

Good Wednesday morning everyone -

Here is the news for Region 3 (and beyond) for this week. I hope you were all able to attend the RRT3 meeting in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware last week. It was a great program and we had lots of interesting topics as well as training opportunities.

*PLEASE NOTE: None of this is verified or fact checked. If you have a problem with any of this information, please reply to the whole group and state your reasoning. If you have better or more accurate information, please let me know and I can update the group with your position.*

Also, PLEASE let me know if there is other information to be passed to the group. Feel free to share this email with others. As always, if you want the inbox deluge to end, just drop me an email stating that.

Finally – I will be updating the RRT3 Calendar and posting the info to the RRT3 webpage. Please check in and sign up for RSS feeds from the [https://nrtqa.ert.org/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=35](https://nrtqa.ert.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=35) in order to be notified when changes and additions have been made to this site.

Debbie

## Region 3 News

### **Unconventional oil & gas wastewater injection site impacts nearby W.Virginia surface stream**

[on.doi.gov/1s7sRVN](http://on.doi.gov/1s7sRVN) Read more at <https://www.usgs.gov/news/evidence-unconventional-oil-and-gas-wastewater-found-surface-waters-near-underground-injection>. ...

### **Train derails in Washington, D.C.; leaks hazardous chemical**

*Herald.net – 5/1/16*

A CSX freight train derailed near a Metro stop in Washington, D.C., Sunday morning, sending about 10 cars off the tracks and spilling hazardous material from one of them, officials said. ...

### **Oil Spill in Schuylkill River**

MarineLink

**Oil Spill** in Schuylkill River. Posted by Eric Haun. Tuesday, May 03, 2016, 11:55 AM. The U.S. Coast Guard and partner agencies are responding ...

### **Do Warm Waters Off Of The East Coast Imply An Increased Hurricane Threat?**

By Phil Klotzbach, [Washington Post](#)

The start of the 2016 Atlantic hurricane season is just three weeks away, and initial seasonal hurricane predictions have ranged from near-average (by Colorado State University, Tropical Storm Risk and several private groups) to above-average (by AccuWeather and the Weather Company) activity. Some meteorologists are pointing to warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures (SSTs) near the East Coast to advertise an increased hurricane threat to the U.S. coastline. Our analysis does not support this argument. We actually find the risk of landfalling hurricanes is highest when temperatures near the East Coast are cooler. ...

### **New oyster reefs protect Assateague Bay from storms**

By Clara Vaughn, [DELMARVA](#)

Nearly 20 volunteers waded into Assateague Bay last Friday, dragging and dropping thousands of concrete blocks into place to build “oyster castles.” The concrete fortifications create instant habitat for oysters and are part of a larger initiative to protect the nation’s most vulnerable coasts. “We’re going to take some of the punch out of waves with oyster reefs,” said Bo Lusk, Virginia Coastal Scientist with The Nature Conservancy. ...

## **Network of sensors could help predict flooding in Virginia Beach**

By Todd Corillo, [WTKR](#)

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – A high-tech series of sensors across Virginia Beach could soon help predict flooding before it happens. “What we would like to do is install flood sensors that will be able to alert the public if there’s a potential for flooding in their area,” Virginia Beach GIS Coordinator Rob Jessen told NewsChannel 3’s Todd Corillo Monday. ...

## **News for U.S. and Canada**

### **Community-Based Water Resiliency Tool. Environmental Protection Agency**

<https://www.epa.gov/communitywaterresilience/community-based-water-resiliency-tool>

### **Enbridge oil spill in UP went unnoticed for 30 years**

WWMT-TV

**Oil spills** in the Upper Peninsula went unnoticed for more than 30 years. ...

### **Environmental groups sue EPA over oil, gas rules**

The Durango Herald

However, the lawsuit seeks to address oil and gas waste on the national level, as recent disasters – such as **oil spills** in North Dakota, methane leaks ...

### **Refugio Beach Oil Spill Successes and Lessons**

*Maritime Executive* – 5/2/16

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) released a report describing and evaluating its response to the Refugio Oil Spill in Santa Barbara.

