

**REGION I REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Period of Report: January 1, 2009– December 31, 2009**

Mr. Mike Faulkner  
National Response Team  
USEPA Headquarters  
OEM/ MC 5104A  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

As required by Section 300.115 of the National Contingency Plan, the Region I Regional Response Team Report is submitted for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

## **I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES**

### **A. MAJOR/NOTEWORTHY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES**

- TRI-RAM DISCHARGE INTO CONNECTICUT RIVER, Portland, CT

On 30 January 2009, Sector Long Island Sound was notified of a release of #2 oil into the Connecticut River near Portland, CT, from the Tri-Ram facility. The release came from a storage tank that had a faulty check valve on a pump. Approximately 6,000 gallons of oil leaked into the secondary containment. An estimated 3000 gallons was released into the Connecticut River through a storm drain. The release may have started a week prior. The operator noticed that they went through approximately a month's worth of oil in 10 days. When facility personnel inspected the tank, they discovered the release. Snow was covering the ground and the river was frozen solid. Initial response actions included pumping out the secondary containment, and starting on-shore recovery of the oil. The ice in the Connecticut River served as a boom and contained the oil through freezing and thawing action and the oil was contained within the ice. The USCG used trajectory models and recommendations on oil recovery under ice response actions. Other response actions included manual breaking of the ice and bagging it for disposal as well as deployment of Shoreline Clean-up and Assessment Teams (SCATs) to determine the extent of contamination. There was excellent coordination throughout this incident between CT DEP, responsible party (RP) and lead Federal agencies. This incident was presented as a case study at the spring meeting of RRT I.

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- GREATER NEW BEDFORD VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL MERCURY RELEASE, NEW BEDFORD, MA

On 13 February 2009, EPA responded to a mercury release from roll-off type dumpsters in the welding shop area at the New Bedford Area Vocational Technical High School in New Bedford, MA. Additionally, MassDEP, the New Bedford Fire Department and Clean Harbors responded to the scene. EPA Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors conducted air monitoring and Clean Harbors personnel removed visible mercury beads. Clean Harbors personnel also removed known contaminated items and secured the contaminated roll-off dumpsters with plastic sheeting. Air monitoring found elevated levels of mercury in the welding shop, metal fabrication shop, and adjacent bathrooms. Other areas of the building were unaffected. Contaminated areas were heated and vented to reduce concentrations to below threshold values. Post-removal monitoring cleared the area for re-occupancy.

- TWIN STATE FERTILIZER EMERGENCY REMOVAL, BRADFORD, VT

In March 2009, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM) observed unsecured pesticides outdoors at the Twin State Fertilizer facility. On 26 March 2009, Twin State reported to VAAFMM that they had moved all the pesticide containers indoors. On 27 March 2009, VAAFMM observed that the previously-identified pesticide containers had been moved indoors, but noted additional unsecured pesticides on and in a spray rig located on the property.

On 03 June 2009, VAAFMM requested that EPA perform a Removal Site Investigation since the facility had been effectively abandoned and frequent trespassers were potentially coming in contact with the hazardous materials. VAAFMM provided EPA with pertinent data and information and EPA commenced making preparations to address the Site. VAAFMM filed a report with the NRC on 06 July 2009 as a result of additional trespassing that occurred over the July 4th holiday weekend and requested that EPA take immediate action to address the threat. On July 7, 2009 EPA mobilized two On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) to the site with a representative of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and a team of response contractors. All waste pesticide and fertilizer materials were characterized, segregated and packaged for appropriate disposal. After the bulk materials were removed, the floors and sump trench were sept, HEPA vacuumed, and power-washed with an approved detergent. The buildings were secured with industrial padlocks and "No Trespassing" signs were affixed to the building.

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- GOLDEN POND MERCURY RELEASE, HOPKINTON, MA

On 07 April 2009, a blood pressure meter (sphygmeter) at Golden Pond Assisted Living Facility fell to the floor releasing the mercury it contained. A facility employee, followed guidance from an EPA web site and taped closed the room's air ducts and an outer door. At 1053 hrs, the facility notified the National Response Center, and report # 902025 was generated. The Hopkinton Fire Department and the Massachusetts Board of Health immediately responded to the scene. At 1330 hrs, EPA arrived on scene and integrated into incident command. Air monitoring was conducted before and during the removal. Contaminated material was removed and the room was vacuumed with cleanup equipment. Additional response actions included heating the room for 8 hours and ventilating to ensure the room had been sufficiently cleaned of released mercury. On 08 April 2009, EPA's START conducted post-removal air monitoring. Results showed that levels of mercury detected were below threshold levels. The space was subsequently cleared for re-occupancy.

