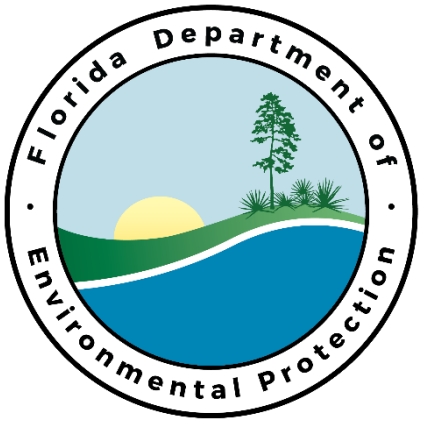
# Northeast and Eastern Central Florida Area Contingency Plan




# 2023

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Seventh Coast Guard District
U.S. Coast Guard

909 SE 1st Avenue
Miami, FL 33131
Staff Symbol: d
Phone: (305) 415-6670
Fax: (305) 415-6674
Email: Douglas.M.Schofield@uscg.mil

16471
10 Jul 2023

# MEMORANDUM

From: Douglas M. Schofield
CGD SEVEN (d)

Reply Attn of: R. J. Lavigne (305) 415-7138

To: CG SECTOR Jacksonville

Subj: APPROVAL OF THE 2023 NORTHEAST AND EASTERN CENTRAL FLORIDA AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN (ACP)

Ref: (a) Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual, COMDTINST M16000.14A

1. Congratulations to you and your staff! Your subject plan, as updated, has been reviewed by my staff and is determined to be in substantial compliance with reference (a).

2. Please pass along my thanks to your Area Committee (AC) for the effort that went into this update. As you are aware, your ACP will be reviewed by the Coast Guard National Review Panel (CGNRP) in August 2023. The CGNRP convenes annually to assess the adequacy of ACPs from around the country to identify best practices and areas for improvement. You should expect to receive the CGNRP feedback before the end of calendar year 2023. My staff looks forward to assisting in the development of a five-year "improvement plan" that identifies the short to long-term update strategy based on CGNRP recommendations. Continuous improvement, and maintaining the current momentum, will ensure that we are always prepared to effectively respond to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases in the coastal zone.

3. Any questions or concerns regarding Area Contingency Plans should be addressed to Mr. Richard Lavigne at (305) 415-7138 or Richard.J.Lavigne@uscg.mil.

#

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard

Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Jacksonville

10426 Alta Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32226-2302
Staff Symbol: s
Phone: (904) 714-7500
Fax: (904) 714-7672
Email: Janet.D.Espino-Young@uscg.mil

16471
20 Jul 2023

# MEMORANDUM

From: J. D. Espino-Young, CAPT
CG SECTOR Jacksonville

To: Distribution

Subj: PROMULGATION OF THE NORTHEAST AND EASTERN CENTRAL FLORIDA AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN (ACP)

1. This memo promulgates the revised Northeast and Eastern Central Florida Area Contingency Plan. This plan is effective immediately and supersedes previous editions of the ACP.

2. The ACP is designed to meet the requirements and intent of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan and is aligned with the National Response Framework. It is designed to be used in conjunction with national, regional, and state plans, and provides guidance for a coordinated response by local, state, and federal government agencies as well as nongovernment partners to respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances.

3. This ACP is electronic, enabling users to rapidly access a wide range of supporting documents that are linked to the ACP. For the ACP to provide maximum support, responders and members of the Area Committee, along with other port partners, must continuously update and revise the ACP based on lessons learned and/or best practices through exercises and actual responses. Response personnel should make themselves familiar with this plan.

4. This ACP highlights the national importance of the Northeast and Eastern Central Florida area, both environmentally and economically, and is the culmination of excellent cooperation and teamwork from the members of the Area Committee.

5. If you have any questions, please contact LT Adam Peterson at (904) 714-7532 or Adam.R.Peterson@uscg.mil.

#

Dist: Northeast and Eastern Central Florida Area Committee Members
CGD SEVEN (drmi)
CG LANTAREA (LANT-55)
CG NSFCC
CG GST
COMDT (CG-MER)

## Record of Changes

| Change Number | Change Description | Section Number | Change Date | Name |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | |
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# 1000 Introduction

The Northeast and Central Florida Area Contingency Plan describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, state, tribal, and local response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil, or a release or substantial threat of release of hazardous substance(s), within the boundaries of the Sector Jacksonville Captain of the Port (COTP) zone.

This Area Contingency Plan (ACP) shall be used as a framework to evaluate shortfalls and weaknesses in the response structure before an incident and as a guide for reviewing Vessel Response Plans (VRPs) and Facility Response Plans (FRPs) required by the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990, 33 U.S.C § 2701 *et seq*. VRPs and FRPs should be consistent with this ACP and address, among other things, the economically and environmentally sensitive areas within the geographic area, the response equipment (quantity and type) available within the area (this includes federal, state, and local government and industry owned equipment); response personnel available; equipment and personnel needs compared to those available, and protection strategies. This ACP is written in conjunction with OPA, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP, 40 C.F.R. Part 300) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601 *et seq.*). As such, when implemented in conjunction with other provisions of the NCP, this ACP should be adequate to remove a worst case discharge under § 300.324, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge, from a vessel, offshore facility, or onshore facility operating in or near the area.

**** Disclaimer: Please contact Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville Emergency Management to access the directory. All specific contacts applicable to this ACP have been combined into one "all inclusive" contact spreadsheet located in Annex 2.***

## 1100 Purpose

The purpose of this ACP is:

- To provide effective implementation of response actions to protect people, natural resources, and property of the coastal zone covered by this plan from the impacts of an oil discharge, substantial threat of discharge of oil, a release of hazardous substance, or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance, including Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), from inland and marine sources.
- To promote coordination and strategy for a unified and coordinated federal, state, tribal, local, potential responsible party, response contractor, response cooperative, and community response.
- To provide guidance to all VRP and FRP reviewers and plan holders to ensure consistency with the ACP.
- To provide guidance for responders. Historically, the users of the ACP have been confronted with incidents that were caused by nature (hurricanes, floods, etc.) or from the unintentional actions of individuals (grounding, collision, etc.). In today's world where terrorism is a greater reality, the intentional release of a hazardous substance, oil, biological agent or radiation poses unique challenges to those who respond. Federal and state laws and regulations require oil spills, hazardous substance releases or responses to WMDs be managed with a trained and competent response management organization that

accommodates a unified command structure in recognition of federal, state, tribal or local jurisdiction.

The ACP is designed to ensure that the initial actions taken in response to a hazardous substance release, oil spill, radiological, or biological incident that occurs in the maritime environment are effectively managed from the start and incorporate other agency plans and operating procedures as those agencies arrive on-scene. However, incidents are never identical and once initial actions have been taken, responders will assess the incident and tailor their strategies and tactics to match the reality of the situation. ***As such, notwithstanding any statutory or regulatory requirements, this ACP outlines general response protocols for a notional incident (unknown date, time, location, and variables). This ACP is not intended to be a definitive step-by-step guide on all potential items necessary to mitigate any particular incident.***

## 1200 Document Organization

The ACP provides guidance for the Area Committee, defines authorities and applicability, outlines plan maintenance and exercise requirements, and describes the overarching strategy for a coordinated multi-agency response to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release. Additionally, the ACP contains an overview of the geographic response strategies (GRSs)/geographic response plan (GRPs) and overview of the Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan which encompasses the Environmental Annex information required by the NCP. Finally, the ACP contains Quick Response Cards (QRCs), checklists, and other necessary job aids and documents to assist emergency management preparedness specialists and response personnel; all items are "grab and go" format for ease of use.

## 1300 Authority

ACPs are required by OPA, 33 U.S.C.1321 (j), to address the development of a national planning and response system. Area Committees have been established for each area of the United States that has been designated by the President. The Area Committees are comprised of personnel from federal and state agencies that coordinate response actions with tribal and local governments and with the private sector. Area Committees, under the coordinated direction of the Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC), are responsible for developing ACPs for their respective designated areas. Area Committees are also required to work with the response community to develop procedures to expedite decisions for the use of alternative response measures.

## 1400 National Response System

The National Response System (NRS) is a three-tiered response and preparedness mechanism that supports the predesignated FOSC in coordinating national, regional, and local government agencies, industry, and the responsible party during response operations. The NRS was developed to coordinate all government agencies with the responsibility for environmental protection, in a focused response strategy for the immediate and effective clean-up of an oil discharge or a hazardous substance release.

The NRS is designed to support the FOSC and facilitate responses to a discharge or threat of discharge of oil or a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance. The NRS supports the responsibilities of the FOSC, under the direction of the Clean Water Act (CWA) as amended by OPA. When appropriate, the NRS is designed to incorporate a "unified command and control support mechanism" (Unified Command) consisting of the FOSC, the state on-scene coordinator (SOSC), and the Responsible Party's Incident Commander (IC). The UC structure is further

described under Section 6300 of this document. The FOSC plans and coordinates response strategy on scene, using the support of the National Response Team (NRT), Regional Response Team (RRT), Area Committees, and responsible parties, as necessary, to supply trained personnel, equipment, and scientific support to complete an effective response to any oil discharge or hazardous substance release.

# 1500 The National Response Framework

The National Response Framework (NRF) is a guide which provides foundational emergency management doctrine for how the nation responds to many types of incidents, including pollution incidents. The NRF is often activated in anticipation of, or following, a storm event (tropical storm or hurricane) or other natural disaster (flooding event, tornados, etc.). The structures, roles, and responsibilities described in the NRF can be partially or fully implemented in the context of a threat or hazard, in anticipation of a significant event, or in response to an incident. Implementation of NRF structure and procedures allows for a scaled response, delivery of specific resources and capabilities, and a level of coordination appropriate to each incident. Pollution response, under the umbrella of the NRF is possible using plans, capabilities, and partnerships forged in accordance with the NCP, combined with the effective use of the ICS.

