

## Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

<b>Region:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Calendar Year:</b>	<b>2024</b>
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	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	May	Virginia Beach, VA	70 (in person)	<a href="https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=151">https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=151</a>
2.	Dec	College Park, MD	61 (in person)	<a href="https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=151">https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=151</a>

<b>B. Activations / Notifications</b>	
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1.	<b>Dates:</b>	2/7/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Jawbone Run	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>		Discharge of oil that could impact Jawbone Run a tributary of the Buckhannon River.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		EPA, West Virginia DEP					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>		This discharge occurred in the inland zone and EPA will provide the lead Federal On-Scene Coordinator who coordinated with state and local responders. ERRS contractors arrived on site and initiated actions to mitigate potential migration of oil from the site. EPA's START contractor was activated to assist with air monitoring and mobilized to the site in the morning of 2/8.					
2.	<b>Dates:</b>	3/1/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Sandston Chloropicrin Response	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>		On 2/29/24, EPA was contacted by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) regarding a local and Commonwealth response to a private residence. The resident had likely become exposed to chloropicrin, a toxic chemical used in old safes (circa 1920s) as a theft deterrent. The resident was treated for exposure. Further investigation by the local hazmat team revealed the presence of numerous small quantity containers of other chemicals used in the production of pharmaceuticals. VDEM requested EPA assistance with proper categorization and disposal.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		EPA, VDEM					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>		Based on the findings of the removal assessment conducted on 3/2-24-3/3/24, the OSC prepared an Action Memo pursuant to the OSC's Delegated Authority Under CERCLA 104 and EPA Region 3 Delegation 14-2 where Site conditions present an emergency. EPA subsequently stabilized and disposed of the hazardous substances.					
3.	<b>Dates:</b>	3/28/2024	<b>Event:</b>	CEP-9: OWWO spill	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>		March 28, 2024: Spill of 10K gallons of oily waste water at Naval Station Norfolk. Spill created a large sheen on the Elizabeth River but bulk of spill remained on-station. Navy resources and an OSRO (HEPACO) responded and contained the spill. Recovery lasted two days. A failed check valve in the system was determined to be the cause.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		Dept of Navy, USCG					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>		This was not a unified command and was handled internally by the Navy with input from USCG.					

4.	<b>Dates:</b>	5/29/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Delaware City Refinery Spill	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	On May 29, 2024, 588 gallons of crude oil was released due to a pipeline failure at the Delaware City Refinery. Product entered local waterways. USCG Sector Delaware Bay served as the FOSC.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	DOI, USFWS, USCG						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	Sector initiated Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and used the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool to make determinations for the threatened Bog Turtle and Northern Long-Eared Bat and requested BMPs and concurrence for response tactics.						
5.	<b>Dates:</b>	6/4/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Wilburton Coal Fire - Columbia County	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Fire at coal surface mine site resulting in smoke constituents affecting neighboring residents. EPA activated to support DEP w/ air monitoring of the community until the threat had passed due to firefighting activities.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	None reported						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	None reported						
6.	<b>Dates:</b>	7/6/2024	<b>Event:</b>	South Hill Warehouse Fire	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	A single passenger vehicle accident damaged propane tanks on the side of a pesticide warehouse located in downtown South Hill (Mecklenburg County). A fire propagated through the warehouse, and over one million gallons of firefighting water was applied to the fire. The contaminated firefighting water discharged to headwaters of two separate watersheds, and the contaminated discharge threatened three drinking water intakes and resulted in recreational and fish consumption advisories. The water intakes had to take protective measures including using alternate sources, interconnecting with other jurisdictions, and limiting water usage.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Town of South Hill (+Local EM, Fire Department), surrounding FDs, VDEM (+RHMO, Region 3), DEQ (incl. PREP, Water Monitoring, Land Protection Program), VDH (+ ODW, OEHS, LHD), EPA (+START Contractor), Nutrien Ag Solutions (+contractors)						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Due to volume of firefighting water and lack of capacity and equipment at beginning of event, discharge contaminated firefighting water to stormwater conveyance systems and surface water until contractors, vac trucks and frac tanks could be mobilized. frac tanks could be mobilized.</li> <li>o Due to associated odors and potential toxicity, flush stormwater conveyance systems and headwaters with municipal water to dilute contaminated firefighting water.</li> <li>o Set up perimeter air monitoring.</li> <li>o Formation of a unified command to establish response objectives and coordinate distribution of information.</li> <li>o Once contractors and equipment were mobilized, recovery trenches were dug at several points around the site to collect runoff. Vac trucks were placed at ends of trenches and at drop inlets to recover contaminated runoff. Collected runoff was discharged into frac tanks.</li> <li>o Split surface water samples with the responsible party and monitor for downstream impacts (biological and chemical) as contaminants migrated downstream.</li> <li>o Stand up an incident specific webpage to share information and monitoring data with the public.</li> <li>o Coordinate with VDH on data collection and evaluation to issue recreational and fish consumption advisories.</li> <li>o Share information with downstream state of North Carolina.</li> <li>o Review RCRA waste determinations for wastewater and debris generated during incident response, including commercial chemical product listing issues related to 2,4-D.</li> </ul>						



