



## Alaska Regional Response Team



# 2025

## Winter Newsletter

*The Alaska RRT Coordinators and Area Committee Secretaries and Planners present the following information on recent and upcoming projects and events. Please RSVP or register for meetings - this helps us plan better for meeting spaces and provide you with additional meeting information and materials. Next Alaska RRT meeting: March 5, 2025.*

*Did you miss the Fall Alaska RRT Meeting? View the presentations and a summary of the meeting at: [www.alaskarrt.org](http://www.alaskarrt.org).*

### Alaska RRT Highlight Regional Stakeholder Committee Task Force:

Since August 2022, a diverse group of organizations has met virtually and in-person to collaboratively develop job aids that Liaison Officers (LOFR) and Regional Stakeholder Committee (RSC) members can turn to for support during an oil spill response. The RSC is unique to the Alaska stakeholder engagement process and is intended to provide a direct voice for non-agency stakeholders within the unified command structure.

An RSC is composed of non-agency stakeholders directly affected by an incident. The RSC process allows local knowledge, concerns, and resources to be incorporated into incident management decision-making, ideally creating a comprehensive and effective response. It builds trust between affected stakeholders and the Unified Command (UC) and ensures all those directly affected receive the same response information and status updates. It also helps the LOFR streamline job duties by eliminating the need to coordinate with directly affected entities individually. In addition, having affected entities participate in the RSC process helps prioritize local issues and concerns, and helps manage requests and the allocation of limited response resources.

The *Liaison Officer Job Aid for Regional Stakeholder Committees* provides a guide for LOFRs to manage the RSC process within a response while the complimentary *Stakeholder Job Aid for Regional Stakeholder Committees*

provides RSC members with information about their roles and responsibilities within an RSC and how they can best represent their organizations, communities, and/or other interests. While the RSC members may not have in-depth knowledge of the Incident Command System (ICS), the RSC Job Aid provides general information about ICS, oil spill response, and how they can contribute.

The RSC Task Force finalized their draft job aids for inclusion in the upcoming public comment period for updates to the Arctic and Western Alaska (AWA) Area Plan which is expected to occur in early 2025. The RSC Task Force invites readers of this newsletter to look out for the job aids during the public comment period to familiarize themselves with these new tools and make comments if necessary.

*RSC Task Force members include: Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Native Village of Eyak, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, Alaska Clean Seas, the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Crowley Alaska Tanker Company, Hilcorp Alaska LLC, and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.*

*Want to feature something in the Alaska RRT Newsletter?*

*Submit headlines, stories and pictures to Angella Gebert at [Angella.R.Gebert1@uscg.mil](mailto:Angella.R.Gebert1@uscg.mil) to have a chance to highlight your organization in the next newsletter.*

## Case Highlight

### Pan Viva Response:

On October 12, 2024, the National Response Center was notified that the M/V PAN VIVA, a 738-foot bulk carrier, had activated its Vessel Response Plan after it encountered heavy weather and began drifting southwest in the Bering Sea towards Akutan Island. In response, the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port for Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic directed the vessel to Unalaska Bay.

A Unified Command consisting of USCG, DEC, and Gallagher Marine representing the Responsible Party was established and began preparing for the imminent grounding threat on Unalaska Island and potential discharge of 273,000 gallons of fuel oil into Alaska state waters. Once inside Unalaska Bay, the vessel dropped anchor and 5 shots of chain. Despite using its engine in combination with the anchor and chain the vessel was unable to remain in place. Strong winds and the fact that the vessel was sailing high in the water due to a lack of cargo resulted in the vessel being driven to within one nautical mile of the Constantine Bay shoreline by midnight on October 13th. By early morning on October 14th, the vessel was able to maneuver back out to 1.4 nautical miles from shore and hold its position until the weather subsided in late evening on October 14th. The vessel departed Unalaska Bay without incident.



*Aerial Picture of the M/V PAN VIVA*

## Sector Southeast

USCG Sector Southeast Alaska recently hosted an Incident Command System Workshop in partnership with the USCG Incident Management Assist Team (IMAT), bringing together over 30 participants from DEC, USCG Auxiliary, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Department of Public Safety, and the City & Borough of Juneau. The workshop included a full ICS refresher course followed by hands-on training. The scenario focused on a simulated incident involving the loss of propulsion and grounding of a tug and barge carrying oil products near Ketchikan. All participants actively engaged in a simulated Incident Management Team (IMT) and collaboratively developed an Incident Action Plan (IAP). The training also included multiple injects from coaches,

simulated press briefings, and a thorough exercise of all components of the ICS Operational Planning Cycle, providing invaluable experience in incident response and coordination. We are looking forward to more conducting more training, drills, and exercises with our partners this spring and summer!



*Incident Command System Workshop*

## Area Committee Updates

### Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee:

#### Interagency Exercise Update:

Sector Western Alaska and U.S. Arctic led a collaborative full-scale tsunami exercise on Kodiak Island in August 2024 and a unique full-scale oil spill exercise with boom deployment at the Red Dog Mine in September 2024. Unified commands included USCG, DEC, representatives from the local fire departments, and industry partners. Exercise injects for both events encouraged planning and execution based on the Area Contingency Plan and they helped the Area Committee partners test response strategies, analyze worst case discharges, and build team cohesion between the agencies. 60+ participants participated in both exercises, which included pre-training seminars by USCG emergency managers, the Tsunami Warning Center, and the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator. The USCG is planning to conduct a full-scale exercise in Nome, Alaska in summer 2025. More information will be released on this exercise in the near future.

Planners are currently updating the AWA Plan which is expected to go out for public comment in early 2025.



*Incident Command for the Red Dog Mine Exercise*

## Alaska Inland Area Committee:

The planning team has completed its review of comments on the Alaska Inland Area Plan following the public comment period in the summer of 2024. The comments that were accepted by the Alaska Inland Area Committee will be incorporated into the next version of the Alaska Inland Plan. The plan will be posted to the Inland Area Committee page on the DEC website once the final edits are complete: <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/inland-area/>



AWA 1 Base Kodiak IMT and Command Meetings

## Southeast Alaska Area Committee:

The Southeast Alaska Area Committee held its fall meeting on October 17, 2024, at the Ketchikan Fire Department. The agenda included several key presentations and discussions:

- National Park Service (NPS) Introductions: Lisa Docken and Lyndsey Nguyen from the NPS introduced themselves and outlined NPS initiatives relevant to the region.
- Ketchikan Landslide Response: Chief Steve Rydeen of the South Tongass Volunteer Fire Department discussed recent landslide incidents in Ketchikan, detailing response strategies and lessons learned.
- Southeast Alaska Geographic Response Strategy (GRS) Subcommittee Report: Lieutenant Matthew Naylor of the U.S. Coast Guard and Rachael Krajewski from DEC presented updates from the GRS Subcommittee, focusing on strategies for protecting sensitive areas from oil spills and other environmental hazards.
- Southeast Alaska Interagency Landslide Working Group/Kuti Project: The meeting included a presentation from the Southeast Alaska Interagency Landslide Working Group / Kuti Project, aimed at understanding and mitigating landslide risks in Southeast Alaska.

Looking ahead, the Southeast Alaska Area Committee is tentatively planning its spring GRS exercise in Glacier Bay National Park. This exercise aims to enhance collaboration and strengthen partnerships among federal, state, Tribes, and local agencies, as well as other stakeholders involved in environmental protection and emergency response in the region.

## Prince William Sound (PWS) Area Committee:

The PWS Area Committee Meeting was held on October 8th, 2024, in Cordova.

The agenda focused on discussions and presentations with local stakeholders, including:

- DEC and USCG: Review of spill response trailers.
- DEC: Provided a report on industrial facilities and storage tanks in the Cordova area.
- Cordova Fisherman's District United: Fisheries overview in PWS & commercial fisheries industry update.
- Native Village of Eyak: Mariculture projects/kelp farming.
- City of Cordova Emergency Manager: Response equipment in Cordova.
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game: State of Alaska commercial fisheries overview.
- USCG: Update and overview of 2024 response cases.
- Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council: Announcement of the Copper River Delta GRS project subcommittee.
- USCG/DEC: Prince William Sound GRS Subcommittee project information.

The 2024 PWS Shippers Exercise with Alyeska/SERVS/ Marathon Petroleum was held from October 15-17, 2024 in Valdez.

DEC & USCG joined a local Valdez radio broadcast (KVAK) to speak about the importance of regular snow removal from vessels in the harbor during winter.



Attendees of the PWS Cordova Area Committee Meeting

### Future events:

The Polar Tankers Shippers Exercise will be held May 12-14th, 2025, in Valdez. Day 1 will be at the Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) Valdez Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), and days 2 and 3 will be at the Civic Center.



