

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	Caribbean	Calendar Year:	2018
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USCG RRT Coordinator:	LT James Davis	Email:	James.P.Davis3@uscg.mil

A. Annual Meetings			
Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	No CRRT meeting were conducted in 2018 due to on-going response activities and impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.		
2.			
3.			

B. Activations / Notifications			
Dates:	Event:	ACT	NOT
9/2017 to 9/2018	Hurricanes Irma & Maria; Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands		

Issue / Concern: Catastrophic hurricanes which impacted Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Agencies Involved: All RRT member agencies.

Decisions Made: EPA and USCG coordinated closely on response actions in the coastal and inland zones under their respective mission assignments. To maximize efficiency, EPA handled the staging, segregation, transportation and disposal of all oil and hazardous wastes collected by EPA and USCG.
US FWS provided timely assistance to EPA in conducting ESA consultations for proposed oil/hazardous materials staging areas in PR and VI, through utilization of the Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPAC).

Dates:	Event:	ACT	NOT
3/3/18 to 12/20/18	Subbase Oil Spill; St. Thomas, USVI		

On 3/3/18, vapors within a concrete vault located in the Subbase area of St. Thomas ignited, resulting in a flashover. VIFS, VIPD, VITEMA, DPNR, and WAPA responded and found three concrete utility vaults containing petroleum product and water. Two utility vaults house electrical transmission lines owned by WAPA. The remaining utility vault is an abandoned vault that formerly housed telecommunications lines. The three vaults were filled with a petroleum/water mix. DPNR contacted a local contractor to remove approximately 3,900 gallons of the oil/water mixture from the vaults.

Issue / Concern: On 3/4, the USCG began investigating a sheen on Krum Bay after receiving a report of sheening. There is a continuous discharge of an unknown petroleum product from an unknown source into Krum Bay occurring from groundwater seepage as well as from a 12" storm drain pipe. Based upon the proximity of the three utility vaults, the consistency of the petroleum product observed within the vaults and Krum Bay, and the seepages of oil observed from the groundwater into Krum Bay, the incidents appeared to be related.

	<p>On 3/5, 2018, EPA, DPNR, VITEMA, WAPA, VIPD, VIFS, USCG and Puma were all on site investigating the source of the leak into Krum Bay and the utility vaults. DPNR and the USCG collected samples from multiple sources and the outfall in Krum Bay. The samples were sent to the Marine Safety Lab in Connecticut for fingerprint oil analysis to determine a match with oil source in Krum Bay. Since the suspected source was in EPA's response jurisdiction, on 3/9 EPA opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and assumed the federal lead.</p> <p>Agencies Involved: VIFS, VIPD, VITEMA, DPNR, WAPA, USCG, EPA</p> <p>Decisions Made: After several months of discussion between EPA and DPNR concerning the scope of work to be performed, roles and responsibilities, funding sources, etc., DPNR requested that EPA postpone site work planned for late September. Subsequently, it was decided that no further federal response activities would be conducted under the FPN, and EPA closed the FPN in December 2018. DPNR is currently addressing the spill and coordinating all spill activities. If federal assistance is needed for this response at a future date, a request can be submitted to open the FPN.</p>																																
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C. RRT Exercises – No RRT exercises were conducted in 2018.			
1.	Dates:	Event:	
Agencies Involved:			
Summary of exercise:			
2.	Dates:	Event:	
Agencies Involved:			
Summary of exercise:			
3.	Dates:	Event:	
Agencies Involved:			
Summary of exercise:			

D. Changes in RRT Leadership		
Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) US Coast Guard	LT James Davis	Richard Lavigne, Alt Co-Chair/Coordinator
2)		
3)		
E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)		
See Section B.1.		

F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts
See Section B.1.

G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)