The spill occurred on May 19, 2015, when Plains Pipeline Line 901 leaked and spilled more than 100,000 gallons of oil on land, some of which subsequently reached the ocean through a culvert beneath U.S. Highway 101 near Refugio State Beach.

Key findings from the report highlight the success of operations:

- Consistent interagency coordination between state and federal partners
- Prompt fisheries closure and sampling to ensure safety, and a reopening of the fisheries as soon as possible
- Regular communication with non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Tribal training and participation in monitoring and cleanup of areas of cultural concern

Suggested actions to improve future response efforts include:

- Increase education efforts and information sharing with local governments and NGOs before spills happen
- Plan for earlier community engagement
- Develop an electronic shoreline assessment data management system
- Train additional OSPR staff for Volunteer Unit positions to plan for and manage spill volunteers

“Refugio was a test of our office’s preparedness to immediately plug in to a unified response to a devastating oil spill crisis,” said Thomas Cullen, OSPR Administrator and State On-Scene Coordinator. “Our successful cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the County of Santa Barbara and other partner agencies allowed us to quickly assess the damage and coordinate our response and cleanup efforts.” The busiest phase of the cleanup effort included more than 1,400 responders and 22 skimmer and support vessels on the water. Although winding down, the Refugio oil spill response is still ongoing. An evaluation of shoreline cleanup and assessment will be added as an addendum to the report following the full demobilization and closing of the response. The response has also been hailed a success by the U.S. Federal On-Scene Coordinator in a report released on Tuesday....

Read full article: <http://maritime-executive.com/article/refugio-beach-oil-spill-successes-and-lessons>

Link to report: <http://www.keyt.com/blob/view/-/39364210/data/1/-/qjcgx5z/-/Office-of-Spill-Prevention-and-Response-After-Action-Report.pdf>

### **Mapping out the chronic effects of silent oil spills**

*National Geographic* - 5/1/16

We are all familiar with the images from massive oil spills. A sea otter blackened by a thick coating of oil on its fur. Masses of dead fish floating in iridescent seawater...

### **Amended Oil Pollution Act of 1990 passes House**

*Cordova Times* – 4/28/16

Bill would make those responsible for foreign oil spills reaching US waters pay all American cleanup costs. ...

### **Department of Interior Finalizes Deepwater Horizon Rulemaking with Increased Role for Licensed ...**

National Society of Professional Engineers

On April 29, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement completed a process six years in the making: ...

## **International News**

### **Experts: US and Cuba on verge of historic oil spill accord**

Tampabay.com

Cuba, said Hunt, has been trained on safe oil drilling procedures. But as the BP **oil spill** proved, no nation is immune from an offshore drilling incident. ...

### **EU fails to push for ban on use of heavy fuel oil by ships in the Arctic**

Ship Technology

HFO leads to high emissions of air pollutants and causes a serious impact on human health and, in the event of an **oil spill** arising from a shipping ...

## **Oil by Rail and Pipeline**

### **Native Communities Stand Up To Proposed Oil Pipeline: 'This Is Keystone 3'**

ThinkProgress

“Even in South America and Canada, we have seen the devastation of a culture because of oil leaks and **oil spills** and we just don't want that to ...

## [Comptroller urges more insurance for rail oil spills](#)

*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle – 4/27/16*

New York state's comptroller urged federal authorities Tuesday to strengthen safety measures against oil spills and require trains to carry to cover cleanup costs from major accidents. ...

## Shale Oil and Shale Gas and Fracking

### [Duke Study Finds A "Legacy of Radioactivity," Contamination from Thousands of Fracking ...](#)

DeSmog (blog)

Thousands of **oil** and gas industry wastewater **spills** in North Dakota have caused “widespread” contamination from radioactive materials, heavy ...

### [New Mexico groups join suits to force EPA to regulate fracking](#)

Santa Fe New Mexican

The federal filings come as a new study says **oil spills** by producers in New Mexico have increased 87 percent since 2010, with an average of four ...

