

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Hazardous Materials Response Overview



July 28, 1997

II. Hazardous Materials Response Overview



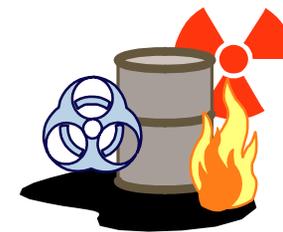
- The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Response System (NRS)
- Authorities
- Organization and Components (Headquarters Level)
 - Regional and Area Components
 - Initial response process
 - Special Teams
 - Headquarters
 - Additional Resources

The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Response System (NRS)



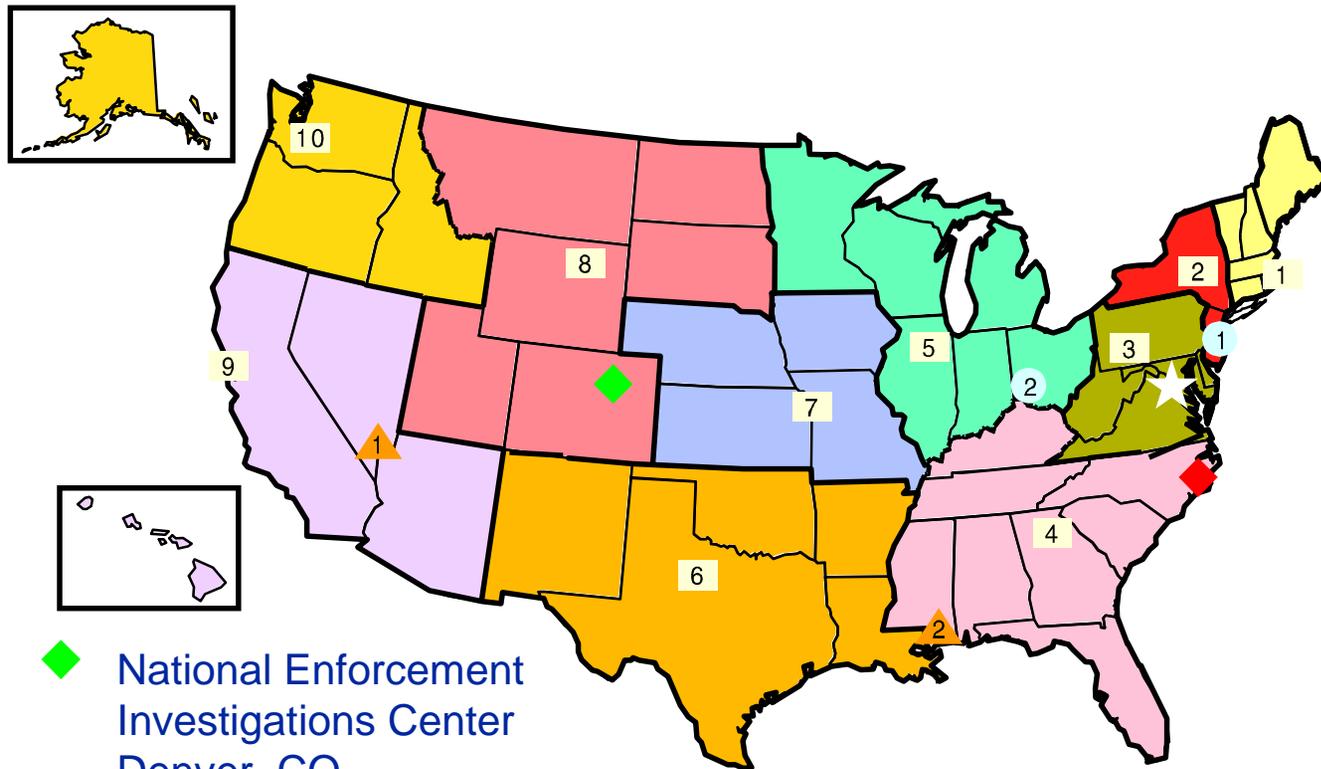
- Federal mechanism to prepare for and respond to hazardous materials releases
- In existence for almost 30 years
- Multi-agency/multi-level system
- Primary objective is to support State and local responses

Authorities



- Clean Water Act, as amended by Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- CERCLA
- NCP
- Other Authorities

Organization and Components - Regional and Area Components



- Regional Offices
- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 San Francisco, CA
- 10 Seattle, WA

- Environmental Response Teams

- 1 Edison, NJ
- 2 Cincinnati, OH

- ▲ Radiation Labs

- 1 Las Vegas, NV
- 2 Montgomery, AL

◆ National Enforcement Investigations Center
Denver, CO

◆ USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center
Elizabeth, NC

Organization and Components - Regional and Area Components



- EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
- Regional Response Teams
- EPA Removal Managers
- Other Federal agency OSCs (including U.S. Coast Guard Captains of the Port)
- Response contractor support

Organization and Components - Federal On-Scene Coordinators



- Ensure proper notification
 - Conduct Removal Evaluation
 - Recommendation/Decision
- Direct and coordinate all response efforts at site
 - State and locals
 - Other Federal agencies
- Maintain final decision-making authority
- Ensure access to information by other interested, relevant parties

Organization and Components - Special Resources



■ Special Forces

- EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)
- NOAA and EPA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC)
- USCG National Strike Force (NSF)
- USCG District Response Groups (DRG)
- USCG Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)
- Other special forces

Organization and Components - Special Resources (cont.)



