

## Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

<b>Region:</b>	Caribbean RRT	<b>Calendar Year:</b>	2016
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A. Annual Meetings				
	Dates	Locations	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	June 15-16, 2016	St. Thomas, USVI	62	<a href="https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=48">https://www.nrt.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=48</a>
2.	December 2016 meeting was postponed to January 2017 due to scheduling conflicts.	San Juan, PR		

B. Activations / Notifications								
1.	<b>Dates:</b>	24JUL2016	<b>Event:</b>	R/V LA GRAN PATRICIA Grounding	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Semi-submerged vessel in the vicinity of Ensenada Dakity, Culebra, PR						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG Sector San Juan, FURA, DRNA, NOAA						
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	On 26JUL16, SSJ IMD Pollution Responders arrived on-scene and discovered that Sea Tow had initially deployed containment boom around the vessel. DNER Biologist gathered underwater photographs of the surrounding site and vessel hull which were forwarded to partner agencies and the RP to assist with response needs and insurance approval for salvage. An Administrative Order was issued to the RP. An ESA/EFH Consultation with NOAA was completed to obtain BMP's to reduce environmental impacts during response operations. With a tropical wave approaching, the owner hired a contractor to plug the fuel tanks. The AO expired on 30JUL16; however, due to foul weather and partial compliance by the RP, additional time was given. On 03AUG16, unbeknownst to SSJ, the owner hired a third party individual who salvaged the vessel, as a trade-off for the title of the vessel. The salvage operation was conducted without USCG FOSC oversight and coordination. The vessel was found tied to a mooring ball in 30' of water with unknown structural damage, un-plugged through-hole fittings, unknown pollution potential, open hatches, no bilge pump, and a tropical wave approaching. Ultimately, the RP failed to meet the requirements of the AO, leading SSJ to Federally Assume response operations.						
2.	<b>Dates:</b>	17AUG2017	<b>Event:</b>	P/V CARIBBEAN FANTASY Vessel Fire	<b>ACT</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	Uncontained engine room fire aboard the ro-ro passenger ferry, CARIBBEAN FANTASY, approximately 2nm north of San Juan Harbor, PR.						
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG Sector San Juan, 20+ federal, commonwealth, local, and industry partners for coordinated ICS response						

	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	<p>Passengers and crew were evacuated. The vessel dragged anchor, drifted west and ran aground less than a mile NE of Punta Salinas. An estimated 6,279 barrels of ifo-180 fuel oil were on-board. The RP activated their VRP and hired an OSRO. SSJ FOSCR accessed the OSLTF and activated the AST due to the substantial threat of discharge. SSJ IMD conducted Pre-Spill Shoreline Assessments (PSA) to identify current turtle nesting areas and develop protective strategies. A CG Fast Response Cutter remained on-scene to assist in monitoring the CARIBBEAN FANTASY for any indication of a discharge of oil. Commercial salvage and Coast Guard Personnel conducted internal assessment, recovered ships logs, and reported there was no fire. Dive team conducted a hull assessment and determined vessel was not aground and there was no hull breach. After breaking free from its anchor, tug boats immediately gained control and later brought the vessel safely into port. Fire teams extinguished the smoldering aboard the vessel. Vessel was ventilated and team conducted internal assessment. Unified Command developed plans to include cargo decontamination and removal and heavy weather. Assessment of fuel tanks was conducted. Cargo, firefighting water, and oily bilge water removed. The complete After Action Report can be found in the Contingency Preparedness System (<a href="https://cps.uscg.mil">https://cps.uscg.mil</a>).</p>					
3.	<b>Dates:</b>	25OCT2016	<b>Event:</b>	Cruz Bay Petrochemical Storage Tank; St. John, USVI	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	x
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	The site consists of a solitary lap-bolted tank situated on an escarpment within 55 meters of Cruz Bay, St John, USVI. The storage tank has an estimated capacity of 126,000 gallons and was approximately 80% full of oily water and emulsified oil. It was actively leaking at two seams.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG, EPA, NPS, DPNR					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	The USCG issued a Notice of Federal Assumption to USVI Department of Property & Procurement; the property owner. USCG also formally transferred the Federal On-Scene Coordinator responsibility to EPA on 08DEC2017. Additional site info can be found at <a href="https://response.epa.gov/CruzBayTank">https://response.epa.gov/CruzBayTank</a>					
4.	<b>Dates:</b>	DEC2016	<b>Event:</b>	WAPA Oil Sheening; Krum Bay, St. Thomas, USVI	<b>ACT</b>	<b>NOT</b>	x
	<b>Issue / Concern:</b>	In November 2016, an oil sheen was observed in Krum Bay, St. Thomas, extending to Water Island. WAPA assisted USCG in identifying the source of the sheen, and determined it was their diesel because of a unique dye used only by WAPA. USCG was satisfied with WAPA's response actions taken to control the active discharge; however, they were concerned that no attempt was being undertaken to determine the extent of the subsurface diesel plume. USCG requested EPA assistance in determining the extent of the plume.					
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>	USCG, EPA, WAPA					
	<b>Decisions Made:</b>	In December 2016, EPA and USCG visited the site and met with WAPA to discuss the installation of additional monitoring wells, and to formulate a unified course of action, which will continue into 2017.					

C. RRT Exercises – None during Calendar Year 2016							
1.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>						
2.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>				
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>						
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>						

3.	<b>Dates:</b>		<b>Event:</b>
	<b>Agencies Involved:</b>		
	<b>Summary of exercise:</b>		

**D. Changes in RRT Leadership**

Agency	Personnel Affected
1) USCG	LTJG James Davis replaced Mr. Darrel Wieland as USCG CRRT Coordinator
2)	
3)	

**E. Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)**

Conducting the Area Committee Meetings in conjunction with the CRRT Meetings greatly improves overall attendance.

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

PREP TTX, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA Aguirre, PR): On 25 MAY 16, Sector San Juan held a Tabletop Exercise with the PREPA facility in San Juan, PR, using the newly updated National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) guidelines. The scenario involved a worst-case discharge into Jobos Bay on the south coast of Puerto Rico, home to numerous sensitive species. New for 2016, Sector San Juan utilized a game board for the PREP exercise, which introduced a sense of realism to the scenario, and elicited a positive response from all participants. QIs were present from all PREPA Facilities. Due to the update in the PREP guidelines, Sector San Juan was able to provide credit for all facilities that participated in the exercise.

The Area Committee is working to establish a Volunteer Coordination Section for the ACP. The AC is also working to identify viable Incident Command Posts and update ACP.

**G. Issues or Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention**