asphalt heated. An unknown amount of asphalt and diesel fuel was released into the Ohio River. The river was closed to commercial traffic. Cargo tanks were lightered following the same procedure (access, assessing heating pipes for use or installing new, flexible pipes, heating the asphalt, lightering, venting and securing the tank). Leaking asphalt was discovered through leaking hatches and valves as the asphalt was heated. The asphalt deposited in an area near the bow of the barge. However, asphalt was located up to 30 miles down river. The vessel was salvaged in May. The total amount of product spilled was estimated at 220,000 gallons of asphalt, 4,000 gallons of thermal heating oil, and 5,000 gallons of diesel. As of May 31st, 13,000 gallons of product had been removed from the river bottom using a crane and bucket.

Stafford Act Incident:

Hurricane Katrina, Biloxi, MS: The 2005 Hurricane Season carried clean up and recovery efforts into 2006. The EPA, USCG, and States continued to form joint response teams, operating out of the Unified Incident Command Post (ICP) in Biloxi, Mississippi. The remaining areas of Emergency Support Function (ESF-10) clearance continued in the Jackson, Harrison and Hancock Counties of Mississippi. Clean up efforts were ongoing with the EPA and USCG continuing ESF-10 assessments/clearances and recovery operations of the coastal zone under a joint EPA, USCG, ADEM, and MDEQ Unified Command. ESF – 10 activities included household hazardous waste (HHW) reconnaissance and collection on a parcel by parcel basis and occasional AST and drum recovery. ESF-10 clearance items collected ranged

in size from multi-thousand gallon tanks to small household hazardous waste containers. All operations to restore affected areas along Mississippi's coast line and affected areas for ESF-10 activity ceased in June 2006.

Field operations consisted of:

- Parcel-by-Parcel ESF-10 Completion Assessment
- Household Hazardous Waste Recovery
- Above Ground Storage Tank Recovery
- Collection Point Management
- Landfill Monitoring

Inland Incidents:

Oak Grove Mercury Spill, Durham, NC: The event reportedly began when an employee of a local air conditioning company had taken approximately 5 to 6 pounds of elemental mercury from his jobsite. Unaware of mercury's toxic effects, the individual went to his church and distributed what he called 'magic water' to four children. The children took the mercury home over the weekend and then to school and contaminated their classmates. Further contamination was a result of one child spraying other children at school with a mercury filled spray bottle. A concerned parent noticed mercury beads on her child's clothing and immediately notified the Poison Control Center who then contacted the Durham County Public Health Department (DCPHD). EPA Region 4 was contacted by an NC State Health Department Toxicologist requesting assistance for mercury cleanup and removal. The scope of this response included, air monitoring screening activities and removal of mercury at numerous sites including 26 residences, one church and one school in Durham, North Carolina. Removal activities were conducted by EPA's Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor, CMC Inc. The Army Corps of Engineers assisted with appraisal and oversight of items removed as contaminated. The clearing of all 28 mercury contaminated sites in Durham was successfully completed on June 5, 2006. Major activities included collection, screening and disposal of clothing, flooring, and walls from several sites; and final check distributions. Combined efforts from local authorities, emergency crews, ACOE, DCPHD with EPA, START, and ERRS provided for a safe and practical clearing of all contaminated sites.

EQ Apex Facility Fire, Apex, NC: On October 5, 2006 a hazardous waste disposal facility located in Apex, NC and operated by EQ caught on fire. Due to large amount of hazardous material on site, the City of Apex Fire Chief evacuated a 5 mile area around the facility. No fatalities were reported. EPA provided air monitoring and extent of evacuation advice. The fire was extinguished during the early morning of October 7, 2006 by EQ's environmental contractor (USES) and the residents were allowed back in their homes by noon. All EPA resources were released on October 8, 2006. OSC James Webster met and NCDENR personnel conducted oversight of the clean up in accordance with the facility's RCRA permit.

Proserve Warehouse Fire, Memphis, TN: On, August 5, 2006, EPA responders were dispatched to a fire at the Pro-Serve Facility located in Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee. The incident was reported to have started on August 4, 2006. The fire initially thought to have been extinguished on August 4th, flared up at an adjacent facility, IBC Manufacturing Company, a maker of wood preservatives, sometime during the early morning hours of August 5th. After the second fire on 8/5, the TEMA contacted OSC Spurlin for

support.

No mandatory evacuations were issued and air monitoring did not indicate elevated levels of airborne contaminants. The Pro-serve facility retained the services of a cleanup contractor and air monitoring consultant on August 4, 2006. Upon arrival OSC Spurlin reported a fish kill in the Nonconnah Creek, adjacent to the facility. DOI and the Tennessee Department of Environmental Control (TDEC) were notified. IBC Manufacturing hired environmental response contractor, Hepaco Inc., to address hazmat issues at their facility.

The response by the companies' environmental contractors was hindered by continued flare-ups. An aboveground chemical tank continued to burn and smoke and proved difficult to extinguish. Efforts focused on removing and containerizing runoff wastewater from a ditch and on-site areas, constructing runoff control measures, segregating impacted waste from non-impacted products on-site, and air monitoring for worker and off-site safety.

Cleanup efforts continued over the next several weeks. Waste materials, both hazardous and non-hazardous, were segregated on-site. An area of the ditch containing a black waste material, suspected to be from previous releases, was excavated. After receiving proper approvals, waste waters were discharged to the City POTW. Air monitoring continued throughout all activities. Upon completion of the emergency phase, responsibility for long term remediation was transitioned to TDEC.