Other useful natural disaster response resources include the National Response Team Abandoned Vessel Authorities and Best Practices Guidance and the NRF's Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Annex. For more information, please refer to the Seventh Coast Guard District ESF-10 guidance located in Annex E (Tab 4) of the RRT-4 RCP.

### 1501 Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex to the NRF

The Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex (NRIA) to the NRF describes the policies, situations, concepts of operations, and responsibilities of the federal departments and agencies governing immediate response and short-term recovery activities for releases of radioactive materials. These incidents may occur on federally-owned or –licensed facilities, privately owned property, urban centers, or other areas and may vary in severity from the small to the catastrophic. The incidents may result from inadvertent or deliberate acts. The NRIA applies to incidents where the nature and scope of the incident requires federal response to supplement the state, tribal, and/or local incident response.

# 1600 Contingency Plans

Contingency plans serve to formalize and document activities to be undertaken to plan for incidents and in the event of an incident. The following diagram depicts the relationship of many of the response plans discussed below.

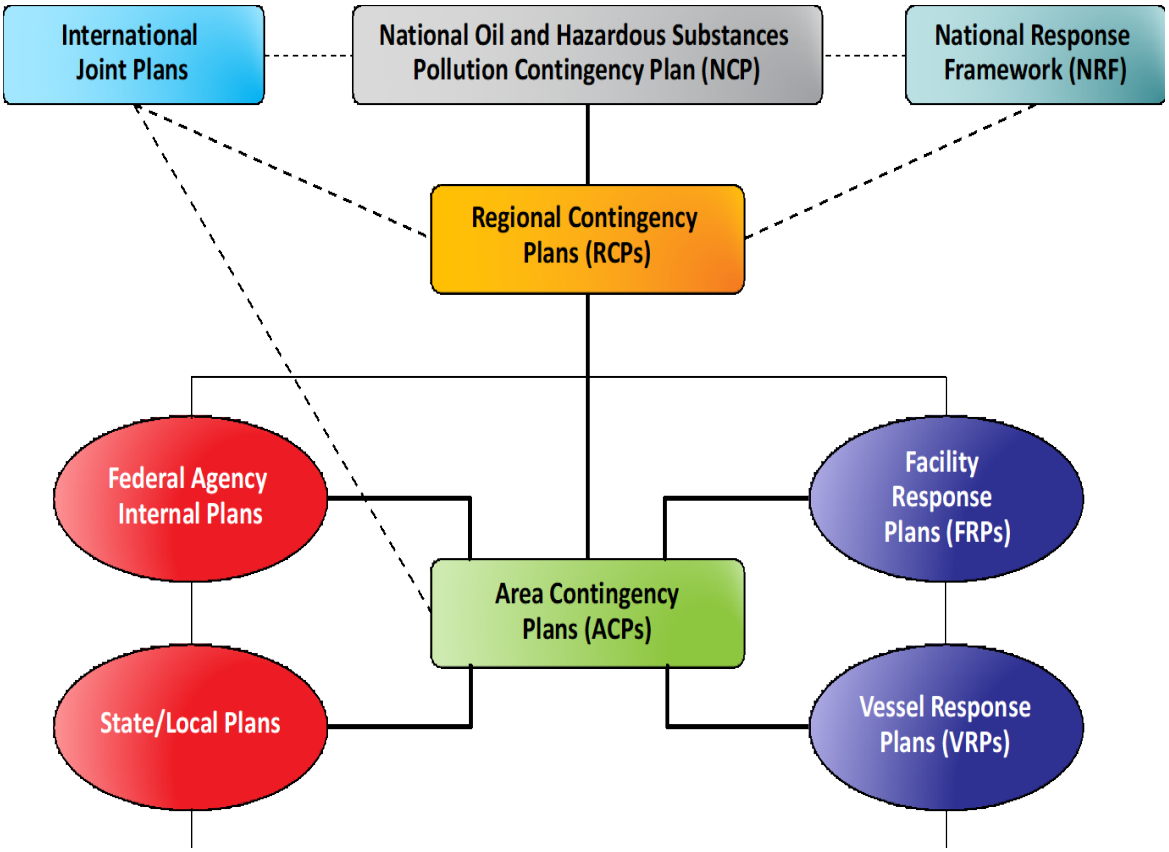



Figure 1: Relationship of Plans

### 1601 Contingency Plans under the NRS

There are three levels of contingency plans under the NRS: The National Contingency Plan (NCP), Regional Contingency Plans (RCP), and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs). The NCP addresses the national response structure and identifies requirements for regional and area preparedness development. RCPs provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants by Regional Response Team (RRT). ACPs are developed under the leadership of the USCG FOSC, following guidelines within the NCP and RCP, as applicable. Composed of federal, state, and local governmental representatives, the Area Committee develops an ACP for responses to oil discharges and hazardous substance releases within their geographic area.

### 1602 Local Plans

Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) are responsible for the development and maintenance of local emergency response plans in accordance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), Sections 301 to 303. LEPC membership includes various representatives from local governmental agencies, emergency responders, environmental

groups, and local industry. These emergency plans include, among other things, the identity and location of hazardous materials, procedures for immediate response to a chemical accident, ways to notify members of the public of actions to take in the event of a discharge or release, names of coordinators at plants, and schedules for testing the plan. The local emergency response plan is reviewed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). RRTs may review these plans and provide assistance if the SERC or LEPC makes such a request. Federal contingency plans provide for coordination with local governments.

**1604 Responsible Party Plans**
Facility and tank vessel response and non-tank vessel plan regulations, including plan requirements for the Coastal Zone, are located in 33 C.F.R. 154 and 33 C.F.R. 155 respectively, 30 C.F.R. 254 for Off-shore facilities, and 49 C.F.R. 194 for Pipelines. Facility response plan regulations for the inland zone are located in 40 C.F.R. 112. Complex facilities are facilities that are regulated by both the USCG and the EPA. Therefore, they would have a facility response plan meeting the requirements of 33 C.F.R 154 and 40 C.F.R. 112, or an Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP), capturing both federal agencies' requirements in one plan.

# 2000 Northeast and Eastern Central Florida Area Committee

The Area Committee (AC) is a spill preparedness and planning body made up of federal, state, and local agency, industry, and non-governmental organization representation. The AC, under the direction of the Jacksonville Captain of the Port (COTP), is responsible for developing an ACP. The AC is also responsible for working with state and local officials to plan for joint response efforts, including appropriate procedures for mechanical recovery, dispersant use, shoreline cleanup, protection of sensitive environmental areas, and protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife. The AC is also required to work with state and local officials to expedite decisions for the use of dispersants and other mitigating substances and devices.

The geographical boundaries of this plan are defined in Section 3000 of this document.

**2001 Mission Statement:**
The mission of the AC is to ensure the highest state of readiness of the spill response community. The AC will strive to accomplish this by developing a comprehensive and useful ACP, preparing the response community through training and exercises, developing coordination mechanisms to facilitate effective responses, and educating our stakeholders and the public.

The AC will function as an efficient organization for ensuring effective response to environmental threats in our area. The AC will collaborate, sharing information and resources, to produce the best possible plans and creative solutions to problems. The AC will employ best available research and technology in both problem solving and decision-making. The AC will learn from responses and activities, improve processes, and develop as individuals and as an organization.

## 2100 AC Organization

The AC is comprised of representatives from federal, state, and local governments as ***appointed members*** and ***members at large*** from non-governmental agencies such as the maritime industry, wildlife rehabilitation organizations, and academia, as advisors.

**2101 Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs**

The Sector Jacksonville COTP, as predesignated Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC), shall Chair the Area Committee (AC). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, whom is also the State On-Scene Coordinator, will also serve as the Vice-Chair.

**2102 AC Coordinator**
The AC Coordinator from USCG Sector Jacksonville will coordinate with state agencies to prepare meeting agendas, schedules, and meeting notifications. The USCG will record, draft, and publish meeting minutes and attendance roster and coordinate remote participation access for meeting attendance.

**2103 Members and Members at Large**
A list of AC members and members at large will be maintained by the AC Coordinator and can be found in Table 1 and Table 2.

**2104 Subcommittees**
Subcommittees are established to work on functional items pertaining to the AC. They are specifically tasked to complete assigned projects, tasks, and goals that are developed by the ESG. The four functional subcommittees, under which tasks are assigned, are:

- Preparedness
- Response
- Science and Technology
- Training and Exercises

**Note:** Specific subcommittee chair designation letters, subcommittee tasks/priorities and projects will be maintained by the AC Coordinator.

# 2200 AC Meetings

AC meetings are open meetings. The USCG FOSC Chair shall attend/lead each meeting and provide an opportunity for participation by each regulatory member, each non-regulatory participant, and any public attendees; ensuring adherence to the agenda; maintaining order; and reviewing recommendations submitted to the ESG. In the absence of the FOSC, these duties shall be performed by the Sector Jacksonville Deputy, who serves as the Alternate FOSC.

**2201 Meeting Frequency**
AC meetings shall be held at least semi-annually.

**2202 Remote Access Attendance**
The USCG will provide remote access availability to AC members, participants, and presenters who are unable to attend meetings in person to maximize stakeholder participation and communication. Sector Jacksonville has had proven success with virtual meeting facilitation via the Microsoft Teams application.

# 2300 AC Annual Report

In coordination with the AC Vice-Chairs, Sector Jacksonville shall submit an AC Annual Report emphasizing activities and best practices for the previous calendar year NLT 1 April of the following year to USCG D7 (drm) for review and endorsement. USCG D7 will review and route AC Annual Reports through USCG Atlantic Area to USCG Headquarters Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER) for final approval and compilation of nation-wide lessons learned and best practices.

# 2400 ACP Annual Update, Review, and Approval Process

The ACP shall be updated annually. The ACP shall be reviewed and approved by the NE and C Eastern FL AC, USCG D7, and the Coast Guard National Review Panel (CGNRP) every five years.