- ROLLOVER SPILLS 10,000 GALLONS OF #2 HOME HEATING OIL INTO RUMNEY MARSH IN REVERE, MA.

On 20 April 2009, a tanker truck overturned onto its side at Brown Circle. The location was in a rotary area adjacent to Diamond Creek and Rumney Marsh in Revere, MA. The water system drains into Massachusetts Bay. The spill occurred as high tide flowed into the marsh, keeping much of the heating oil in place and allowing environmental cleanup crews to contain much of the spill using booms and absorbent squares. USCG was the OSC for the incident. The response was well coordinated between EPA, USCG, MassDEP, and the Responsible Party. Approximately 95% of the oil was contained or evaporated.

- EAST. MAIN STREET EMERGENCY REMOVAL, STRATFORD, CT

On 21 May 2009, EPA responded to an NRC report regarding a private party conducting unauthorized excavation of asbestos and poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contaminated soil. Access was gained using an Ex Parte Court Order and the local police department.

On 21 and 22 May 2009, EPA covered all exposed soil with filter fabric and in some areas covered the exposed asbestos containing material (ACM) with crushed stone. Silt fencing was also constructed to minimize soil from migrating off the property, as well as decontamination of the vehicles that were used by the operator to illegally excavate the ACM containing material. EPA demobilized from the scene on 22 May 2009.

- ASPHALT SPILL OF 750 GALLONS NEAR SPRAGUE ENERGY, PORTLAND, ME

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On 02 June 2009, an asphalt spill occurred in the vicinity of Sprague Energy in Portland Maine. The asphalt was completely contained under the dock and was within a hard boom. Clean Harbors and National Response Corporation (NRC) responded with divers and teams in john boats removing the pollutant from the water by hand. Divers confirmed no tar balls or any product sank due to air bubbles being entrapped within the asphalt. Product floated and looked like dried black latex paint and "peeled off" in manageable pieces. There was no observed sheening outside of the boom, although some asphalt had to be physically removed from piers and pilings. Sector Northern New England responders said that the industry response was text book and followed the vessel and facility response plans well. The incident was caused by insufficient slack in a transfer hose (due to the improper placement of the crane's support collar) which became taught as the ship rose with the tide. The tension became too great and bent/split open the facility's transfer pipe which introduced the pollutant to the environment. Estimated release was approximately 714 to 840 gallons.

- ROLLOVER SPILLS APPROXIMATELY 8,500 GALLONS OF GASOLINE IN NEWBURYPORT, MA.

On 02 July 2009, a tank truck carrying approximately 10,000 gallons of gasoline overturned and ruptured on Interstate 95, near Newburyport, MA. The truck suffered structural damage, resulting in approximately 8,000 to 9,000 gallons of gasoline being released into the environment. The incident occurred approximately one-half mile south of the Merrimack River. There was excellent cross-boundary support by State responders. EPA was the lead Federal response agency. Coast Guard crews from Sector Boston responded as well.

### B. RRT-1 MEETING SUMMARIES

#### SPRING 2009:

On 18-19 March 2009, RRT I convened in Mystic, CT. The meeting topics were:

- EPA continues to initiate program management meetings with States, regarding sites, training, exercises and other pertinent topics.
- EPA provided an overview of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Environmental long-term exercise.
- USCG has commenced planning for a Spill of National Significance (SONS), a Tier II Full Scall National Level Exercise, in South Portland, ME in 2011.
- The Canadian Coast Guard reported that approximately 200 spills had been reported in the past year fiscal year.
- Presentation on Biofuels and Ethanol response.
- Presentation by Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO). Introduction as the Regional Points of Contact for DOD.