		VDH, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) began investigating the odor and collecting initial samples on August 21. DEQ and VDH collected water quality field data and surface water samples, and made visual and olfactory observations at the WTP, on the river immediately after the odor appeared in the WTP, and at the water distribution system. Neither DEQ nor VDH found evidence of a release from the Rapidan River. DEQ collected multiple rounds of source water area samples and there was no visual or olfactory evidence of a release from the Rapidan River into the WTP. From the investigation’s start on August 21, 2024, state agencies had 98 total samples analyzed for over 2,357 individual analyte results. Analyses included 21 published analytical methods by certified laboratories and six research or pending publication methods. The state agencies informally coordinated or contracted with laboratories specializing in unknown contaminant identifications and taste and odor. Three chemicals not associated with disinfection by-products were found – isovanillin, Bis(2-chloroethyl) ether (BCEE) and benzaldehyde. After extensive investigation and sampling, on September 13, 2024, VDH determined that a catastrophic failure of a raw water pump at the intake from the Rapidan River caused the objectionable odor. The catastrophic pump failure occurred on August 20, the day before customers noticed the objectionable odor. About two to three gallons of food grade mineral oil was released. The food grade mineral oil was likely thermally altered, burned, or scorched from the catastrophic pump failure. A taste and odor (T&O) expert in Texas recreated the “WD-40” odor by heating a sample of the food grade mineral oil used in the submersible pumps at the WTP. The T&O expert followed the new Standard Method 2150D Attribute Rating Test to determine that the food grade mineral oil in the failed pumps matched the odor from water samples that VDH collected in the distribution system during the objectional odor event.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Agencies involved: Rapdian Service Authority, Orange County, Virginia Department of Health - Office of Drinking Water, VDEQ (+State Lead Contractor), VDEM Technological Hazards and Regional Office, Department of Consolidated Laboratory Services, Spotsylvania County, Virginia Tech, Water Source & Purification Superintendent at City of Wichita Falls – Water Source & Purification Divisions						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	Key Decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Stand up a Unified Command that included Rapidan Service Authority, VDH and DEQ.</li><li>o Stand up an incident specific webpage to provide the public with the most up to date information on the investigation.</li><li>o Utilized screening tests and draft analytical methods to help focus on potential causes of the odor.</li></ul>						
12.	<b>Dates:</b>	8/25/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Motor Yacht LOVEBUG Capsized	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	104-foot yacht capsized with a non-recoverable light sheen visible. Sector responded for a 35-day operation that included a safety zone and monitoring the salvage of the vessel. IMD personnel ensured no further threat to the environment during salvage operations. Team worked through challenge of delayed operations due to Tropical Storm Debby making landfall at incident location.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG, MDE, Tow Boat, DonJon Marine, and Navy SUPSALV						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	Sorbent boom deployed; salvage plan required and managed by DonJon Marine. Vessel safely taken through C&D Canal to Sec Del Bay’s AOR. 8,000 gallons of diesel prevented from discharging.						
13.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/9/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Brunswick County Abandoned Materials	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	This incident involved over 5,000 assorted containers abandoned in an college that has been closed for at least 10 years. The situation was brought to attention of local officials due to pictures and videos of urban explorers making entry to the unsecured property. Many of the containers involved potentially reactive materials. Local, state, and federal response partners worked together to secure the site and to have the materials removed.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Local public safety, Local emergency management, VDEM, VDEQ, US EPA						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	None provided						
14.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/12/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Vane Brothers, Wilmington Spill	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	