### 2401 Annual ACP Updates

The NE and E Central FL AC will review the ACP and document any changes or updates in the Record of Changes page. Additionally, and at a minimum, the AC will update the ACP version number and contact information; confirm phone numbers, addresses, links, and notification procedures; and incorporate lessons learned as a result of real-world events and/or exercises. Annual updates will continue to be managed locally between the USCG unit, Vice-Chair(s), and AC and be completed by 1 July.

### 2402 ACP Approval and CGNRP Review

In coordination with the Chair, Vice-Chair(s), and other members of the AC, USCG D7 formally reviews and approves coastal ACPs every five years. After approval, USCG D7 submits the ACP for national review by the CGNRP. The CGNRP, comprised of CG-MER, USCG Atlantic and Pacific Area, National Strike Force Coordination Center, and District representatives, convene annually to review selected ACPs nation-wide. Nationwide, each coastal ACP is on a 5-year CGNRP review schedule.

Additional CGNRP information and requirements, including specific scheduling and expectations will be coordinated from USCG D8 to USCG field units.

# 2500 Area PREP Exercises

Per the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines, which provides the framework for an effective oil spill and hazardous substance response exercise program, the NE and C Eastern FL AC shall hold three annual Incident Management Team (IMT) Tabletop Exercises (TTXs) and one Full-Scale Exercise (FSE) per 4-year period.

### 2501 Exercise Schedule

USCG D7 (drm) will maintain the Area Exercise schedule and ensure visibility by the NE and C Eastern FL AC and PREP Compliance, Coordination and Consistency Committee (PREP 4C). The NE and C Eastern FL AC will validate the proposed timeframe and identify the industry plan holder who will participate in each PREP exercise. Any schedule change requests shall be routed to USCG D7 (drm).

### 2502 Documentation

Additional PREP-related exercise requirements, including development of Concept of Exercise (COE), After Action Report (AAR), Remedial Action Issues (RAIs), and Real-World Event (RWE) credit requests will be coordinated from USCG D7 to USCG field units.

| Table 1: Area Committee Members | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Below is list of *appointed* Area Committee Members:** | | | |
| 1. | Federal | United States Coast Guard | |
| | | Environmental Protection Agency (Region 4) | |
| | | Federal Emergency Management Agency | |
| | | National Aeronautics and Space Administration | |
| | | National Park Service | |
| | | US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | |
| | | US Navy Region Southeast | |
| | | USCG District 7 | |
| | | USCG Atlantic Strike Team (AST) | |
| | | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | |
| 2. | State | Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) | |
| | | Florida Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste | |
| | | Florida Division of Air Resources Management | |
| | | Florida Division of Water Resources Management | |
| | | Florida Environmental Regulation Commission | |
| | | Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) | |
| | | Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) | |
| 3. | Local | Brevard County Emergency Management | Volusia County Emergency Management |
| | | Jacksonville Fire/Rescue- Emergency Preparedness Division | Volusia County Department of Environmental Management |
| | | Flagler County Emergency Management | Northeast Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee |
| | | Nassau County Emergency Management | East Central Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee |
| | | St. Johns County Emergency Management | |

**Note:** Specific AC designation letters will be maintained by the AC Coordinator

| Table 2: Area Committee Members at Large | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Below is a list of Area Committee *Members at Large:*** | | |
| 1. | Consulting | Professional Marine Consulting Co. |
| | | Rodney E. Lay & Associates |
| | | CDI Marine Company |
| | | Witt O'Brien's |
| 2. | Academia | Florida Institute of Oceanography |
| | | University of North Florida |
| | | Nova Southeastern |
| 3. | Facility Owners or Operators | Crowley |
| | | JEA |
| | | Coastal Tank |
| | | Blanchard Terminals (Marathon) |
| | | Tote |
| | | JAXPORT Talleyrand, Blount Island, & Dame's Point |
| | | Gate Fuel Services |
| | | Eagle LNG |
| | | Barrett Oil |
| 4. | Maritime | St. Johns Bar Pilots |
| | | McAllister Towing |
| | | Moran Jacksonville |
| 5. | Co-Op | Jacksonville Spillage Control |
| 6. | Wildlife Care Organization | Audubon Society |
| 7. | Salvage Companies | Mobro Marine |
| | | F & A Marine |
| | | Beyel Brothers |
| | | Hal Jones |
| 8. | OSROs | Cliff Berry |
| | | Moran Environmental Recovery |
| | | LCM Corporation |
| | | OMI Environmental Solutions |
| | | Miller Environmental |

# 3000 Geographic Information

## 3100 ACP Area Covered

The information in this section defines the response boundary (inland zone and coastal zone) between the U.S. Coast Guard and EPA Region 6 based on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) dated 14 Apr 2010.

### 3101 Inland Zone Boundary Designation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 provides the predesignated FOSC for pollution response in the Inland Zone. All discharges or releases, or substantial threats of such discharges or releases of oil or hazardous substances originating within the Inland Zone are the responsibility of the EPA. Included are discharges and releases from unknown sources or those classified as "mystery spills."

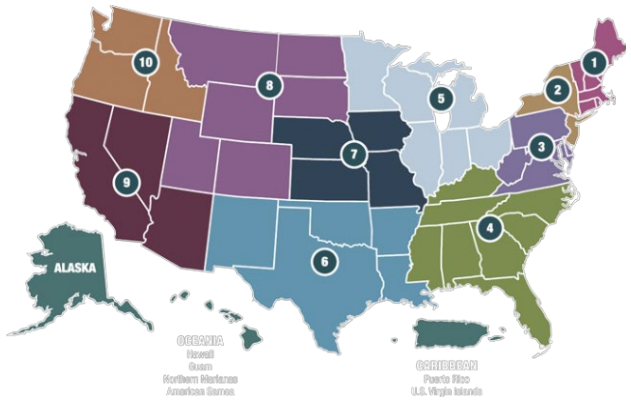



Figure 2: RRT Areas


Figure 3: U.S. Coast Guard Districts

### 3102 Coastal Zone Boundary

The relevant coastal USCG COTP is the predesignated FOSC for pollution response in the Coastal Zone. All discharges or releases, or substantial threats of such discharges or releases of oil or hazardous substances originating within the Coastal Zone are the responsibility of the USCG FOSC. Included are discharges and releases from unknown sources or those classified as "mystery spills." Specifically, the Coastal Zone description for the USCG Sector Jacksonville FOSC includes everything coastal of a line:

- Starting at north latitude 30 degrees 50 minutes on the east coast of Georgia due west to I-95; then south on I-95 to US 17 Interchange near Becker, FL; then south along US 17 to Lawton Ave (Jacksonville, FL); then southwest on Lawton Ave to Buffalo Ave; then south on Buffalo Ave to Evergreen Ave; then south on Evergreen Ave to State Hwy 115 / Alt US 1; then east along State Hwy 115 (and on State Hwy 115 / Mathews Bridge crossing the St. Johns River) to University Blvd; then north on University Blvd to Fort Caroline Rd; then east on Fort Caroline Rd (continuing on Fort Caroline Rd at the McCormick Rd intersection) to Mount Pleasant Rd (Jacksonville, FL); then east along Mount Pleasant Rd to Girvin Rd; then south on Girvin Rd to Atlantic Blvd / State Hwy 10; then east on Atlantic Blvd to County Rd 101A / San Pablo Rd; then south on County Rd 101A to the St. Johns County line and continuing south along the St. Johns County line to Palm Valley Rd; then southwest on Palm Valley Rd to US 1; then south along US

1 to I-95 near I-95 mile marker 298; then south along I-95 to US 1 near I-95 mile marker 273; then south along US 1 to the intersection of COTP Jacksonville-COTP Miami boundary at latitude 28 degrees North (south of Melbourne, FL).

- Also included will be the Intracoastal Waterway, St. Johns River to Lake George, Trout River to I-295 bridge, Ribault River to US 23 / New Kings Rd (Jacksonville, FL), Monroe River to Tallulah Ave, Ortega and Cedar Rivers to Blanding Blvd, Doctors Lake to the lake's west shoreline, Julington Creek to US 1, and Black River to US 17. Not included will be tributaries leading to and including Crescent Lake and Lake Ocklawaha.

Any pollution incident taking place in an area outside the boundaries listed above fall under EPA FOSC jurisdiction.

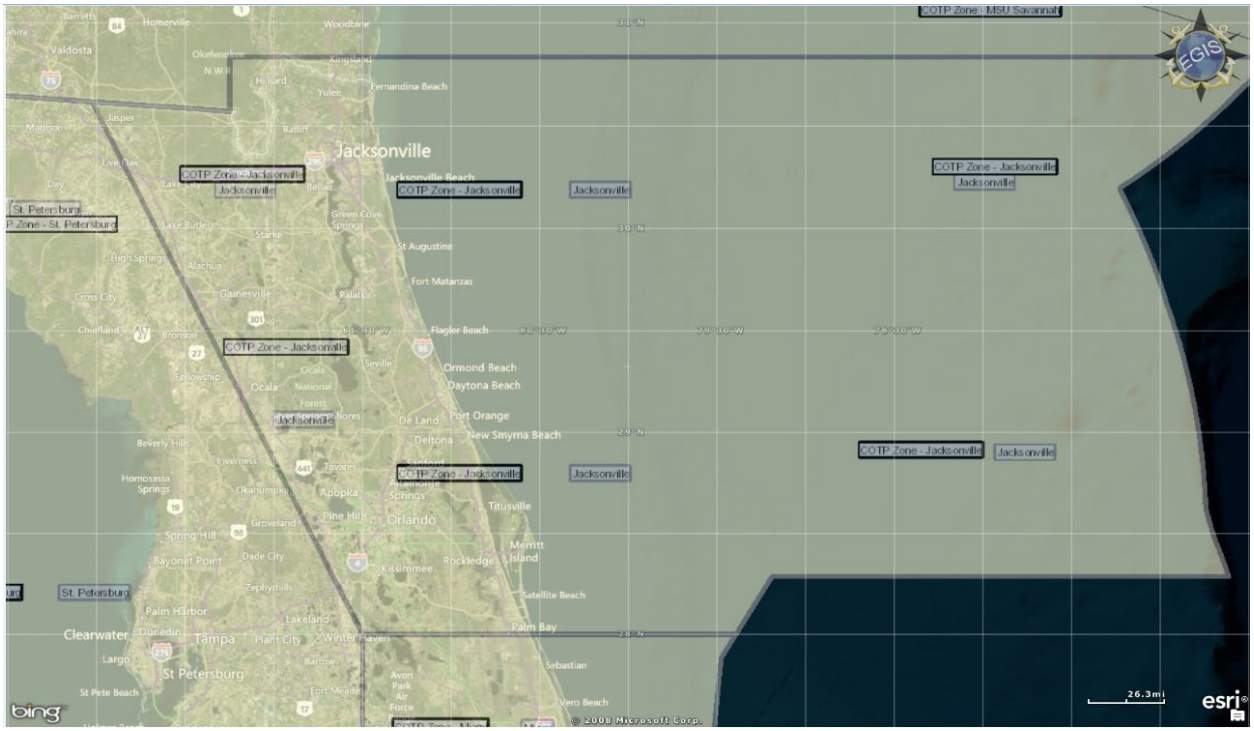
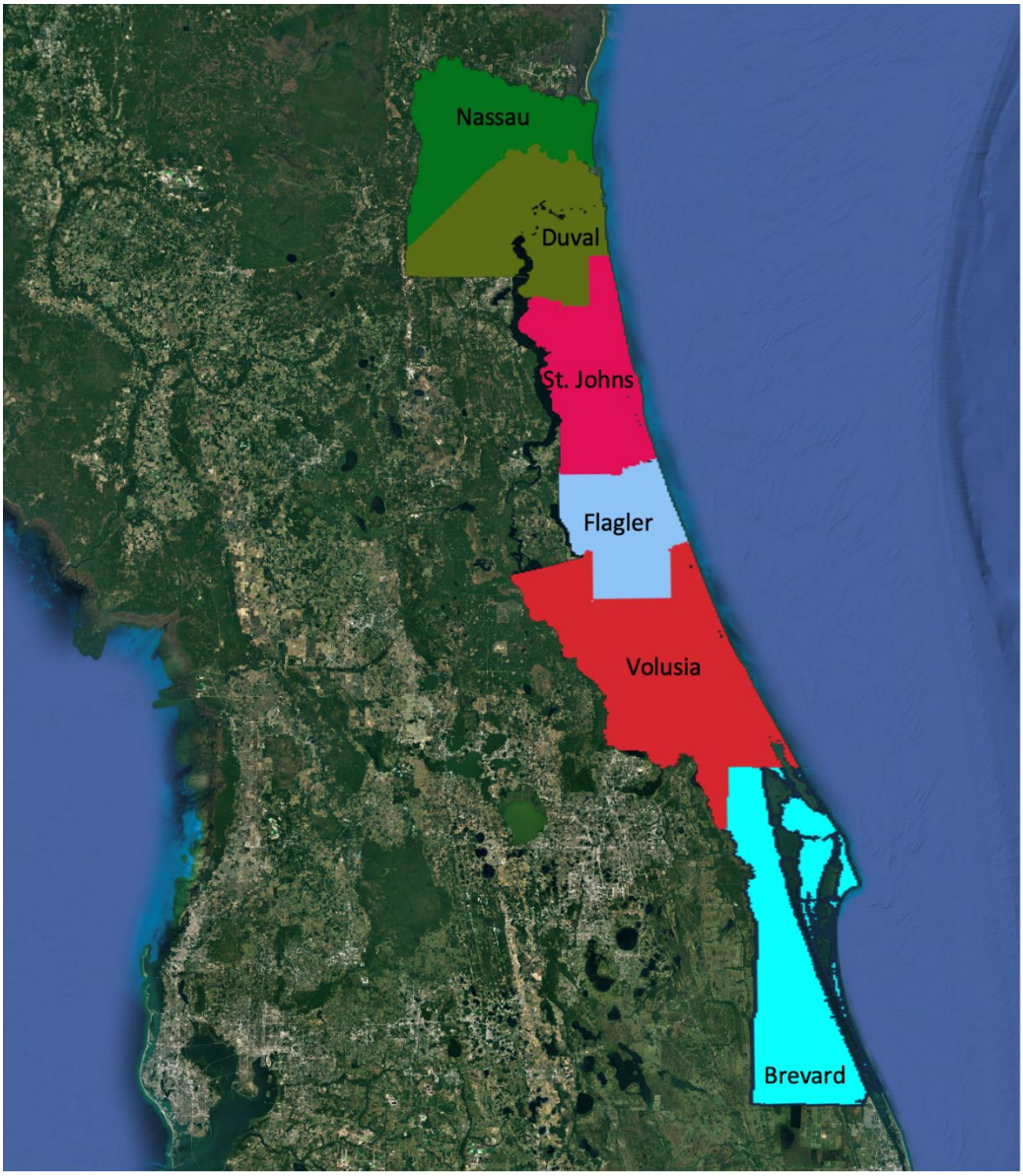



Figure 4: Map of Jacksonville COTP Zone

The Jacksonville COTP Zone, and thus the ACP planning area, is defined by 33 C.F.R. 3.40-15. The area of responsibility starts at the outermost extent of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) at latitude 30°50'00" N, longitude 76°09'54" W, proceeding west to latitude 30°50'00" N, longitude 82°15'00" W; thence south to the intersection of the Florida-Georgia boundary at longitude 82°15'00" W; thence west along the Florida-Georgia boundary to longitude 83°00'00" W; thence southeast to latitude 28°00'00" N, 81°30'00" W; thence east to the outermost extent of the EEZ at latitude 28°00'00" N, longitude 79°23'34" W; thence northeast along the outermost extent of the EEZ to the point of origin.

**3103 Area Counties**
The counties covered in the ACP planning area are as follows:

Figure 5: Area Counties




| Table 3: Area Counties | |
|---|---|
| 1. Nassau | 2. Clay |
| 3. Duval | 4. Putnam |
| 5. St Johns | 6. Camden (GA) |
| 7. Flagler | 8. |
| 9. Volusia | 10. |
| 11. Brevard | 12. |

**3104 Offshore AOR**

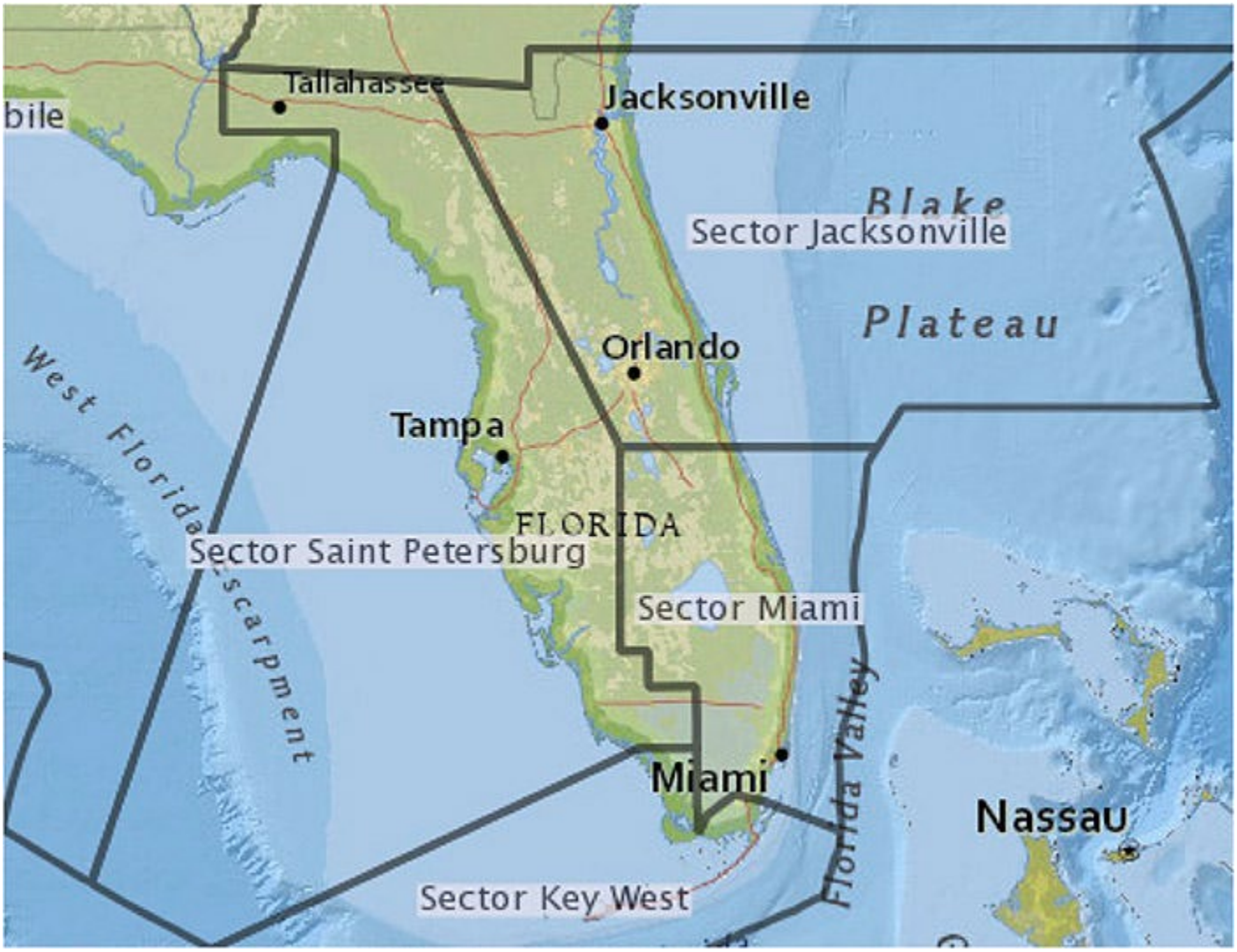



Figure 6: Offshore Boundary

# 3200 Areas of Special Economic or Environmental Importance

As required by 40 C.F.R. 300.210(c)(3)(i), areas of special economic or environmental importance shall be identified for protection from the impacts of a spill. Considerations include each location's significance, sensitivity to oil, anticipated impacts, and the extent to which potential losses can be recovered/ restored/ compensated. Potential economically sensitive areas include water intakes, high tourism coastal areas, significant port/industrial facilities, marinas, aquaculture sites, and fishing grounds.

**3201 Areas of Special Economic or Environmental Importance**

***Under development in 2022.***

# 3300 Worst Case Discharge Information

As per the CWA, a Worst Case Discharge (WCD) is defined as, in the case of a vessel, a discharge in adverse weather conditions of its entire cargo, and in the case of an offshore facility or onshore facility, the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is leading an offshore Gulf of Mexico WCD project. During this multi-year project (2020-2022), Area Committees will select two WCD scenarios associated with oil exploration and production. These scenarios, modelling, and concept of operations will be developed and included in the RRT-4 Regional Contingency Plan and respective ACP.

### 3301 WCD Table for All Transportation Modes in ACP Planning Area

| Table 4: Worst Case Discharges for ACP Planning Area **(all transportation modes)** | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FOSC Sector Jacksonville** | | | | |
| **Type** | **Owner / Operator Vessel / Facility Name** | **Location** | **Amount** | **Product** |
| **MTR Facility** | Center Point Terminal | Jacksonville, FL | 11,362 bbl<br>477,204 gal | Oil Products |
| **MTF Facility** | Blanchard Terminal | Jacksonville, FL | 9,078 bbl<br>381,276 gal | Oil Products |
| **Vessel** | Long Range Oil Tanker | MTR facilities along the St. Johns River | 348,000 bbl<br>14,615,999 gal | Oil Products |
| **Rail** | CSX/FL East Coast Rail | St. Mary's River or St. John's River | 12,857 bbl<br>540,000 gal | Oil Products |

### 3302 Area Planning and Risk Analysis

Additional risk analysis and area specific worst case scenario planning information for the NE and E Central Florida Area is located in Annex 1a.

# 4000 Government Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Nationally, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has designated its coastal Captains of the Port (COTP) as the predesignated Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) within the coastal zone. As such, the USCG FOSC is the Chair of the respective Area Committee (AC) and oversees the development, maintenance and implementation of the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) for their COTP zone.

# 4100 Federal Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Refer to the RRT-4 Regional Contingency Plan Volume 1 and the NRT website for a list of federal agencies and their roles and responsibilities related to ACP planning, preparedness and response.

# 4200 State Agency Roles and Responsibilities

**4201 Florida Department of Environmental Protection**

In the State of Florida, oil spills in the coastal zone are the responsibility of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the State Scientific Support Coordinator (SOSC) who works for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC). It is the policy of the State to assist the Federal On-Scene Coordinator in response to pollutant spills in Florida. No State funds shall be expended for the removal of a coastal pollutant until federal funds have been used to the maximum extent possible or until federal authorities have declined to expend federal funds in a cleanup effort. It is the policy of the State to respond immediately to all oil spills, control the source of any oil spill, and to contain any discharge to the maximum extent possible.

Mechanical and other physical control methods shall be the preferred method for removal of oil from the environment with subsequent proper disposal. The option of taking no mitigating actions should be considered when such actions would cause greater environmental damage than the spilled oil alone. The use of oil spill cleanup agents shall be subject to the Secretary of FDEP's best judgment and coordinated with the federal OSC and EPA representative to the RRT.

Whenever it is determined the responsible party for the discharge is taking adequate action to remove and mitigate its effects, the principle thrust of the State is to observe, monitor, and provide advice and counsel, as necessary. The FOSC or FDEP will take steps to access the applicable State or federal fund to ensure adequate cleanup whenever they determine the responsible party for the discharge was unknown, did not act promptly, take proper and appropriate actions to contain, clean up and dispose of the oil or oily debris, or the total cleanup costs are beyond those expected to be borne by the responsible party. In addition, the responsible party must also protect the environment and adhere to safety practices.

The State Watch Office is the State of Florida's emergency notification center. The State Watch Office can contact the appropriate FDEP office and other emergency responders in the event of an emergency.

Within the area of responsibility of this Plan, it is the policy of the Federal On-Scene Coordinator, as well as National policy, that all reports of discharges of oil or hazardous materials be investigated. In the Sector Jacksonville AOR, spill reports will normally be investigated by Sector Jacksonville personnel. However, in more remote areas the FDEP or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will often conduct the initial investigation.

Several factors will be considered to determine how an oil discharge will be cleaned up. These factors include, but are not limited to:

1. Type of material (oil), including toxicity and persistence;
2. Amount of material;
3. Location of discharge in relation to environmentally sensitive areas;
4. Hazards to response personnel;

5. Technical Probability of Success;
6. Response time of clean-up contractor.

The OSC shall not relinquish any responsibility, no matter who is executing the actual response, and shall monitor the response as necessary to ensure its adequacy. If a response is not adequate, the OSC shall, to the extent that resources are available, provide advice to responders or assume control of the response. The OSC does not need to extensively investigate an incident to determine the need for a response. If the release poses an obvious threat to public health or welfare, or the environment, the OSC should take appropriate actions as rapidly as circumstances dictate.

It is the policy of the State, to assist the Federal On-Scene Coordinator in response to pollutant spills in Florida. No State funds shall be expended for the removal of a coastal pollutant until federal funds have been used to the maximum extent possible, or until federal authorities have declined to expend federal funds in a cleanup effort. It is the policy of the State to respond immediately to all oil spills, control the source of any oil spill to contain any discharge to the maximum extent possible. Mechanical and other physical control methods shall be the preferred method for removal of oil from the environment with subsequent proper disposal. The option of taking no mitigating actions should be considered when such actions would cause greater environmental damage than the spilled oil alone. The use of oil spill cleanup agents shall be subject to the Administrator of FL DEP's best judgment and coordinated with the federal OSC and EPA representative to the RRT.

Whenever it is determined the responsible party for the discharge is taking adequate action to remove and mitigate its effects, the principle thrust of the State is to observe, monitor and provide advice and counsel, as maybe necessary. The FOSC or FDEP will take steps to access the applicable state or federal fund to ensure adequate cleanup whenever they determine the responsible party for the discharge was unknown, did not act promptly, take proper and appropriate actions to contain, cleanup and dispose of the oil or oily debris, or the total cleanup costs are beyond those expected to be borne by the responsible party. In addition the responsible party must also protect the environment and adhere to safety practices.

The State Watch Office is the State of Florida's emergency notification center. The State Watch Office can contact the appropriate FDEP office and other emergency responders in the event of an emergency. The phone number is (850) 815-4001 or 1-800-320-0519.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) provisions in Florida. The SERC, along with the LEPCs, work to mitigate the effects of a release or spill of hazardous materials by collecting data on the storage of hazardous chemicals above planning quantities.
The Technological Hazards Section at the Florida Division of Emergency Management provides programmatic support for the SERC.

Coordination with this group can be accomplished through the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

## 4300 Local Roles and Responsibilities

**4301 Local Response**

The focus of local responders is usually directed toward abating immediate public safety threats. The degree of local response will depend upon the training and capabilities of local responders relative to the needs of the specific emergency.

In some cases, the need may be identifying the nature and scope of the hazard. This information is then passed on to state and federal responders who are activated to address the situation with specific expertise and/or capabilities.

Often local agencies take mitigating actions of a defensive nature to contain the incident and protect the public. In many instances, responsible parties or local agencies are capable of an aggressive response and quick abatement of immediate hazards. In these cases, local authorities usually rely on state and federal responders to ensure that cleanup is complete, and remediation is technically sufficient.

A major role of local organizations during all emergency incidents is to provide security for all on-scene forces and equipment. For large incidents, help is often requested through the state emergency management agencies. Activities include establishing local liaison with hospital, emergency services, and police personnel, as well as restricting entrance to hazardous areas to all but essential personnel.

Coordination with the local governmental organizations of parishes, cities, or towns is especially important for traffic control, land access, and disposal of oil or hazardous materials removed during response operations.

Landowners are also encouraged to participate in planning and response. Landowners are a valuable resource due to their local knowledge. The landowner, to the extent practical and based on the FOSC's judgment, may be included in the planning and response activities, under direction of the FOSC.

Landowners who provide access to or are affected by a discharge or release have jurisdiction over their lands and warrant special consideration by the responding agency or Unified Command. In the event an incident poses, or has the potential to pose, an imminent threat to human health or the environment, it is in the best interest of the landowner to provide access to an on-scene coordinator.

**4302 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)**

LEPCs are responsible for the development and maintenance of local emergency response plans in accordance with the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA Sections 301 to 303. LEPC membership includes various representatives from local governmental agencies, emergency responders, environmental groups, and local industry.

The emergency plans developed by these groups must include the identity and location of hazardous materials, procedures for immediate response to a chemical accident, ways to notify members of the public of their actions they must take in the event of a discharge or release, names of coordinators at plants, and schedules for testing the plan.

The local emergency response plan must be reviewed by the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The RRTs may review the plans and provide assistance if the SERC or LEPC makes such a request. Federal contingency plans provide for coordination with local governments.

# 5000 Support Available to the FOSC

Various sources of technical/scientific and administrative support are available to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) either through telephone contact or actual dispatch of teams to the field. Support agencies and groups available to the FOSC include the following.

## 5100 Regional Response Team (RRT-4)

The functional role of RRTs in each federal region has two principal components. One component is the standing team whose duties involve communications systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters within each RRT's respective region. The second component of the RRT is an incident-specific team that may be assembled, as determined by the operational requirements of a response to a specific discharge or release. The RRT has responsibility for developing an RCP and for assisting the FOSC when guidance, coordination, or resources are needed to provide an adequate response to an incident. The RRT includes a representative from each state within the federal region, and representatives from 15 federal agencies available to provide assistance or resources during such a response. EPA and the USCG co-chair the RRT, which does not respond directly to the scene, but instead responds to developments and requests from the FOSC in accordance with the ACP. RRT-4 normally holds semiannual meetings in the spring and fall of each year.

## 5200 Natural Resource Trustees

CERCLA and OPA authorize the United States, individual States, and Indian Tribes to act on behalf of the public as Natural Resource Trustees for natural resources (Natural Resource Trustees or Trustees) under their respective trusteeships (CERCLA §107(f)(1); OPA §1006(c)). OPA also authorizes foreign governments to act as Trustees (OPA §1006 [b][5]). Following a hazardous substance release or oil discharge, Natural Resource Trustees have responsibilities for assessing resulting injury to the environment. Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) is the process by which trustees collect, compile, and evaluate data to determine the extent of injury to natural resources. The information gathered is used to assess damages, determine the restoration required to compensate for the injured natural resources and lost use of resources, and seek recovery of those damages from the responsible party. NRDAs are typically initiated concurrent with response activities.

Initiation of a NRDA usually involves acquiring data both during and after a spill to document: (1) oil or hazardous substances in water, sediments, soil, and organisms; (2) effects on fish, wildlife, and/or their habitat; (3) exposure pathways; and (4) measures taken to prevent or reduce immediate migration of oil or hazardous substances onto or into a trust resource. To avoid duplication of response activities specified in a NRDA with other response activities, all sampling and field work by Natural Resource Trustees should be coordinated with the lead response agency.

If natural resources are injured by a discharge or release of a mixture of oil and hazardous substances, DOI regulations apply. NOAA regulations apply only in assessing damages that may result from discharges of oil.

Trustees often have information and technical expertise about the biological effects of hazardous substances, as well as locations of sensitive species and habitats, that can assist in characterizing the nature and extent of site-related contamination and impacts. Coordination at the investigation and planning stages provides the Trustees early access to information they need to assess injury to natural resources.

# 5300 Federal Agency Scientific/Technical Support

### 5301 U. S. Coast Guard (USCG)

#### 5301.1 The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC)

The NSFCC manages the NSF which is authorized as the National Response Unit required under OPA, with responsibility for administering the USCG Strike Teams, maintaining response equipment inventories and logistical networks, and conducting national exercise programs including pollution response exercises. The NSFCC offers the technical assistance and equipment for spill response, assistance in coordinating resources during oil discharge response, Area Contingency Plan (ACP) or Regional Contingency Plan (RCP) review, coordination of spill response resources information, and inspection of Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO) response equipment. The Strike Teams provide trained personnel and specialized equipment to assist the FOSC in training for spill response, stabilizing and containing the spill, and monitoring or directing response actions of the responsible parties (RPs) and/or contractors.

#### 5301.1.1 The USCG National Strike Force (NSF)

The NSF's mission is to provide highly trained, experienced personnel and specialized equipment to the Coast Guard and other federal agencies to facilitate preparedness and response to oil and hazardous substance pollution incidents in order to protect public health and the environment. The NSF's area of responsibility (AOR) covers all Coast Guard Districts and Federal Regions.

#### 5301.1.2 USCG Strike Teams (Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific)

The three USCG Strike Teams are available 24 hours a day. If the Strike Team contacted is already committed, another Strike Team will be deployed. Each Strike Team maintains trained personnel and specialized equipment to assist with training in responding to spills, stabilizing and containing spills, and monitoring and/or directing response actions of the RPs and/or contractors. The Gulf Strike Team, based in Mobile, Alabama, provides response coverage to Florida.

#### 5301.1.3 Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)

PIAT is an element of the NSFCC staff available to assist the FOSC to meet the demands for public information during a response or exercise. Its use is encouraged any time the FOSC requires outside public affairs support. Requests for PIAT assistance may be made through the NSFCC or National Response Center (NRC). Sector Jacksonville does host a Public Affairs Detachment consisting of a small staff which are solely dedicated to assisting with Public Affairs matters. See the Spill of National Significance (SONS) Public Affairs Reference for more information.

#### 5301.1.4 Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)

The IMAT was developed by the USCG to supply a ready-made team of Incident Command System (ICS) highly trained individuals to assist the local Incident Command (IC) in dealing with

a major incident. The IMAT is located in Norfolk, VA. The team is trained for initial quick response to a regionally or nationally significant event. The team consists of ICS process experts that can quickly set-up and assist in transitioning from the initial emergency phase to a more sustained planning process. The IMAT deploys with a limited amount of equipment to ensure ICS functionality within an Incident Command Post (ICP).

**5301.1.5 National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC)**

NPFC is responsible for implementing those portions of OPA Title I delegated to the Secretary of the Department in which the USCG is operating. NPFC is responsible for addressing funding issues arising from actual and potential discharges of oil. Responsibilities of the NPFC include: (1) issuing Certificates of Financial Responsibility (COFRs) to owners and operators of vessels to pay for costs and damages incurred by their vessels as a result of oil discharges, (2) providing funding to various response organizations for timely abatement and removal actions related to oil discharges, (3) providing equitable compensation to claimants who sustain costs and damages from oil discharges when the RP fails to do so, (4) recovering monies from persons liable for costs and damages resulting from oil discharges to the full extent of liability under the law, and (5) providing funds to initiate Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) activities.

**5301.1.6 USCG District Response Group (DRG)**

DRGs assist the FOSC by providing technical assistance, personnel, and equipment. Each DRG consists of the combined USCG personnel and equipment, including marine firefighting equipment, of each port in the district and a district response advisory team. Specifically, the USCG's Seventh District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) and the Incident Management and Preparedness Advisor (IMPA) provide pollution planning, preparedness, and response policy guidance and assistance to an FOSC and staff on a regular basis.

**5302 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

**5302.1 Environmental Response Team (ERT)**

In the event of a continuing release or discharge, the FOSC has access to EPA's ERT, stationed in Edison, New Jersey; Cincinnati, Ohio; Erlanger, Kentucky; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The ERT provides Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC) with expertise in treatment technology, biology, chemistry, hydrology, geology, and engineering. The ERT also has access to special decontamination equipment and can provide advice on a wide range of issues such as a multimedia sampling and analysis program, on-site safety (including development and implementation plans), cleanup techniques and priorities, water supply decontamination and protection, application of dispersants, environmental assessment, degree of cleanup required, and disposal of contaminated material. The FOSC may designate an SSC as principal advisor on scientific issues who also communicates with the scientific community and assists in requests to state and federal agencies.

**5302.2 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Consequence Management Advisory Division (CMAD)**

The CBRN CMAD, present at five geographic locations, provides 24/7 scientific and technical expertise to the FOSC or response customer for all phases of consequence management. With a focus on operational preparedness, CBRN CMAD facilitates the transition of the latest science and technology to the field response community in order to provide tactical options for screening, sampling, monitoring, decontamination, clearance, waste management, and toxicological/exposure assessment during decontamination of buildings or other structures

following an incident involving releases of radiological, biological, or chemical contaminants. CBRN CMAD maintains critical partnerships with: (1) EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center and the EPA's special teams; (2) other federal partners including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation, DOD, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); and (3) international partners.

**5302.3 Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)**

RERTs have been established by EPA's Office of Radiation Programs (ORP) to provide response and support during incidents or at sites containing radiological hazards. Expertise is available in radiation monitoring, radionuclide analysis, radiation health physics, and risk assessment. RERTs can provide on-site support including mobile monitoring laboratories for field analysis of samples as well as fixed laboratories for radiochemical sampling and analyses. Request for support may be made 24 hours a day via the NRC or directly to the EPA Radiological Response Coordinator in the ORP.

**5303 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

NOAA provides scientific support for responses and contingency planning in coastal and marine areas, including assessments of the hazards that may be involved, predictions of movement and dispersion of oil and hazardous substances through trajectory modeling, and information on the sensitivity of coastal environments to oil or hazardous substances. NOAA provides scientific expertise on living marine resources it manages and protects. It also provides information on actual and predicted meteorological, hydrologic, ice, and oceanographic conditions for marine, coastal, and inland waters, as well as, tide and circulation data. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), through NOAA, also acts as trustee for natural resources managed or controlled by DOC, including their supporting ecosystems.

**5303.1 Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC)**

The SSC, in accordance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP), will provide the FOSC scientific advice with regard to the best course of action during a spill response. The SSC will help facilitate consensus from the Federal natural resource management agencies and provide spill trajectory analysis data, information on the resources at risk, weather information, tidal and current information, etc. The SSC will be the point of contact for the Scientific Support Team from NOAA's Hazardous Material Response and Assessment Division. The FOSC's Guide to NOAA Scientific Support outlines all of the products and services the NOAA SSC can provide for planning and response activities.

The NOAA SSC can provide training and technical expertise with SCAT. The Shoreline Assessment Manual, updated August 2013 by NOAA/HAZMAT, outlines methods for conducting shoreline assessment after an oil spill.

**5303.2 National Weather Service (NWS)**

NWS, a federal organization within NOAA, can provide various types of support to an Incident Command (IC)/Unified Command (UC) operating in the Northeast Florida area through its Jacksonville office, which covers coastal Florida. The IC/UC will be provided with a direct unlisted number to the lead forecaster's desk, through which continuous information on wind speeds, temperatures, and other atmospheric data can be obtained.