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- Funding for States is still a large issue with furloughs beginning for State employees.
- USCG presented an overview of Volunteer Management Program-an interagency draft is still in the works.
- NOAA remarks that the new Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) program is available with enhanced Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations and reactivity data.
- NOAA's General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME) model for oil spills is being updated from two to three dimensions.
- A new Mapping Application for Response, Planning and Local Operational Tasks (MARPLOT) program will be available soon with online/offline capabilities.
- The National Response Team's (NRT's) Science and Technology Committee reported recent events and upcoming scheduled events.

FALL 2009: On 23-24 September 2009, RRT I convened in South Portland, ME. The meeting topics were:

- All State agencies experiencing cut-backs due to funding shortfalls. Some agencies affected by furlough days.
- Most State and Federal agencies working on SONS planning.
- H1N1 flu briefing given by OSHA.
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) conducted an all hazards planning exercise. An active hurricane season had kept them busy this past year. They are also working on H1N1 flu vaccine monitoring program.
- The FEMA Regional Response Center in Maynard, MA is undergoing renovations which are anticipated to take several months.
- A SONS presentation was provided by USCG D1. SONS is a tier II exercise that will provide an opportunity to exercise the National Contingency Plan to local Area Contingency Plan and Responsible Party vessel Response Plans
- Presentation on Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) in Region I by Defense Coordinating Officer.

**C. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

No updates to report.

**II. GENERAL PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

**A. TRAINING**

FOSCR Training: Federal On-Scene Coordinator Representative training held on 31 Aug thru 03 Sep 2009 for 26 participants from USCG D1 Sectors and partner agencies.

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Icelandic Coast Guard: A Major Marine Disaster, Mass Rescue Operations (MRO), Oil and Hazardous Substances Response Exercise in Reykjavik, Iceland supported by USCG D1 personnel as part of the North Atlantic USCG forum 28 September to 01 October 2009.

NOAA Science of Oil Spills: Training held in Portsmouth, NH on 13-16 October 2009.

EPA OSC Training: EPA OSCs continued to participate in a variety of training this past year, including Facility Response Plan (FRP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) training; and EPA's Annual OSC Readiness Training.

Incident Command System: The First Coast Guard District held ICS-210, 300, 341, 342 and 400 training in Boston, MA. Sessions were conducted district-wide for all senior personnel and middle managers. More training opportunities are anticipated during the SONS preparation process. Seats were made available to International and domestic port partners (Canadian Coast Guard), other Federal agencies, and State and local government responders.

### B. EXERCISES/WORKSHOPS

- Spill of National Significance (SONS): Concept and Objectives Meeting, Initial and Middle Planning Conferences, Master Scenario Exercise List Sync (MSELS) were all held in 2009 for planning of SONS 2010 in March 2010. Workgroups continue to meet and weekly teleconferences are occurring at the time of this report.
- EMPIRE09 Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) Exercise: On 03 June 2009, EPA Region I participated in a Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored Full-Scale Exercise (FSE) hosted by the State of New York. The exercise was designed to evaluate the technical response and management of a domestic RDD incident in an urban environment (Albany, NY). This included assessment of the roles of all participants as outlined in the Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the National Response Framework (NRF), and the DOE leadership role in radiological monitoring and assessment during a RDD incident. Due to the nature and scope of this exercise, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Exercise Program (NEP) designated EMPIRE09 a Tier II exercise. This designation ensured that a comprehensive, real or simulated response was available from the United States Government to meet the EMPIRE09 overarching goals and objectives. EPA Region I response personnel mobilized to VT to coordinate with state and local authorities to conduct radiation monitoring and sampling

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that would be necessary to determine the extent of contamination caused by the radiation plume that drifted over VT as part of the scenario.

