

# 2018 Work Plan for Regional Response Team III

## Mission

The mission of the Region III Regional Response Team (RRT3) is to protect public health and safety and the environment by ensuring a coordinated, effective, efficient response to significant oil and chemical incidents within Federal Region III.

## Vision

- We will provide prompt, reliable, knowledgeable, and competent assistance. Our actions will be decisive and purposeful.
- We will be recognized as a quality organization committed to adding value to federal, state, local, and industry efforts to mitigate the effects of oil, chemical, and other incidents covered by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)/National Response Framework (NRF).
- Our membership will include all relevant segments of the regional response community. We will work as an efficient and effective team, pooling our talents and experience to provide the best possible assistance to pollution responders.
- We will be proactive and progressive in our deliberations to earn the respect of the entire response community for our resourcefulness and innovation.

## Goals and Initiatives for 2018

1. We will enhance the quality and utility of the Region III Regional Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (R3RCP).

### **Regional Contingency Plan Rewrite Workgroup**

- A complete revision to the R3RCP is underway and will be completed in 2018.
  - Maintenance of the R3RCP will be handled by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) RRT3 Coordinator and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) D5 District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) and posted to the RRT3 Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) Website ([www.nrt.org/RRT3\\_RCP](http://www.nrt.org/RRT3_RCP)).
2. We will provide training, information, communication, and coordination mechanisms to the Federal On-Scene Coordinators, Unified Commands, and the Area Committees.

### **Training Workgroup**

- Provide opportunities for RRT3 members to participate in activities that benefit regional and local planning and response to oil, chemical, and other incidents covered by the NCP/NRF. Each RRT3 meeting may include in excess of the 8 hours of training required by spill responders and managers under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) to meet the refresher safety and health annual requirements.
- Periodically query the membership on topics of importance to maintain relevance of presentations and training opportunities. Make this list available to the other workgroup chairs to use for their sessions.
- Comply with the needs of each workgroup to maintain and achieve a balance of core workgroup meeting time to accomplish projects, training, and presentations at the workgroup chairs' control and discretion.

## **2018 Work Plan for Regional Response Team III (continued)**

3. We will encourage continued education and tool development as well as fostering participation and coordination for consultation and damage assessment requirements for natural and cultural resources within our region.

### **Consultation, Natural Resources, & Damage Assessment Workgroup**

- "Finalize" the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Endangered Species Matrices. After the matrices are "finalized," they will be shared with the USCG District 5 Sectors and USEPA Region III for incorporation into their respective Area Contingency Planning documents. These matrices will be revised as necessary to reflect changes in the endangered species list and/or changes in designation of Critical Habitat and/or Essential Fish Habitat.
- Develop National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and FWS emergency consultation letters for Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for USCG D5 Sectors.
- Coordinate with Native American interests within RRTIII Area of Responsibility (AOR).

### **SERC/LEPC/ACP Workgroup**

The SERC/Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)/Area Contingency Plan (ACP) workgroup will be inactive until the Executive Committee designates tasks to be completed by the workgroup.

4. We will enhance the means to facilitate information management and effective decision making during an environmental response.

### **Information Management & Outreach Workgroup**

- Update and maintain point of contact list for resources for other federal agencies, states, and stakeholders.
  - Expand outreach contacts and invitations to the RRT meetings to appropriate agencies and organizations in the geographical area of the meeting locations.
  - Provide new and updated data on information management resources and related subjects.
  - Finalize and roll out Information Management and Outreach Plan:
    - This will include an Appendix that addresses the best management practices for Social Media requirements from lessons learned by the member agencies in their efforts to address the public through social media during an incident.
  - Develop and implement policy regarding the RRT relationship with Area Committees and State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs).
5. We will develop/refine response countermeasure strategies to assist the response community for spill response.

### **Spill Response Countermeasures Workgroup**

- Review historical RRT guidance documents to be updated or revised.

## 2018 Work Plan for Regional Response Team III (continued)

- Provide presentations or training on any current issues/topics that may arise.
  - Update/revise Dispersant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and incorporate appropriate lessons learned and any NRT directives/guidance that may be issued.

### General RRT Management - Executive Committee & RRT Support Personnel

6. We will develop and implement an outreach program to improve the awareness of RRT roles, responsibilities, and capabilities.
- Maintain the RRT III websites with updated information.
  - Schedule, make logistical arrangements, and conduct two RRT meetings (May and November) during the year.
  - Prepare meeting minutes, annual report, and annual work plan.
  - Periodically review RRT progress against goals in RRT III Strategic Plan; make adjustments as appropriate.
  - Approve and utilize the training implementation plan outlining potential training opportunities for our future RRT meetings in the designated categories: best practices, assessment, response management, spill safety, decision making, and information management.
  - Incorporate incident debriefs with lessons learned as a regular part of meeting programming.
  - Coordinate with tribal interests within the region.
  - Encourage RRT III membership participation from all designated agencies and partners.

### Concurrence:

  
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DAVID T. ORMES, USCG CO-CHAIR

01/29/2018  
DATE

  
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KEVIN BOYD, EPA CO-CHAIR

1/30/18  
DATE