**5304 U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)**

DOI has jurisdiction over the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuges, fish hatcheries, and public lands. The Regional Environmental Officer (REO) manages the department's response programs for oil and hazardous substance spills and oversees the department's responsibilities as a trustee for natural resources. The DOI may become involved in spill response once contacted through the REO who is a designated member of RRT-4. The REO for RRT-4 is located in Atlanta, Georgia.

### 5304.1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The Secretary of the Interior acts as trustee for resources managed or protected by DOI Bureaus, including USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). USFWS, an office within DOI, is responsible for the management of migratory birds, federally listed endangered and threatened species, and inter-jurisdictional fishes within NE and E Central FL area. National Wildlife Refuge lands established in/near the ACP planning area include:

- St. Johns National Wildlife Refuge
- Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge

When a spill occurs, the appropriate USFWS office(s) will provide timely advice on measures necessary to protect wildlife from exposure, as well as priority and timing of such measures. Protective measures may include preventing the oil from reaching areas where migratory birds and other wildlife are located or deterring birds or other wildlife from entering areas by using wildlife hazing devices or other methods.

If exposure of birds and other wildlife to oil or hazardous substances cannot be prevented, an immediate decision will be made regarding rescue and rehabilitation of "oiled" birds and other wildlife. Decisions to rescue and rehabilitate "oiled" wildlife must be made in conjunction with other federal and state natural resource management agencies. Wildlife rehabilitators will need federal and state permits to collect, possess, and band migratory birds and threatened/endangered species.

For more information see Annex G of the RRT-4 RCP.

### 5304.2 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

USGS maintains expertise in water quality characterization, oil fingerprinting, submerged oil and oil-particle formation, transport and resuspension of oil in fresh waters, riverine two-dimensional (2D) particle transport/hydrodynamic simulations, ecotoxicology, time-of-travel studies for freshwater systems, and geospatial data collection of visible spill plumes applicable to spill response events in freshwater environments. In addition, USGS can provide biological survey assistance for natural resources and contaminants and contribute distribution information about sensitive species (e.g., birds, invertebrates). USGS also provides extensive expertise and information for natural resource damage assessments (NRDAs) (e.g., aerial surveys, abundance estimation, remote sensing, etc.).

### 5304.3 Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

BSEE works to promote safety, protect the environment, and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement. BSEE's Offshore Regulatory Program develops standards and regulations to enhance operational safety and environmental protection for the

exploration and development of offshore oil and natural gas on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). BSEE's regional office within the Gulf of Mexico is located in New Orleans, LA.

**5305 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

HHS through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances. The ATSDR is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effects on public health of ***hazardous substances*** in the environment. These functions include public health assessments of waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency release of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

Public Health Technical Specialists from the HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ATSDR can assist with environmental health support. Environmental Health Support Guidance for Florida is located in Annex 5.

**5305.1 The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)**

NIOSH provides national and world leadership to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death by gathering information, conducting scientific research, and translating the knowledge gained into products and services, including scientific information products, training videos, and recommendations for improving safety and health in the workplace.

In response to requests from workers (or their representatives), employers, and other government agencies, NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation scientists conduct workplace assessments to determine if workers are exposed to hazardous materials or harmful conditions and whether these exposures are affecting worker health. NIOSH evaluates the workplace environment and health of employees by reviewing records and conducting on-site environmental sampling, epidemiologic surveys, and medical testing.

See the NIOSH Pocket Guide for more information.

**5306 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

USDA has scientific and technical capability to measure, evaluate, and monitor, either on the ground or by use of aircraft, situations where natural resources including soil, water, wildlife, and vegetation have been impacted by hazardous substances and other natural or man-made emergencies. The USDA may be contacted through the U.S. Forest Service emergency staff officers who are the designated members of the RRT.

USDA maintains trusteeship of national forest, wilderness areas, and wildlife within USDA-controlled forests, archaeological sites, range and farm lands, fisheries, and lands enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program. Additionally, the USDA plays a key role in the closing and re-opening of fisheries before, during, and after clean-up operations.

**5307 Department of Energy (DOE)**

The Secretary of Energy has trusteeship over natural resources under its jurisdiction, custody, or control. DOE's land-holdings include national research and development laboratories, facilities, and offices.

**5308 U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**

DOT provides response expertise pertaining to transportation of oil or hazardous materials by all modes of transportation. Through the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT-PHMSA offers expertise in the requirements for packaging, handling, and transporting regulated hazardous materials.

**5309 Department of Defense (DoD)**

**5309.1 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

The Secretary of the DoD has trusteeship over the natural resources on all lands owned by DoD or the Army (including lands and facilities managed by the USACE, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Logistics Agency). These lands include military bases and training facilities, research and development facilities, and munitions plants. USACE has trusteeship over natural resources under its jurisdiction, custody, or control. USACE land-holdings include national research and development laboratories, facilities, and offices. Additionally, the USACE provide information on river levels within this ACP planning area.

**5309.2 U.S. Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV)**

SUPSALV has an extensive salvage/search and recovery equipment inventory, and the requisite knowledge and expertise to support these operations including specialized salvage, firefighting, and petroleum, oil, and lubricants offloading capability even in open sea response incidents. SUPSALV can also provide equipment for training exercises in support of national and regional contingency planning objectives. The FOSC may request assistance directly from SUPSALV. Formal requests are routed through the Chief of Naval Operations.

**5309.3 National Guard Civil Support Teams (CSTs)**

CST were created in 1999 to respond to terrorist incidents involving WMD, as well as other disasters and catastrophic events, both natural and man-made. There are 57 CSTs located throughout the United States, with at least one in each state and territory. The mission of a CST is to support civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high-yield Explosives) incident site with responsibilities such as identification and assessment of hazards, advising civil authorities, and facilitating the arrival of follow-on military forces during emergencies and incidents.

CSTs normally operate as a State asset, under the command and control of The State Governor, but upon deployment, the unit provides direct support to the IC. CSTs support local emergency responders (Fire, Police, and EMS), as well as State and Federal agencies such as the DOE, FBI, EPA and FEMA.

The Florida National Guard has two Civil Support Teams:

48th Civil Support Team – Clearwater, FL

44th Civil Support Team – Starke, FL

# 5400 Nongovernmental Organizations, Academia, and Other Technical Support

### 5401 Volunteers

In times of crisis or trouble, many citizens feel compelled to help or lend their assistance and expertise to the response effort. This help can be welcome if the demands of an incident exceed the available resources or if a particular set of skills are in short supply. Volunteers can support response efforts in any number of ways such as conducting beach surveillance, providing logistical support, or assisting in the treatment of impacted wildlife. The decision to employ volunteers will take into account the benefits that might be gained weighed against safety and liability realities. The UC, in the early stages of the event, will make the decision whether volunteers will be employed and in which capacities they can serve. For more details about the use of volunteers, please refer to Annex 6a in Section 11000 of this plan, and the National Response Team's Use of Volunteers Guidelines for Oil Spills and the Volunteer Plan, Annex F of the RRT-4 RCP.

### 5402 Certified Marine Chemist (CMC)

The United States Coast Guard and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) require that a certificate issued by a Marine Chemist be obtained before hot work or fire producing operations can be carried out in certain spaces aboard a marine vessel.

In complying with both the U.S. Coast Guard and OSHA regulations, the CMC applies the requirements contained in National Fire Protection Association Standard 306. NFPA 306, Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels, describes conditions that must exist aboard a marine vessel. A survey by the Marine Chemist ensures that these conditions are satisfied. In addition, a CMC is able to perform similar evaluations on other than marine vessels where an unsafe environment exists for workers, or hot work is contemplated on a system that might contain residues of a flammable or combustible product or material. See National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Certified Marine Chemists for a list of certified Marine Chemists.

# 5500 Federal Agency Legal and Investigative Support

### 5501 U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

DOJ can provide expert legal advice on complicated legal questions arising from discharges or releases and federal agency responses. The DOJ represents the federal government, including its agencies, in litigation relating to discharges.

### 5502 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI, under the DOJ, is the lead federal agency for responding to threats from weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The Bureau investigates and collects intelligence on WMD-related threats and incidents to prevent attacks and respond to them when they occur. WMD Directorate (WMDD) is part of the FBI's National Security Branch. The WMDD leads the FBI's efforts to mitigate threats from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive weapons. The WMDD provides leadership and expertise to domestic and foreign law enforcement, academia, and industry partners on WMD issues. The FBI approaches these issues through four major areas: preparedness, countermeasures, investigations/operations, and intelligence.

### 5503 U.S. EPA Criminal Investigations Division (EPA CID)

The EPA CID investigates allegations of criminal wrongdoing prohibited by various environmental statutes. Such investigations involve, but are not limited to, the illegal disposal of hazardous waste; the export of hazardous waste without the permission of the receiving country; the illegal discharge of pollutants to a water of the United States; the removal and disposal of regulated asbestos containing materials in a manner inconsistent with the law and regulations; the illegal importation of certain restricted or regulated chemicals into the United States; tampering with a drinking water supply; mail fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy and money laundering relating to environmental criminal activities. CID Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers with statutory authority to conduct investigations, to make arrests for any federal crime, and to execute and serve any warrant.

**5504 U.S. Coast Guard Legal**
The Seventh Coast Guard District has a legal staff that is available to provide support to the USCG FOSC. Additionally, and as needed, USCG Atlantic Area and headquarters can provide legal assistance to the USCG FOSC.

**5505 U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS)**
CGIS Agents are available to investigate criminal violations of environmental laws enforced by the Coast Guard. CGIS should be notified and consulted regarding all cases that may be referred to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution. CGIS Agents are trained criminal investigators who are familiar with the legal issues associated with prosecution of a criminal case. Additionally, CGIS Agents regularly work with agents of other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and frequently become aware of violations of environmental laws and ongoing criminal investigations through these sources.

