



# **THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM**

*Working together to protect Americans from threats to our land, air, and water.*

The National Response Team (NRT) has developed two general, pre-agreed upon ESF-10 related press release templates that can be used by NRT Member Agencies. The template messages contain the following information:

- National Response System (NRS) – membership, agency roles and responsibilities, structure, etc.;
- Authorities of the NRS- National Response Plan (NRP), Clean Water Act (CWA), National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), etc.;
- NRS expertise;
- Current operational picture;
- Relevance of the NRS expertise to the current operational picture to reassure the public that the response is being conducted by qualified, experienced, and capable personnel;
- Sources for additional information (e.g., points of contact, website addresses, agency hotlines, local media, etc.)

These press releases have been drafted to ensure a unified “voice” and reduce conflicting information. Based on lessons from previous experiences, it is essential for incident managers to include in these messages 1) basic response information and response structure for the public; 2) communication about the risks and dangers to the public and 3) provide guidance on protective actions and ways to avoid risks during the initial stages of an incident. This risk communications packet also includes two sample press releases. Each sample press release demonstrates use of one of the two templates.



For Immediate Release  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NRT Chair  
U.S. Coast Guard, NRT Vice Chair

POC  
Date

**TITLE OF PRESS RELEASE**

At (time) the National Response Center (or other NRS notification point) received a report from (person, agency, or department) that (brief description of incident).

Under the authority of the NCP, a Federal On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) has been dispatched to the incident site to assess the situation and coordinate Federal response efforts with (the potentially responsible party if applicable), state and local responders. The Federal OSC can call on the resources of the National Response System (NRS) through the interagency Regional and national Response Teams, if needed. These teams been alerted to the incident. The member agencies of the NRT are coordinating internally and externally with the Department of Homeland Security and other ESFs.

It has been reported that:

- Product released
- Amount released
- Cause of the release
- Federal response operations (utilization of technical resources and dispatch of special response teams)
- Public risk and dangers
- Guidance on protective actions

The Department of Homeland Security, U.S. EPA, and U.S. Coast Guard will continue to issue updates and statements as more information becomes available. Please visit [WWW.NRT.ORG](http://WWW.NRT.ORG) for more information on the NRS.



## FACT SHEET ON THE NATIONAL RESPONSE SYSTEM

The National Response System (NRS) ensures that environmental threats and pollution incidents (e.g., any accidental or intentional release of oil, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear material) are effectively managed through a network of Federal, state and local governments, plans, and resources. The NRS is established by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR part 300). The National Response Team (NRT) is an interagency planning, policy, and coordination organization that provide technical advice and access to resources and equipment. During an Incident of National Significance the NRT is also responsible for coordinating its efforts with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Incident Advisory Council (IAC). The NRT is made up of the following 16 Federal agencies, each with responsibilities and expertise in various aspects of emergency response to environmental threats and pollution incidents:

NRT Chair: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
NRT Vice Chair: U.S. Coast Guard

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Labor
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. General Services Administration
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Department of Transportation

The interagency planning and coordination framework of the NRT is replicated at the regional and local levels. Key components of the NRS include the NRT, Regional Response Teams (RRTs), Area Committees, Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSCs), National Response Center, Special Response Teams, and State and local agencies.

### The NRS operates under the following authorities:

*Homeland Security Act of 2002 - FOR INCIDENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE ONLY*  
Under the authority of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has activated and requested assistance from the National Response System. When the authorities of the National Response Plan (NRP) are exercised, the National Response System provides support and resources through Emergency Support Function #10 (ESF-10) (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response).

OR

Under the authority of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has requested assistance from the National Response System under the authority of the Oil and Hazardous Materials Incident Annex.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) have assumed the responsibility of coordinating oil and hazardous materials response operations with the highest priority being the protection of human health and the environment. Response operations are being carried out in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 CFR part 300). The NCP implements the response authorities and responsibilities of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), and the authorities established by section 311 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

The NRS is responsible for providing technical assistance, resources and coordination on preparedness, planning, response and recovery activities for emergencies involving hazardous substances, pollutants and



contaminants, hazmat, oil, and weapons of mass destruction in natural and technological disasters and other environmental incidents. Each year, the NRS handles over 30,000 hazardous chemical releases, oil discharges, and other toxic spills in the United States. The NRS has led or supported response and recovery efforts for the following events, among many others:

- Release of Anthrax in public and government buildings in 2001, 2002, and 2004;
- 9/11 Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States
- Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster
- Hurricane Katrina
- Exxon Valdez oil spill

**Additional Information**

Additional information is available from the following sources:

Name	Name	Name
Agency	Agency	Agency
Contact Information	Contact Information	Contact Information
Incident Website (if available)		
Please visit <a href="http://WWW.NRT.ORG">WWW.NRT.ORG</a> for more information on the NRT		



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In response to (incident name or description), the National Response Team is issuing the following update.