	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>		Tri-State's oiled wildlife response team was activated to respond to a spill of #6 fuel oil into the Christina River in Wilmington, DE. Vane Brothers was the RP and Tri-State was contracted by Gallagher Marine Systems on behalf of Vane Brothers. A total of fourteen oiled laughing gulls and one oiled common snapping turtle were captured. One laughing gull and the snapping turtle were released. The low survival rate of the gulls was presumably due to the birds experiencing poor health before becoming oiled. Many of the gulls showed signs consistent with aspergillosis, a respiratory fungal infection that can be fatal for birds.										
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		USCG Sector Delaware Bay, USFWS Spill Response Region 5, DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife										
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>		Gallagher Marine Systems played a key role in the wildlife response by providing vessels for on-water wildlife surveys and capture. Nearly all of the impacted gulls were captured on the water. Tri-State and Gallagher worked together to implement some deterrence strategies to prevent the gulls from becoming oiled; a lesson-learned was to implement these strategies as soon as possible during future spills.										
15.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/15/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Medical Waste on Chincoteague and Assateague						<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>		On September 15, 2024, medical waste began to wash up on the beaches of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore. Plastics, needles, feminine hygiene products, and other debris began washing up on Maryland’s recreational beaches, as well as the Maryland and Virginia sides of Assateague Island. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the National Park Service, the Virginia Department of Health, and the U.S. Coast Guard surveyed the northern portion of the Virginia shoreline on Assateague Island and documented the deposition of plastics, including bottles, caps, dental picks, feminine hygiene products and needles. A Unified Command was formed to ensure key stakeholders maintained a common operating picture, provide support to public and non-profit landowners along the Eastern Shore and Barrier Islands, and interface with Maryland and Delaware. Assessment teams, including volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team as coordinated through the Virginia Department of Health, participated in a cleanup operation in conjunction with the National Park Service. By September 20, all beach access and use restrictions in Virginia, and most restrictions in Maryland, had been rescinded.										
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		Virginia (DEQ, VDEM, DWR, DCR, VMRC, VIMS, W&M, VT, Town of Chincoteague, County of Accomack, County of North Hampton, City of Hampton); Federal (NPS, USFWS, NASA - Wallops, EPA, USCG); Other states (MEMA, MDE, DEMA); The Nature Conservancy										
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>		<p>Key Decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Used a Commonwealth of Virginia Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) to support incident coordination across states, agencies, local governments, and natural resource trustees.</li><li>o Used ESRI Field Maps to collect field data to build a common operating picture of types of materials and distribution of materials in the field.</li><li>o Used Medical Reserve Corps and Community Emergency Response Team.</li><li>o Used Virginia Tech researchers to assess conditions on barrier islands.</li><li>o Evaluated jurisdiction, authority and responsibility as related to regulated medical waste, which is regulated by the states.</li></ul> <p>DOI and SOL coordinated an internal call to discuss response options as medical waste is not a discharge or release that would activate USCG coordination under OPA or CERCLA. Maryland Department of the Environment coordinated efforts to identify a source and collect the medical waste. FWS and NPS have capabilities to pursue reimbursement for damages outside of OPA and CERCLA and were working with partners to identify a potential responsible party. A RP was not identified for this case.</p>										
16.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/26/2024	<b>Event:</b>	M/V SSI DEFIANT						<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	On September 26, 2024, the M/V SSI DEFIANT lost propulsion while in the Chesapeake Bay and needed to be escorted to Baltimore Harbor. While at dock, a sheen coming from the vessel was reported due to a crack in the bulkhead of on of the cargo wash tanks.  NOAA satellite detected a sheen from the vessel offshore; subsequent discharge while transiting through Port of Baltimore. Sector opened OSLTF for \$50,000 to account for direct and indirect federal costs. Prevention and Response Departments worked in tandem to determine source of discharge and eliminate the threat.								
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	DOI, USFWS, USCG, MDE, Flag Surveyors								
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	USCG Sector Maryland-NCR initiated ESA Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS provided recommendations for avoidance and minimization measures to be implemented as part of the response.  Activation of Vessel Response Plan and multi-agency coordination. \$50,000 response plan initiated; \$29,000 in indirect costs billed; 300 gallons discharged with a \$2,750 violation. 180,000 gallons of oil mitigated.								
17.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/26/2024	<b>Event:</b>	St Pauls College			<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	VDEM requested EPA support to conduct a Removal Assessment to identify types and quantities of chemicals that were left in place when the College ceased operations in 2013. EPA received access by the owner's legal counsel to conduct a Removal Assessment of the College's Science Building.								
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	City of Lawrenceville, Fire Marshal Town of Lawrenceville, VA representatives VDEM, VDEQ, EPA								
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	EPA has conducted a Removal Assessment, and had identified more than 3,500 chemical containers left in place at the College. Many of the contents indicate the presence of hazardous substances as listed in 40 CFR 302.4. EPA will develop a spreadsheet to present to the Unified Command with the owner's permission. The spreadsheet will be provided to the PRP property owner to utilize to secure a contractor to address the removal of hazardous materials left at the College's Science Lab. Efforts were made to enforce the PRP to conduct the cleanup. Ultimately, EPA initiated a fund lead cleanup.								
18.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/27/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Tropical Storm Helene			<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Tropical Storm Helene affected primarily the Southwestern counties of Virginia and a few counties along the Blue Ridge. Virginia received a federal Disaster Declaration for 37 Counties. All 37 counties are eligible for public assistance, and 18 counties are eligible for Individual Assistance. Impacts included loss of infrastructure (e.g., roads, water distribution systems, and portions of wastewater conveyance systems), storm debris (both land and marine debris), fugitive oil and hazardous materials, and changes in stream alignments.  Hurricane Helene caused a massive flooding event that caused the release of oil substances from numerous vessels, tanks, containers, and drums in the lake. EPA assessed the damage from Hurricane Helene at the request from the Commonwealth of Virginia to in responding to floating containers and oil tanks that were dislodged during the flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. EPA will be assisting with assessing/categorizing/sampling of materials from drums/tanks/containers for disposal and arranging for disposal of oil substances.								
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	VDEM, Virginia Emergency Support Team (all state, federal partners), FEMA, USACE, EPA, NRCS								
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	Key Decisions: o Commonwealth of Virginia immediately requested EPA assistance under EPA's National Contingency Plan authorities to assist with the recovery of petroleum related tanks and containers. Subsequently, the COV submitted a Mission Assignment request to FEMA to task EPA with an expanded mission to assist with the recovery of oil/hazmat tanks and containers, household hazardous wastes, propane tanks, white goods, asbestos containing materials.								