## EPA

EPA delivered a technical session on the First Step method to identify unknown chemical hazards. The session consisted of a hands-on instructor-led demonstration of each step of the method, followed by student participation. Students practiced identifying unknowns and classifying them into their appropriate

Department of Transportation (DOT) hazard classes.

## Welcome Aboard

### Patrick Hilbert:

Greetings from the NEW USCG Chair to the Alaska Regional Response Team (Mark Everett 2.0). Naturally, I served on Active Duty in the Coast Guard in a prior life. I am excited to be back supporting Marine Environmental Protection, Preparedness and Response with the Coast Guard, specifically in AK. I have professional experience in AK and the Pacific Northwest over the last decade in Coast Guard working with

the larger Preparedness and Response Community. Marine Environmental Protection brought me to the Coast Guard as a young man, and NOW I will continue this vital work in the great State of AK as an ARRT Chair. The work we do provides value and resiliency for our Nation's Maritime Transportation System and Economic Security. I look forward to integrating back into the Response Community and partnering to lead the RRT.

Please don't hesitate to connect directly with me in the months ahead.

Best regards,  
Mr. Patrick Hilbert  
patrick.m.hilbert@uscg.mil  
907 209-4744 (mobile),  
Coast in AK Guard AK Region (District 17) Incident Management & Preparedness Advisor (IMPA)



Patrick Hilbert

## Alaska's Area Committees

*Please see the Area Committee web pages for the most current information on area committee meetings, subcommittee and working group projects, and other events.*

### Southeast Alaska Area Committee

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/southeast-alaska-area/>

Next Meeting: May 22, 2025

Location: Sitka, AK

USCG Secretary: LT Lindsay Wheeler [lindsay.m.wheeler@uscg.mil](mailto:lindsay.m.wheeler@uscg.mil)

DEC Area Planner: Julie Liford-Parker [julie.parker@alaska.gov](mailto:julie.parker@alaska.gov)

### Alaska Inland Area Committee

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/inland-area/>

Next Meeting: Proposed Date September 2025

EPA Area Planner: Mary Goolie [goolie.mary@epa.gov](mailto:goolie.mary@epa.gov)

DEC Area Planner: Julie Liford-Parker [julie.parker@alaska.gov](mailto:julie.parker@alaska.gov)

### Prince William Sound Area Committee

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/prince-william-sound-area/>

Next Meeting: April 10, 2025

Location: Valdez, AK

USCG Secretary: Andrew Watland [andrew.m.watland2@uscg.mil](mailto:andrew.m.watland2@uscg.mil)

DEC Area Planner: Julie Liford-Parker [julie.parker@alaska.gov](mailto:julie.parker@alaska.gov)

### Arctic and Western Alaska Area Committee

<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/arctic-western-area/>

Next Meeting: May 7, 2025; Subcommittees: April 23, 2025

Location: Anchorage, AK and Virtual (see website for details)

Area Committee Email (Primary Contact) [awa-ac@uscg.mil](mailto:awa-ac@uscg.mil)

USCG Secretary: LCDR Joellen Arons [Joellen.M.Arons@uscg.mil](mailto:Joellen.M.Arons@uscg.mil)

DEC Area Planner: Julie Liford-Parker [julie.parker@alaska.gov](mailto:julie.parker@alaska.gov)

**Alaska RRT:** EPA Coordinator: Mary Goolie [goolie.mary@epa.gov](mailto:goolie.mary@epa.gov); DEC Coordinator: Ytamar Rodriguez [ytamar.rodriguez@alaska.gov](mailto:ytamar.rodriguez@alaska.gov); USCG Coordinator: LT Angella Gebert [angella.r.gebert1@uscg.mil](mailto:angella.r.gebert1@uscg.mil)

### National Response Center Notification Registration - How to Receive Notifications

Industry, communities, and individuals can report a spill to the National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802. The NRC is staffed 24 hours a day by personnel who will ask you to provide as much information about the incident as possible. The NRC then activates the notification process by e-mailing/calling stakeholders about the incident. You must submit an application to NRC in order to receive notifications. The application can be found at the following link: <https://nrc.uscg.mil/FOIAFiles/ApplicationToReceiveNRCReportsForm.pdf>.

You can submit completed applications via email to [nrc@uscg.mil](mailto:nrc@uscg.mil) or fax (202) 267-1322. For specific questions about the application or to discuss the process further please feel free to contact the NRC Senior Watch Officer at 202-372-2430.