



**Region 8 Regional Response Team Meeting**  
**Denver Federal Center, Lakewood, CO**  
**October 26-27, 2010**  
<http://www.rrt8.nrt.org>

Deirdre Rothery, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 Regional Response Team (RRT) Coordinator, welcomed everyone and gave updates and an introduction. David Ostrander, EPA Region 8 RRT Primary, and Captain James Hanzalik, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) RRT Primary, gave opening remarks.

**Utah Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Homeland Security**

Ty Bailey, DPS Liaison Manager, discussed Utah's two-member State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) consisting of the Commissioner of Public Safety and the Executive Director of Environmental Quality. Utah is currently establishing an advisory board and developing material to establish an LEPC. The state code is being reviewed in order to possibly expand the two-member SERC by the next RRT meeting. In regards to recent HazMat incidents in Utah, emphasis was put on communication improvement, particularly notification of the NRC so EPA OSCs can be deployed quickly in the future.

**North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDSES), Division of Homeland Security**

Ray DeBoer, Hazardous Chemicals Preparedness & Response Coordinator, also cited issues with NRC notification in emergency response situations. North Dakota has decided on a one-call system through the Division of Homeland Security for the state to organize communication in emergency situations. Current issues in North Dakota involve a recently discovered oil deposit. The state has enough oil to last 40 to 50 years, but worker injuries and accidents have increased due to improper training and level of caution. North Dakota has 53 LEPCs and 4 TERCs, and has been working to organize their structure. He noted that tribal involvement in emergency response has increased, especially that of Three Affiliated Tribes.

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, (CDPHE)**

Robin Koons, Emergency Response Coordinator, reported that it is currently training season for emergency responders in Colorado. This includes a state-level training exercise involving a "mega-tornado" that has destroyed three hospitals and all major roads, and caused an oil spill in the Platte River, among other complications. Current issues in Colorado include ongoing recovery from the Boulder wildfire, specifically the management and disposal of ash and debris containing PCBs and heavy metals, choosing proper PPE for cleanup crews, treating water waste from snow runoff, and balancing realistic cleanup with the expectations of Boulder's citizens.

**Department of the Interior (DOI)**

Bob Stewart, DOI Regional Environment Officer, discussed DOI's involvement in the ongoing Deepwater Horizon response efforts. The long-term staffing needs of the project are currently becoming an issue, due to crews experiencing burnout. DOI has a large crew of 200 to 300 people deployed in the Gulf. Other issues with the Deepwater Horizon efforts are lack of unification of Incident Command and misallocation of duties to upper-level employees, namely financial management, due to the rarity and magnitude of the situation.

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

Bill Wright, Dept. of Labor (OSHA), discussed current issues, which included a scam on Hazardous Waste training by Deepwater Horizon contractors, who were replacing the 40-hr

HAZWOPER course with a 4-hr course. There were 57 workplace fatalities in Region 8 in 2010, an increase from 2009. This increase is primarily due to new oil industry in North Dakota, and includes such accidents as workers falling from platforms, trucks rolling over, and a tanker explosion due to the presence of residual hydrocarbons.

#### **General Service Administration (GSA)**

Donna Vallejos gave GSA updates, which consisted of working on JFOs in North and South Dakota, and preparing for the winter season in the Region 8 states.

#### **Center for Disease Control/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC/NIOSH), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

CDC/NIOSH Senior Industrial Hygienist Eric Esswien cited research in the oil and gas industry, and occupational surveillance for tracking emerging trends in workplace disease as current projects for CDC.

#### **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

David Dorian, ATSDR Regional Representative, discussed the completion of a project on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Residential water wells were contaminated with TPH. In the area of study, ATSDR found an equal number of oil and gas wells in proximity to the contaminated drinking water wells.

#### **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)**

Lt. Rob McCaskey, USCG, stated current issues in the Midwest include flooding and a diesel spill in the St. Louis area.

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

Mary Beth Vasco, Tech Hazards Specialist at FEMA Region 8, gave updates that included conducting an earthquake exercise and holding tribal meetings in effort to draw more participation from TERCs. Some discussion about getting tribes involved in emergency management planning ensued, citing issues with implementing the Stafford Act and the declaration of sovereignty.

#### **NCP vs. NRF Responses, USCG**

Capt. James Hanzalik, USCG, discussed the difference between oil spills, and which are covered under NCP and NRF. Deepwater Horizon is the first oil spill where the state declared a national disaster. Key issues are balancing ICS practitioners and responders. He discussed the five key principles of the response doctrine, named response guidance resources, and detailed ICS structure during spill efforts. There is currently a public demand for a national environmental response policy since each state responds differently. Ongoing complications during this spill response are NCP divergence, political issues created by people running for office, general mistrust of responding agencies, parishes acting independently, and external public affairs involving the media. Further discussion ensued about funding sources and the Stafford Act.

#### **Medina Chemical Spill, NDDDES**

Ray DeBoer gave a presentation on a chemical spill in Medina, North Dakota, caused by a truck losing cargo from its bed. The actual release occurred when another truck ran over the package's contents, spilling pesticides onto the highway. I-94 was closed for 7 hours during cleanup, due to improper notification and lack of ICS structure. Ray stressed a need for organization, including a briefing on the Regional HazMat team capabilities, updating the Hazardous Materials Annex of

the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP), and clarifying jurisdiction of highway spill emergency response among the Forest Service, EPA, Highway Patrol, and DOT.

#### **Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD), U.S. EPA**

Steve Merritt, U.S. EPA OSC, discussed the plan to transition IBRD to Interagency Chemical Biological and Radiological Restoration Demonstration (I-CBR-RD), in efforts to become more resilient to chemical attacks. This 3-year project will develop ways of reducing time and resources needed to recover and restore wide urban areas, military installations, and other critical infrastructures after an incident. The I-CBR-RD kickoff meeting will be held in December 2010.

#### **Flat Creek Iron Mountain Mine (IMM) National Priorities List (NPL) Site, U.S. EPA**

Duc Nguyen, U.S. EPA OSC, discussed the Flat Creek/IMM Superfund Site in Superior, MT, which required individual cleanups and restorations for 31 properties. Mining contamination was found in the area in 1992, and a fire in 2000 spread the contamination into the river. The site was added to the EPA NPL of Superfund sites in 2009. During excavation of the area, a temporary staging area for 10,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil was constructed, and then a permanent joint-repository to hold up to 100,000 yd<sup>3</sup> was built. Some complications with the site included negotiating with homeowners about each individual property, and local frustration with cleanup efforts due to the scarcity of local jobs.

#### **Whitefish River Diesel Spill, U.S. EPA**

David Romero, U.S. EPA OSC, discussed the Whitefish River Diesel Spill in Whitefish, MT, which was discovered as a result of a recreationist emerging from the river contaminated with oil residue. Two mobilizations occurred in 2007 to test for TPH, DRO, GRO and Motor Oil #6 (Bunker C). The fueling areas in the BNSF railyards along the river were taken out, and BNSF was issued four deliverables in 2009, including initiating cleanup activities by September 2009. Removal actions included placement of a cofferdam structure, installation of a dewatering cell, and treatment of decanted water back into the river. Excavation of petroleum-impacted sediment to a 4-foot depth, installation of a portadam, and filtering the sediment with large permeable bags were other tactics implemented. Confirmation sampling was performed after the sediment was removed down to the clay layer.

#### **Wednesday, October 27, 2010**

After administrative announcements, the 2010 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) was signed by David Ostrander and James Hanzalik.

#### **Disaster Response and Situational Awareness Geospatial Data and Remote Sensing, FEMA**

FEMA Region 8 GIS Specialist Jesse Rozelle discussed using a combination of geospatial data and remote sensing (RS) in order to stay informed of the most current events on the ground during a disaster response. RS and GIS are now playing a larger role in FEMA's ICS by enabling crowd-sourcing and real-time information to integrate providers and end-users. This is in efforts to improve emergency response and recovery by meeting the needs of people, and also to disseminate information to the public. Some capability-enhancing tools include pre- and post-crisis imagery with aerial or oblique views, flood and fire modeling, area development, and monitoring epidemiologic trends. Common RS and event data sources include NGA, USDA, NWS, IWI, GeoEye, RADARSAT, DigitalGlobe, Predator UAV, Pictometry, NASA's Terra Satellite, Archer, and Google Earth.

#### **Gilco Transport, U.S. EPA**

Craig Myers, U.S. EPA OSC, discussed the cleanup efforts at Loveland Pass, Summit County, CO, where an overturned Gilco Transport tanker caused the release of 2280 gallons of red-dye

diesel fuel down a 1,000 ft, 1:1 slope. This spill gave the EPA the opportunity to investigate the effects of cleanup via augmented attenuation versus two bioremediation agents: Microblaze® and BioSolve®. The initial application at 3 to 6 inches depth in August showed bioremediation agents did not live up to manufacturers' claims and that natural attenuation with fertilizers was most successful at remediation of the contaminated slope. The second application of bioremediation treatment will be in June of 2011, and at 6 to 12 inches depth. Some concerns were leaving the contamination through the winter, bioremediation agents not performing well, and proper spill notification procedures. As a reminder, Robin Koons added that the CDPHE has a 24-hour spill hotline, which initiates notification of the NRC by the state.