6.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/7/2024	<b>Event:</b>	The Deluge: 8 County Exercise
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	WV DEP, EPA, 8 WV Counties		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	The exercise scenario was a massive weather event that caused widespread release of hazardous substances and discharge of oil to waterways across 8 counties in WV. It was the 15th year of this annual exercise, each having a different scenario. This exercise testing communication, readiness, and plans should a real event happen.		
7.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/11/2024	<b>Event:</b>	South Central PA GRP Development
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	PADEP, EPA, Local responders		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	The training and exercise took place over several days and focused on testing the execution and validating recently designed GRPs for south central Pennsylvania. It involved both delivery of training and a field exercise component. Tools utilized included digital GRPs that were placed on the EPA R3 viewer as well as in the field assets such as boats and booms provided by local responders.		
8.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/12/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Annual AMSTEP Functional Exercise
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Local PD, Local EOC, FBI, NWS, Industry Partners, USCG		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	USCG MSU Pittsburgh conducted its annual AMSTEP exercise which consisted mainly of a security breach situation, however, this situation led to a simulated discharge of oil after the affected vessel ran aground. The exercised location was in the vicinity of Brunot Island on the Ohio River.		
9.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/13/2024	<b>Event:</b>	GIUE-Williams
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	Conducted GIUE on Williams facility located on the Ohio River in West Virginia. GIUE consisted of notifications and response to the average most probable discharge as identified in the facility's response plan. Facility successfully completed the GIUE.		
10.	<b>Dates:</b>	9/17/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Philadelphia Federal Executive Board (FEB) Resilience Seminar and Tabletop Exercise
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	OPM, GSA, FEMA, SSA, DOL, HHS, EPA, FPS, USDA, U.S. Mint, NARA, SBA, IRS, HUD, USACE, CBP, ATF, FDA, SEC		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	<p>Interagency tabletop exercise which focused on personal and professional preparedness in a widespread power outage scenario. The objectives were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access ability to perform essential functions in a hybrid/distributed work environment. The discussion should focus heavily on staff who work remotely (e.g. from home).</li> <li>2. Assess personal and family preparedness in a hybrid/distributed work environment.</li> <li>3. Identify continuity/preparedness measures to mitigate risk to essential functions.</li> </ol>		
11.	<b>Dates:</b>	10/8/2024	<b>Event:</b>	Ergon Ironton GIUE
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise		
12.	<b>Dates:</b>	11/13/2024	<b>Event:</b>	GIUE-MPLX
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	Conducted GIUE on MPLX facility located on the Ohio River in Pennsylvania. GIUE consisted of notifications and response to the average most probable discharge as identified in the facility's response plan. Facility successfully completed the GIUE.		
13.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>	VESTEx 2024
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Numerous Virginia state agencies and localities		



	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	This Functional Exercise (FE) included approximately 375 participants including 29 localities over the two days and various locations.  The exercise was held in May, 2024.		
14.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>	VOPEX24
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	Numerous local and state agencies, FEMA		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>	This six-hour Functional Exercise included over 450 participants. The purpose of this exercise is to evaluate player actions for a nuclear power plant-related incident.		