■ Laboratories

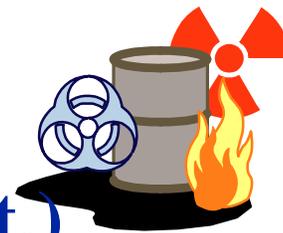
- Research Laboratories
- Contract Laboratories
- Radiological Laboratories
- National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)

Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)



- Customized multi-disciplinary team of technical experts
 - Response and remediation
 - Unusual or unique response requirements
- Equipment and resources
- Training - Environmental Response Center

Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)



- Maintains “around the clock” emergency response activation system
- Assists Regions and other Federal agencies in responding to environmental emergencies and uncontrolled hazardous materials incidents
- Provides technical expertise on:
 - Water and air quality criteria
 - Health and safety protocols
 - Ecological risk assessments
 - Interpretation and evaluation of analytical data
 - Engineering and scientific studies
 - Site-specific safety programs
 - Other environmental concerns

Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)



- Skills, Resources, and Capabilities
 - Chemical, biological, and physical treatment and monitoring
 - Control, restoration, disposal, and contingency planning
 - Operating and evaluating instrumentation and field response systems
 - State of the art sampling and analysis
 - On-site laboratory analytical support
 - Biological and ecological environmental assessments
 - On-site health and safety assessments

Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)



- Training
 - Safety and health
 - Response and remediation
 - Technical skills and knowledge

Organization and Components - Headquarters Level



- National Response Team (NRT)
- National Response Center (NRC)
- EPA's Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
- National Pollution Funds Center

Organization and Components - Headquarters Level



National Response Team Members

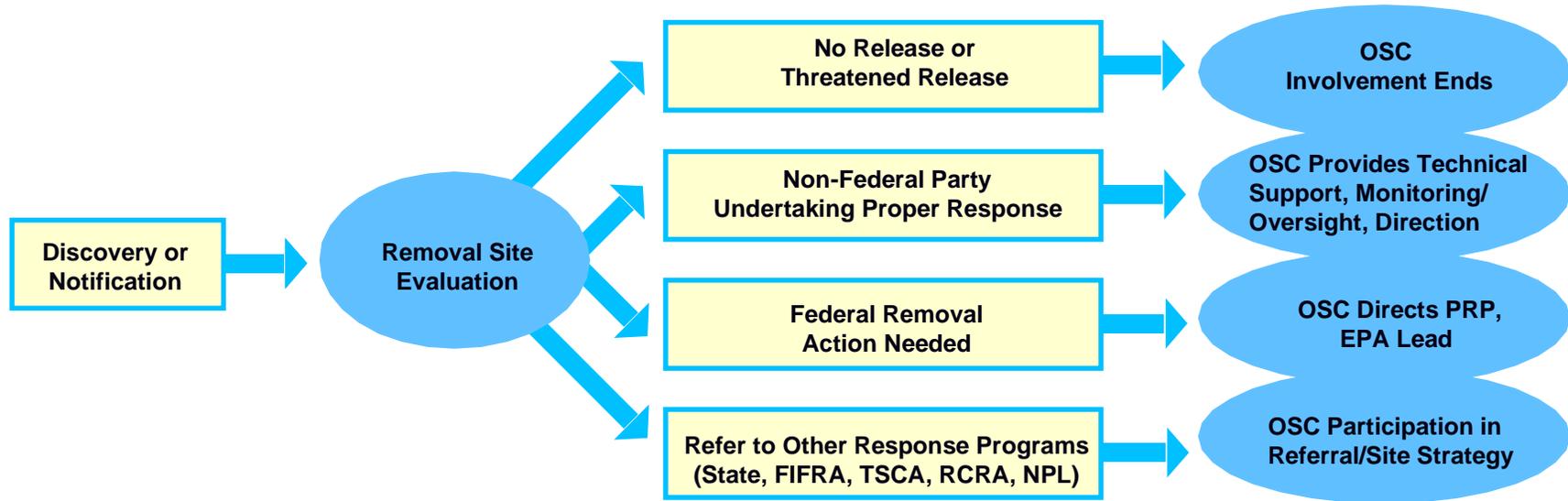


When Will EPA Respond?