- Full-Scale Regional Laboratory Preparedness Exercise: On 14-18 September 2009, the EPA Region I Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation (OEME) and Headquarters' Water Security Division (WSD) conducted a full-scale preparedness exercise that tested the ability of national laboratory networks to respond to a major emergency with substantial public health and environmental consequences. State and Federal laboratories from Regions I, II, III, V, and IX supported the collective response to a chemical warfare attack, biological contamination of a drinking water system and the resulting public health emergency. This was the first full-scale exercise of its kind, which tested: the EPA's Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) and CDC's Laboratory Response Network (LRN); emergency response procedures; crisis communications among State and Federal agencies; the new capabilities of some environmental laboratories to receive and analyze samples for chemical warfare agents; integration of laboratory components with Incident Command System (ICS) structure; and the use of a newly developed DHS - Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN) National Coordinating Group (NCG) alert system. Participating agencies and organizations included: State public health and environmental laboratories from across the northeast plus Virginia, Minnesota and Hawaii; MA National Guard Civil Support Team; EPA OSCs and response contractor; EPA HQ OEME & WSD Laboratory Response Program Offices; CDC LRN Laboratory Response Programs; DHS Integrated Consortium of Laboratory Networks (ICLN); FBI; Public Affairs personnel (EPA Regions I and II, MassDEP, CT DEP, EPA HQ); Association of Public Health Laboratories; New Haven Regional Water Authority; and CT DOH.
- Coastal Rail Car Spill Response Symposium: On 21-22 September 2009, the ME/NH Area Committee conducted their annual Spill Response Seminar in Portland, ME. This year's seminar focused on spills associated with train derailments. The seminar was attended by local, state, federal (EPA, USCG, NOAA), and private party response personnel from across New England. An EPA OSC presented a case study on the EPA response to a significant derailment in Middlebury, VT that involved eight fully loaded gasoline tankers.
- EPA Blister Agent Exercise: On 23 September 2009, EPA Region I and the interagency Regional Response Team (RRT) conducted a functional TTX focusing on the environmental response to a chemical blister agent attack. This exercise was a direct follow-up to recommendations made in the After Action Report (AAR) from the 2008 New England Homeland Security Environmental Summit. Exercise play began after the initial emergency response phase for the scenario had been completed. Gaps and deficiencies in role definitions, authorities, standards, funding, and capabilities identified

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during the TTX will be captured and used to improve existing plans and policies. The TTX objectives were focused on improving the participating agencies' and the Northeast region's ability to recover from a blister agent attack that causes severe, widespread injury and contamination. The TTX focused on validating the following four objectives, as selected by the Planning Team: 1) Exercise the operational relationships among State and Federal partners, including the Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN), in accordance with the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP); 2) Clarify State responsibilities versus Federal responsibilities for a blister agent incident; 3) Discuss and identify issues related to the decontamination of public and private property and recommend steps towards resolution; and 4) Identify a communications strategy including protective action information to the public regarding a blister agent. Participating agencies included: Environmental, Public Health, and Emergency Management agencies from the six New England States; EPA (Emergency Response, Lab, Public Affairs, Drinking Water, and Waste Water); USCG; FEMA; OSHA; DHHS; Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR); DOD; State National Guards; and other members of the RRT.

- Canadian / U.S. Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region (CANUSLANT) 2009 Table Top Exercise (TTX): held in Portsmouth, NH on 3-4 November 2009 as a precursor to SONS to access Joint Contingency Plan (JCP) support to a major discharge in contiguous waters away from the border:

The objectives of this exercise included:

- Test ability of Atlantic Geographic Annex (AGA) to support cross-jurisdictional support with government resources in the absence of an immediate threat to the boundary.
- Focus on industry resource movements and needed support under AGA/CANUSLANT based on involvement from potential Responsible Parties (RPs).
- Discuss applicability and use of Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, AGA, and other processes in non-contiguous waters (outside Gulf of Maine/Bay of Fundy).
- Assess need for trans-boundary support in salvage and lightering due to limited resources that may prompt more cross-border resource movements. Build additional understanding of emergency provisions, processes, and limitations, especially related to salvage and coastal trading acts. Test provisions of AGA relating to these laws and exemptions.
- Test provisions of health and safety provisions in the AGA and discuss equivalency and recognition of training issues during cross-border support.
- Test formative fisheries closure/opening plan component of AGA within CANUSLANT scenario
- Test new draft wildlife response component of AGA within CANUSLANT scenario, including injury assessment aspects. Due to



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offshore nature of scenario, discuss and assess broader capabilities of this plan.

- The results of this exercise will be used to help update the Atlantic Geographic Annex, improve our future response capabilities, and identify issues that need to be addressed by the Joint Response Team
  
- Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP):  
CY09 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3rd-Quarterly Notification by all Sectors
  
- 21 April 09-PREP Sector Boston Rumney Marsh Spill. Oil/Hazardous Substances TTX exercises.
  