## Other News

### [Radioactive isotopes reveal age of oil, gas wastewater spills](#)

Science Daily

**Spills** from **oil** and gas operations can contaminate local water and soil with high levels of toxic chemicals, salts and radioactivity, but in many cases...

### [Drones offer hope for fighting Arctic oil spills](#)

*Hakai Magazine – 4/26/16*

It was less than a year ago when Garron, a researcher at the University of Alaska, watched a helicopter hoist a drum of gelled gasoline, outfitted with an igniter, over a mock oil spill in a 90-by-90-meter pool north of Fairbanks.

### [Massey creates comprehensive oil spill wildlife response programme](#)

*Stuff.co.nz – 5/2/16*

Massey University has teamed up with an American university to create what it considers the world's most comprehensive oil spill training programme. Massey and University of California Davis launched a training programme on Tuesday in preparing for, and responding to, wildlife affected by oil spills.

The Oiled Wildlife Response Training (OWRT) has been jointly developed by the universities and launched in Perth at Spillcon 2016 - Asia-Pacific's leading international oil spill conference. Collectively Massey University and UC Davis have led more than 70 international responses. The programme will be delivered through a combination of online and face-to-face teaching. It will cover planning field search and collection, cleaning and rehabilitation, development of oiled wildlife facilities, preparedness and emergency crisis management.

Read full story: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/79554487/massey-creates-comprehensive-oil-spill-wildlife-response-programme>

## Public Health Updates

### [How Do Natural Disasters Affect The Spread Of Mosquito-borne Diseases Like Zika Virus?](#)

### [Fox News](#)

While mosquito populations tend to surge following flooding or other natural disasters like a tropical storm, there is rarely a threat to public health as infected-mosquito populations are usually destroyed in the wake of the event.

“Surveillance is routinely conducted to assess what mosquito species are found post flood,” CDC National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Press Officer Candice Burns Hoffmann said.

Weather can directly impact how mosquito populations increase and lead to greater risks of disease like the Zika virus, which has become a growing concern as cases of local transmission spread across much of South and Central America. ...

## **[Governors Push Congress To Approve Emergency Zika Funding](#)**

By Brianna Ehley, [Politico](#)

The National Governors Association is calling on Congress to quickly strike a deal on emergency funding to respond to the Zika virus, as the number of confirmed cases climbs to nearly 500 in the United States.

“The nation’s governors urge the administration and Congress to work together to reach agreement on the appropriate funding levels needed to prepare for and combat the Zika virus,” the governors said in a statement. “We also ask they act as expeditiously as possible to ensure those funds are available to states, territories and the public at large.” ...

## **[Deepwater Horizon Updates](#)**

### **[Dolphins, turtles suffering; scientist says, 'We are next'](#)**

The Sun Herald

The BP oil catastrophe in 2010, he said, added stress on marine life. He's seen ... Dolphins were pregnant the spring of the **oil spill**, he said. Many of ...

### **[Genetic Potential Of Oil-eating Bacteria From The BP Oil Spill Decoded](#)**

Science 2.0

The findings, published in the journal Nature Microbiology, have applications for responding to future **oil spills** and other ecological disasters, while ...

### **[Oil munching bacteria to clear up future spills](#)**

Press and Journal

Armies of hydrocarbon-eating bacteria could form a key plank of **oil-spill** clean-up strategies within five years if industry quickly “latches onto the idea”, ...

### **[Six years later, we're still learning how badly the BP spill damaged the environment](#)**

Washington Post – 4/26/16

The spill dealt a heavy blow to the Gulf Coast region natural resources and its natural resource-dependent economy,” the assessment found. ...

### **[How BP paid the biggest environmental penalty in history](#)**

The Bellingham Herald

**Deepwater Horizon** oil rig burns April 21, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico ... financially accountable for the 2010 **Deepwater Horizon** spill that fouled the Gulf ...

### **[BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Budget: What Happened To the Oil?](#)**

the USGS estimate the quantity of BP Deepwater Horizon **oil** that has been released from ... response efforts were successful in addressing 33% of the **spilled oil**. ...