#### D. Changes in RRT Leadership

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) VA DEQ	John Giese was promoted to DEQ Director of PREP/ Communications / H&S	Elizabeth “Beth” Lohman returned to DEQ as Manager of Office Pollution Response & Emergency Preparedness
2) ATSDR		Michael Byrns, new Regional Director
3) USCG - Sector Maryland-National CapitolRegion (D5)	CDR Concepcion (Response Dept Head); LCDR Wrieden (EMFR); MST1 Rhue (FOSCR)	TBD
4) VDEM	Shawn Talmadge, State Coordinator	John Scrivani, State Coordinator (acting)
5) VDEM		Andy John, Deputy State Coordinator for Field Operations
6) Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc	Donnell Boney	Patrick Hogan, Oil Programs Director
7) GSA	Bee Umar, Emergency Management Specialist, will be transferring to GSA Region 9 in March 2025.	TBD
8) USCG - Sector Ohio Valley (D8) MSU Huntington	CDR William Albright	CDR Christopher Weiser

#### E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)

- Emerging Pollution Response Technology Evaluation: Mechanical Recovery, Dielectric Fluids. The U.S. Coast Guards Research and Development Center and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcements Oil Spill Preparedness Division published an evaluation of four different skimmers (“fuzzy” disc, brush, filter belt, and grooved disc) and how they performed collecting synthetic ester dielectric fluid. This fluid is widely used as part of offshore wind energy generation and in related facilities. The report developed knowledge about the skimmers’ capabilities with dielectric fluids that spill or may likely spill into U.S. Coastal waters. The evaluation was released in August, 2024 and is available to the public.
- Best Practices: Continued use of unmanned aerial platforms for information; Working with local/state/federal partners to continually refine process
- Continued training and collaboration is of paramount importance for continued success.

- Continued training and collaboration is the blue print for success. Clearly defining roles and responsibilities ahead of the incident
- Continued use of the ESA consultation form during cases.
- Emphasize the importance of having multiple OSROs contracted to facilities to hopefully improve GIUE results.
- Some facilities have steep and narrow access points to the marine transfer area. As such, facilities must communicate the access issues to OSROs to ensure that equipment is brought that is able to get to marine transfer area.
- Trends: Unintended chemical reactions; Acquisition of materials determined to be hazardous; Alternative energy source issues (batteries, CNG)
- Use of incident-specific webpages to build public trust
- Use of COV's Incident Management Assistance Team to support response
- Use of FEMA Mission Assignments to augment state resources and operations
- Conducting a comprehensive After Action Review (AAR) of significant incidents to identify opportunities for improvement and enhancement.

#### **F. Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Planning and Coordination Efforts**

- Tri-State hosted an Intro to Oiled Wildlife Response workshop at our facility in Newark, DE on Oct 17th. The workshop was attended by local oil industry, government agency, and Coast Guard members.
- GSA Hurricane Preparedness Training - 3 sessions in May 2024
- GSA-FEMA Disaster Lease Training - 6/20/24
- Joint exercise with US Army on medical / emergency response during hostile situations
- 03-06 SEPT: Pollution Responder College hosted by Sector Maryland-NCR, attended by 13 AD, RSV, and AUX
- 16-19 SEPT: IMD hosted a SR-UAS Ground School led by USCG HQ Instructor.
- Four members from IMD attended Marine Fire Fighting Task Force- Marine Response Awareness Level 1 Training
- ESC established 03 new subcommittees: Risk Analysis, GRS Validation, and Training/Exercises within Area Committee.
- Virginia Area Committee Meeting, Hampton (8/20/24)
- Port of Virginia Marine Firefighting Command School, Virginia Beach Fire Training Center (10/14/24 – 10/18/24)
- National Port Partners Summit, Norfolk (11/5/24 – 11/6/24)
- Virginia Area Committee Meeting, Eastern Shore (11/19/24)

#### **G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)**

- Due to staffing shortages throughout the Coast Guard, all personnel stationed at our boathouse, Detached Duty Huntington, have been reassigned to other areas along with the small response boats.
- Maintaining interest of OSROs to participate in GIUEs.
- Pollution Removal Funding Authorization - DOI/USFWS requests that the RRT hold a discussion on uses of PRFAs during a response and when and how they are issued to Other Federal Agencies and under what circumstances. There have been times when DOI/USFWS have felt a PRFA was warranted for a spill to allow FWS expertise to be more readily available to the OSC and to ensure BMPs are put in place to mitigate impacts to trust resources.
- Supplying Emergency Management Division with civilian Contingency Planning Specialist to offer continuity with Area Committee.