- 21 May 09 –AMSTEP/PREP Sector SENE, Oil/Hazardous Substances TTX
  
- 30 July 09 – PREP Sector LIS, Oil/Hazardous Substances TTX

Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) and Spilled Oil Recovery System (SORS) Equipment Deployment Exercise:

CGC MARCUS HANNA/VOSS - Portland, ME - 14-16 April 2009

CGC IDA LEWIS/VOSS/Newport, RI - 28-29 April 2009

CGC JUNIPER/SORS/Newport, RI - 25-27 August 2009

CGC STURGEON BAY/VOSS/Bayonne, NJ 02-04 June 2009 (RRT-2)

EPA Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUEs):

EPA coordinated with State and USCG personnel while conducting GIUEs at the following Facility Response Plan (FRP) applicable facilities:

-DDLC Energy	New London, CT	01/13/08
-PSEG Power	New Haven, CT	03/05/09
-Safety Kleen	Portland, CT	06/17/09
-Eastman Gelatin	Peabody, MA	03/12/09
-Global South	Revere, MA	04/15/09
-Sprague Energy	Searsport, ME	05/07/09
-Newington Energy	Newington, NH	04/14/09
-Motiva	Providence, RI	08/20/09

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**C. FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL PLANNING/COORDINATION EFFORTS**

Canada/U.S. Joint Response Team (JRT) Atlantic: On 4-5 November 2009, the Canadian / U.S. Joint Response Team for the Atlantic Region (CANUSLANT) held their annual meeting in Portsmouth, NH. The JRT meets annually to maintain strong working relationships, exchange information, and develop policies between the United States and Canada for preparedness and response in contiguous waters of interest to spills of harmful substances. Work group sessions were held to jointly work on sections of the CANUSLANT joint response plan. Some of the issues also discussed at the JRT meeting included: The importance of cross border response to ensure a joint approach by key representatives and stakeholders to a major Spill of National Significant (SONS) event; and discussion of revision plans for the Atlantic Geographic Annex (the operational supplement to the bi-national Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan).

Area Contingency Plan Updates: Coastal Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) are updated on a triennial basis one year following the triennial Preparedness for Response Exercise Program Area Exercise. As a result, the four Coastal ACPs are currently being updated for submission to the First Coast Guard District

Lake Champlain Area Contingency Planning: EPA Regions I, II, and the USCG Sector Northern New England have begun working on contingency planning for the Lake Champlain Area. Several meetings with State and local response personnel in Vermont and New York were held during 2009.

**III. PERSONNEL CHANGES/ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES**

Coast Guard:

- RADM Joe Nimmich replaced RADM Dale Gabel as Commander First Coast Guard District.
- CAPT Joe McGuinness replaced Capt Craig Gilbert. CDR Wayne Clayborne has assumed RRT Co-Chair.

EPA: No changes.

**IV. ISSUES OR OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS REQUIRING NRT ATTENTION**

Funding for State Participation: The national financial crisis has had significant impacts on state budgets; limiting their ability to participate in exercises and training events. States have been challenged to obtain funding and approval for out-of-state travel, and this situation is likely to worsen with further state budget cuts and furlough days. Some multi-state area committees are

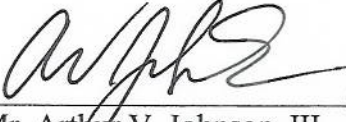
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beginning to see these constraints impact State participation even at the smaller area level. While not a new issue, or one easily solved by the NRT, it appears likely to grow in importance and may require means for remote participation in Regional Response Team and Area Committee meetings.

**V. FUTURE PLANS**

Next RRT I Meeting: The spring Region I meeting is scheduled for Tuesday-Wednesday 11-12 May 2009, location to be determined.

**VI. CONCURRENCE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_, 12/14/09  
Mr. Arthur V. Johnson, III (Date)  
EPA Co-Chair  
U.S. EPA, Region I

  
\_\_\_\_\_, 12/14/09  
CDR Wayne Clayborne (Date)  
U.S. Coast Guard Co-Chair  
First Coast Guard District