

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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***The Need For An Effective Partnership
In Support of Homeland Security:
The Role of Private Sector Emergency
Response Contractors***

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Exxon Valdez – Prince William Sound, Alaska - 1989



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Kuwait – Persian Gulf War - 1991



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Morris Berman Oil Spill – San Juan, PR - 1994



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Powell-Duffryn Chemical Facility Fire – Savannah, GA - 1995



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Chemical Plating Facility Fire – Detroit, MI - 2001



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Hart Building Anthrax Response – Washington DC - 2001



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**Results of SCAA Spring 2003 Survey of Emergency
Response Contractors Nationwide – Response
Capabilities (308 companies surveyed – 76 respondents):**

	Number of Contractors	Available Personnel
LEVEL C RESPONSE	76	5,941
LEVEL B RESPONSE	65	5,800
LEVEL A RESPONSE	60	5,755
BIOHAZARD RESPONSE	51	5,349
LOW RAD RESPONSE	16	1,621
HAZMAT RESPONSE	67	5,813



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SCAA Survey of “Anthrax” Responses:

**1,497 Separate Responses to “Unknown Substances”
(e.g. white powders, etc.) in the aftermath of 9/11**

**Estimating 6 personnel per response – Over 8,900
encounters with unknown, potentially weapons material
by trained and qualified personnel from the private sector**

**This does not include the decontamination of the Hart
Building and Post Offices which *were confirmed* to be
weapon materials (also performed by private sector
contractors)**



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Suggestions Regarding The Role of the Private Sector in Homeland Security Response Planning and Operations:

- Continuously harmonize the efforts of the public and private sector through joint planning, training and exercises
- Work together on the local level through existing programs such as the Area Committees
- Share innovations in technologies and techniques
- Provide adequate funding to the private sector to keep its response capability at a high level



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The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (H.R. 5005) contains definitive provisions showing a preference for private resources during emergency response efforts:

- Section 508, entitled Use of National Private Sector Networks in Emergency Response, reads as follows: “To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use national private sector networks and infrastructure for emergency response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive disasters, and other major disasters.”



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The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (H.R. 5005) contains definitive provisions showing a preference for private resources during emergency response efforts:

- Section 509, entitled Use of Commercially Available Technology, Goods, and Services, reads in part: “It is the sense of Congress that . . . in order to further the policy of the United States to avoid competing commercially with the private sector, the Secretary should rely on commercial sources to supply the goods and services needed by the Department.”



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Together, we - as the public and private sector - have done our jobs well.

We recognize the transition that is occurring,

We are ready for the challenges of the future.

***30 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROFESSIONALISM!***

www.scaa-spill.org

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