B. RRT Meetings

- The first meeting of the year was held in Savannah, GA on February 14-16, 2006
- The second meeting was held Erlanger, KY on August 8-10, 2006
- Our next meeting is in Cocoa Beach, FL on February 6-8, 2007

C. Committee and Working Group Updates

The Region 4 RRT has currently completed or working on the following projects:

Completed Projects.

- Pre-approval for use of solidifiers.
- RRT 4 Wildlife Response Plan

Projects Under Development/Resolution.

- Identify standard notification guide for all RRT OSC agencies and identify trustee planning and response contacts within the Region
- Countermeasure decision points for use of dispersants over coral reefs
- Review and Update Region 4 Bioremediation Use Plan
- Identification of pollution response issues involving Indian Tribes
- From Ecological Risk Assessment Workshop:
 - Revise Dispersant and In-situ Burn Use Plans to nearer shore applicability

- Streamline decision-making information needs
- Develop Countermeasure Decision Matrix Tool
- Revise resource and logistics information for Dispersant and In-situ Burn Use Plans
- Product Schedule alignment with Selection Guide by developing definitions of Product Schedule alternative technologies. Will allow for development of pre-approval criteria for use of “niche” technologies for more efficient and effective response.
- Develop list of training topics for presentation at RRT meetings. Particular emphasis on State needs for individuals and organizations that are not RRT members/representatives.
- Revision of the roadside spill pamphlet.

II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A. Training:

- Information on EPA’s National Decontamination Team was provided at the October 2006 meeting.
- Training on the National Response Plan changes was conducted during the Oct 2006 meeting.
- Information on planning and response efforts for a pandemic flu was provided at the Feb 2006 meeting.
- Information on lessons learned from the regional summit of agriculture responders on hurricane response was provided at the Feb 2006 meeting.
- Training on use of the ALOHA/CAMEO updated programs was provided at the Feb 2006 meeting.

B. Exercises and Workshops:

- *Sector Jacksonville Government led PREP exercise.* Exercise held in Jacksonville, Florida on September 11-15, 2006.
- A workshop on use of the Selection Guide, and how to evaluate use of surface washing agents, was held during the Aug 2006 meeting.
- *Southern Crossing 2006 National Radiation Exercise (SC – 06):* The Department of Energy exercised its responsibility, in the event of a major radiological incident, to establish and manage the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC). The FRMAC provides coordinated federal assistance in the off-site areas of a radiological incident to the impacted state(s) and the Coordinating Agency responsible for regulation and for operation of the incident site. In meeting this responsibility, the Department of Energy has developed policies and procedures to respond to a major radiological incident and has determined the need to conduct exercises testing these protocols. SC-06 was a full-scale, free play field exercise conducted from August 14 – 18, 2006. Free play provided a meaningful learning environment for performance improvement within which organizations were expected to respond in accordance with established procedures, plans, and policies. This exercise

encompassed the deployment and integration of local, State, and Federal resources and focused on command and control, data flow, and coordination. The Field play incorporated real-time deployment and 24-hour operations in a radiological dispersal device (RDD) scenario. EPA and the USCG participated in the unified command and field component.

- *COOP 2007*: The purpose of COOP-2007, USEPA Region 4 COOP exercise, was to test the readiness and capability of the USEPA Region 4 resources to relocate and maintain operational capability in the event of a required long-term relocation from the primary operations center, at the Sam Num Atlanta Federal Center (SNAFC). On November 15 – 16, 2006, an exercise was conducted, including a set of incident scenarios to test incident command system capabilities.
- *SONS '07*: EPA and the USCG have held a series of planning meetings to prepare for a full scale exercise along the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Planning will continue, leading up to the a three day full scale exercise in June.

C. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Issues Efforts

- *Area Contingency Plans*. Approved plans have been forwarded to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute where they are being digitized to include GIS data. An initial set of digitized plans was used during the Sector Jacksonville Government led PREP exercise. All plans are expected to be completed by the end of FY07.
- *Regional Area Contingency Plan*. A review of the RACP has begun to determine areas needing revision, in line with the NRP and NIMS.
- *Airport and Seaport Biological Response Plans*. CDC, PHS, INS, FBI, Customs, USCG, FAA, the State of Florida health and emergency management agencies are developing template response plans for addressing contagious disease and biological response for the airports and seaports.
- *Inland River Area Planning*. EPA and 8th District working to identify planning priorities and needs for the region's river systems in an effort to develop Area Contingency Plans. An Ohio River Umbrella Plan is being developed as a bridging document between the many different MOUs, MOAs and plans along the river.

D. International Outreach.

- RRT4 members assisting with REMPEITC project in Belize to determine risk to sensitive resources from spill events.

III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

- As a result of some issues associated with reorganization, the Coast Guard Co-Chair position is under review.

IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION

- Review and modification of Product Schedule to be in alignment with Selection Guide.
- Funding for some Federal agencies for travel to attend the RRT meetings is becoming problematic.

- Implementation Guidelines for NIMS to provide to State representatives.

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J. J. O'Connor, Capt, USCG (Date)
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair
Seventh Coast Guard District

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Shane Hitchcock (Date)
EPA Co-Chair
U.S. EPA, Region 4