#### **Helena Street Lead, U.S. EPA**

Gina Cristiano, U.S. EPA OSC, discussed an incident at Helena Street in Clifton, CO, where a 2-year-old boy was found to have blood lead levels of 19 µg/dL, due to suspected lead contamination in soils. In September 2009, a response unit was deployed for initial investigation, and contaminated soil was found using XRF analysis. The contamination hot zone was found to be a 50 x 50-foot square located in the alley directly behind the family's home. This alley served as a utility right-of-way, and had lead concentrations up to 20,000 ppm. Contaminated soils were excavated and replaced with tested clean backfill. The source of lead contamination is unknown, but is suspected to be from car batteries or from production of lead-sinkers for fishing lures. Among concerns at the site were designation of the responsible party, and misconceptions of the extent to which the EPA can provide resources after a cleanup.

#### **Utah Shakeout Workshop, U.S. EPA and FEMA**

Curtis Kimbel, U.S. EPA Response Unit Supervisor, gave a recap of the Utah Shakeout Workshop for Integrated Work Groups, held August 24 through September 23, 2010, which entailed work groups for each Emergency Support Function developing plan objectives. The Utah Shakeout Workshop exercise considers the effects and response efforts of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake affecting the Salt Lake City Valley. The affected area spans 120 miles and affects 80 percent of the population of Utah, with estimated damages of \$115 billion. A tabletop exercise is scheduled for the week of November 8, 2010. Jeff Gafkjen, FEMA National Preparedness Division, discussed the plan development update and the planning process. A timeline of events was presented, which showed the schedule for the five phases of plan development over the next 2 years. The completed plan is scheduled for June 2012, following a full-scale exercise in April 2012.

#### **Duchesne Oilfield Dumping Incident, U.S. EPA**

Steve Merritt discussed an oil spill in the Strawberry and Duchesne Rivers, Duchesne County, Utah. This spill involved a truck dumping 20 barrels (bbl) of crude oil into the river, and Duchesne County ordering OSRO to mobilize and respond under verbal command. Cleanup efforts escalated and costs reached \$110,000 by the fourth day. The NRC was then called (two days after the county tried to contact the EPA via email) and Steve Merritt, OSC, was dispatched immediately. Cleanup efforts were reorganized and the spill was cleaned up at a total cost of \$500,000 in 10 days, rather than OSRO's estimated 4 to 6 weeks. One major concern with the spill was the lack of proper notification process, which significantly increased costs and wasted resources during initial cleanup efforts. Suggestions were to use the NRC as a one-call for oil and HazMat spills, discourage independent initiative, educate EMS about liability in responses inconsistent with the NCP, and use outreach to educate oil companies about the benefits and costs of doing things correctly. This response also stressed the importance of reinvigorating sub-area contingency plans (sACPs), which were highly useful during the response.

### **Area Contingency Plan (ACP) Update, U.S. EPA**

Curtis Kimbel gave an update of the nine sACPs for U.S. EPA Region 8. These serve as support documents for ICS, along with ERAPs. A flow chart of proper emergency response and spill notification was presented. Updates to the Yampa River, Gunnison River, Colorado River, Green River, and Clark Fork Area Plans were discussed, along with the intent to meet with area responders and conduct a tabletop exercise after their completion. Some discussion of creating national consistency between the regional plans ensued, with significant differences between regions dissuading a consensus.

### **Final Q & A and Comments**

The next RRT meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 26 through 28, 2011. Goals for the next meeting are NRC one-call stickers to facilitate correct incident communication, distributing emergency response notification flowcharts, updating the RRT roster, and LEPC and SERC outreach. Follow-ups to be given on the effects of Miracle-Gro® vs. bioremediation and the status of the ACPs and earthquake exercise.

### **Acronyms List:**

**DRO** – Diesel Range Organics

**ERAP** – Emergency Response Action Plan

**GIS** – Geographic Information System

**GRO** – Gasoline Range Organics

**HazMat** – Hazardous Materials

**HAZWOPER** – Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response

**ICS** – Incident Command System

**IWI** – International Weather Institute

**JFO** – Joint Field Office

**LEPC** – Local Emergency Planning Committee

**NASA** – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**NCP** – National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan

**NGA** – National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

**NRC** – National Response Center (USCG)

**NRF** – National Response Framework

**NWS** – National Weather Service

**OSC** – On-Scene Coordinator

**OSRO** – Oil Spill Response Organization

**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment

**RADARSAT** – Radar Satellite

**SERC** – State Emergency Response Commission

**TERC** – Tribal Emergency Response Commission

**TPH** – Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

**UAV** – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

**USDA** – United States Department of Agriculture

**XRF** – X-Ray Fluorescence