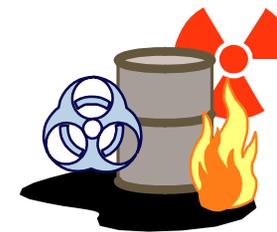


- Promptly
 - If human health or environment is threatened by an actual or potential accidental or deliberate release of hazardous materials
- EPA has the authority and will actively engage when an incident results in:
 - Actual or potential human or animal food chain exposure
 - Actual or potential drinking water contamination
 - Fire or explosion threat (threats posed by containers of hazardous materials)
 - Contaminated surface soil migration potential
 - Weather-related migration potential of hazardous materials
 - Unavailability of other response or enforcement mechanisms

How Is the Appropriate Response Discovered and Selected?



How Can EPA Respond?



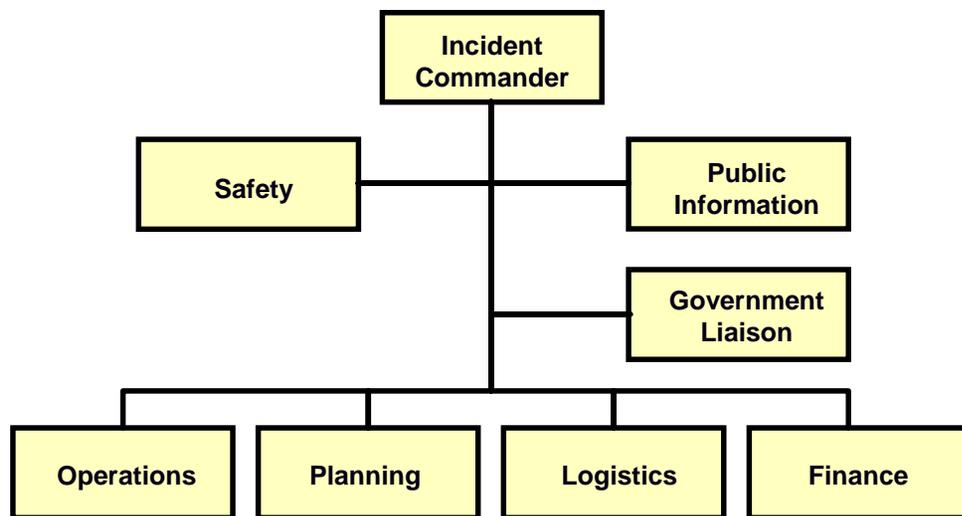
- Typical types of response actions carried out under the NRS/NCP include:
 - Site safety plan development (response planning)
 - Sample collection and analysis (air/water monitoring)
 - Alternative water supply provisions (potable water)
 - Source control and stabilization (berms, booms, dikes, plugging release points)
 - On-site treatment (neutralization, thermal destruction, solidification, detonation)
 - Temporary relocation
 - Off-site disposal or treatment

Are There Activities Typically Not Performed by EPA?

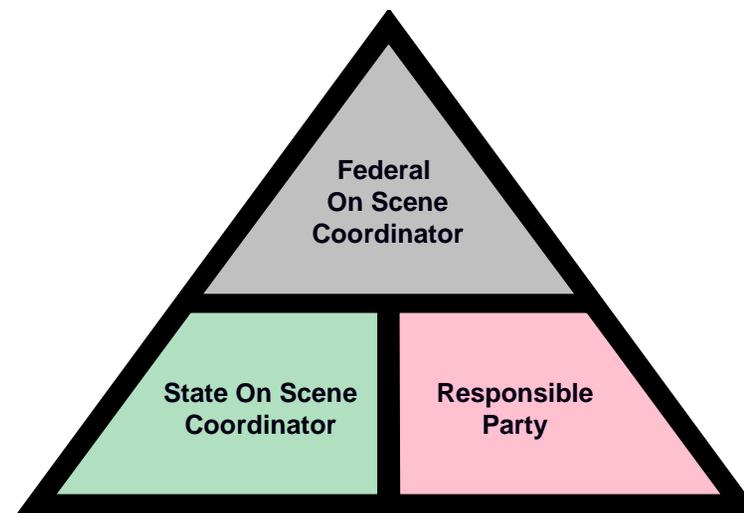


- The following response actions are not typically conducted by EPA or NRS agencies:
 - Disposal of non-hazardous waste
 - Blood or medical waste cleanup (as a result of accidents) (lead responsibility)
 - Limitations in CERCLA 104
 - Naturally-occurring releases of substances in natural form
 - Oil spills that do not threaten surface water
 - Others

On-Scene Emergency Response Structure



Incident Command (IC)



Unified Command (UC)

Access to National Response System



- National Level - Contact the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802
- Regional Level - Contact Regions.

Preparedness Components Under the NRS