Unless expressly directed by the Chief of CGIS or higher authority, CGIS will not conduct an environmental crime investigation in a COTP zone without first notifying and, thereafter, coordinating with the COTP. Likewise, the COTP should avoid committing the Coast Guard to participate in criminal investigations, either solely or in coordination with other enforcement agencies, without first consulting the District Commander who will ensure appropriate coordination with CGIS. In the event exigent circumstances require the initiation of a criminal investigation before such notification or consultation can occur, the required communication must occur as soon as practical thereafter.

**5506 National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)**
In accordance with the USCG/NTSB MOU and 46 C.F.R. 4.40-15(b), the NTSB shall conduct the investigation of certain major marine and public/nonpublic vessel casualties. Except for the preliminary investigation, a separate Coast Guard casualty investigation will not be conducted, nor will parties in interest be designated by the Coast Guard. Although these investigations are conducted by the NTSB in accordance with their procedures, the Coast Guard will participate fully as a party.

# 6000 Response Protocols

This segment of the ACP provides information outlined within Subpart D of the NCP, 40 C.F.R. 300.300. Response protocols are guidelines for the response community to ensure success in meeting all legal and statutory requirements before, during, and upon completion of an oil discharge or hazardous substance release incident. The NCP (40 C.F.R. 300.317) lists three broad national response priorities:

- Safety of human life
- Stabilizing the situation
- Use of all necessary containment and removal tactics in a coordinated manner

**Note:** These national priorities do not preclude the consideration of other priorities that may arise on an incident-specific basis. Although removal actions will primarily consist of mechanical means, e.g., boom, skimmers, etc., Subpart J of the NCP (Use of dispersants and other chemicals) provides additional techniques for consideration to mitigate oil discharges. Please see Section 8000 of this ACP for information on specific techniques and processes preauthorized within this ACP planning area.

# 6100 Initial Reporting, Notifications, and Preliminary Assessment

When oil is spilled or hazardous substance is released, the responsible party is required to notify the NRC at (800) 424-8802 and the 24-hour State Watch Office at (800) 320-0519. The National Response Center (NRC) is the national communications center for handling activities related to response actions. The NRC acts as the single federal point of contact for all pollution incident reporting. Notice of an oil discharge or release of a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the harmful or reportable quantity must be made immediately in accordance with the CWA and CERCLA under 33 C.F.R. part 153, Subpart B, and 40 C.F.R. part 302, respectively. Notification shall be made to the NRC Duty Officer, HQ USCG, Washington, D.C. [telephone (800) 424-8802]. All notices of discharges or releases received at the NRC will be relayed immediately to the appropriate predesignated FOSC. Notifying individual state offices does not relieve the responsible party from the requirements to notify the NRC and State Watch Office. Refer to the Initial Reporting Form, Annex 3 and the Contact Spreadsheet, Annex 2.

### 6101 Preliminary Assessment

The FOSC shall, to the extent practicable, collect pertinent facts about the discharge or release, such as its source and cause; the identification of potentially responsible parties; the nature, amount, and location of discharged or released materials; the probable direction and time of travel of the discharged or released materials; the pathways to human and environmental exposure; the potential impact on human health, welfare, and safety and the environment; the potential impact on natural resources and property that may be affected; priorities for protecting human health and welfare and the environment; and appropriate cost documentation. These efforts shall be coordinated with other appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies. The FOSC also shall promptly notify the appropriate trustees for natural resources of discharges or releases that are injuring or may injure natural resources under their jurisdiction.

### 6102 Cleanup Assessment Protocol

When discharged oil contaminates shoreline habitats, responders survey the affected areas to determine the appropriate response. Although general approvals or decision tools for using shoreline cleanup methods can be developed during planning stages, responders' specific cleanup recommendations utilize field data on shoreline habitats, type and degree of shoreline contamination, and spill-specific physical processes. Cleanup endpoints should be established early so that appropriate cleanup methods can be selected to meet the cleanup objectives.

Annex 1, Shoreline Cleanup Methods, provides guidance on the applicability of various clean methods for typical shoreline habitats found in the northeast and eastern central Florida. Additional tools to assist responders in establishing cleanup methodologies, include:

- Characteristics of Coastal Habitats: Choosing Spill Response Alternatives for oil spills,
- Characteristics of Response Strategies: A Guide for Spill Response Planning in Marine Environments,
- American Petroleum Institute (API) report on Tidal Inlet Protection Strategies (TIPS) (Note: File is too large to load on USCG network)

**Note**: These can also be found in Section 12000, Planning and Response Tools.

When conducted, shoreline surveys should be done systematically because they are crucial components of effective decision-making. Also, repeated surveys may be needed to monitor the effectiveness and effects of ongoing treatment methods (changes in shoreline oiling conditions, as well as natural recovery), so that the need for changes in methodology, additional treatment, or constraints can be evaluated.

NOAA's Shoreline Assessment Manual outlines methods that can be used to plan and conduct shoreline assessment after an oil spill. It also provides considerations that should be incorporated into assessing the effectiveness of the UC's shoreline cleanup decisions. The Shoreline Assessment Job Aid is a supplement to the manual. It contains visual examples of many of the terms you would use during shoreline assessments. In addition to these tools, the NOAA SSC also remains a valuable resource to help coordinate shoreline cleanup assessments and establish shoreline cleanup protocols.

## 6200 General Hierarchy of Response Priorities

The NCP establishes three priority levels for the dedication of emergency oil spill response resources:

- Protection of human health and safety,
- Protection of environmental resources, and
- Protection of economic resources.

Response protocols are also set in place to ensure the established priorities are met during an incident.

### 6201 Safety

As noted in the priorities outlined in the NCP, the health and safety of the responders and the general public are of primary importance. To ensure that this priority is successfully met each and every time, personnel involved in oil spill response activities must comply with all applicable worker health and safety laws and regulations. The primary federal safety regulations for responders are established by OSHA and can be found in 29 C.F.R. 1910.120; these set the safety standard for hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER). Incidents also may pose threats to those communities where the incident occurred, creating significant health safety threats which must be addressed as part of the response. For more details about the establishment of safety protocols for responders and how to safeguard public health during a response, please refer to the Site Safety Plan, Annex 4 and the Environmental Health Support Plan, Annex 5.

**6202 Priority Identification and Protection Strategies**
Environmental resources at risk are identified in Section 9000, Environmentally and Economically Sensitive Areas, and in Section 10000. Annex G of the RRT-4 RCP may also be referenced. Additional resources maybe found at the following links:

- Florida's Wildlife Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response
- The Natural Resource Trustee Annex, Annex H of the RRT-4 RCP

**6203 Risk Assessment for Sensitive Area Prioritization**
The initial response is focused on minimizing impacts through the strategic objectives of:

- Stopping the Source,
- Containment,
- Cleanup,
- Recovery, and
- Protection of Sensitive Areas.

In a pollution event, sensitive area protection prioritization should be determined by three considerations: (1) which sites are at risk (how soon the oil product will get to each sensitive site); (2) the predefined hierarchy of protection priorities; and (3) the time and response resources available to implement a specified protection strategy. Responders should not assume that sensitive locales equidistant from the source of a spill are at equal risk from the oil.

For the purpose of prioritization, "risk" is defined as "the probability of discharged oil reaching the vicinity of a sensitive site of concern." This means that the urgency to protect key resources is first determined by the likelihood that it will be impacted in the near future and mobilization time for requisite response staff and equipment (can the sites at risk be protected by available resources before oil arrives?). If the sites are too numerous to protect with the response resources available within projected times of impact, then triage of protection follows as the prescribed general hierarchy as identified for a specific area in the GRSs/GRPs.

**6204 Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
During a response, all of the appropriate environmentally sensitive areas will be referenced and a determination will be made as to which areas will be directly affected, which areas could potentially be affected, and which areas have no threat of being affected. The previously referenced GRSs/GRPs can be used for guidance, taking into account any special response considerations that will need to be addressed. Additionally, when threatened and endangered species, designated critical habitats, or historical/cultural properties may be affected by response actions, consultations with the appropriate agencies must be initiated. Specific guidelines and requirements for environmentally and economically sensitive resources, to include wildlife rescue and recovery, can be found in Section 10000 of this plan.

**6205 Wildlife Rescue & Recovery**
The protection, rescue, and recovery of impacted wildlife during a response requires close coordination with those individuals and entities which have the expertise, authority, and equipment to safely and successfully execute it. This complex and high visibility operation is conducted by the Wildlife Branch within a Unified Command structure. The Wildlife Response Plan was developed to outline the policy and procedures for Wildlife Branch operations. Additionally, it

lays out the activation criteria and factors to consider when developing wildlife response and recovery actions as well as the organizational infrastructure needed for these operations.

The Florida's Wildlife Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response was developed by the USCG, FWC, USFWS, FDEP, and NOAA. This plan is part of the RRT-4 RCP and is also designed to function as a stand-alone document and contains a template to build a spill-specific Wildlife Response Plan.

### 6206 Aligning Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) with Response

Under OPA and CERCLA and various state statutes, Responsible Parties (RPs) are liable for damages for injury to, destruction of, loss of, or loss of use of, natural resources from a hazardous substance release or oil discharge as well as damages from the response to the release or discharge (or substantial threat of discharge/release). The measure of damages includes the cost to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resource; the decline in value of resources pending restoration; and the reasonable cost of assessing the damages. Designated federal, state, and tribal natural resource trustees (Natural Resource Trustees) are responsible for assessing damages through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process.

As described by the U.S. Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook (2014) (IMH), NRDA activities generally do not occur within the structure, processes, and control of the Incident Command System (ICS). However, given that NRDA activities usually overlap with those of the response, a plan for coordination and cooperation between the two efforts is necessary. For details about the necessary communication and coordination methods to be implemented when NRDA and response activities are simultaneously taking place during a spill incident, please refer to the Coordinating Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) with Response, Site Profile - RRT IV Plans, Policies and Guidance - NRT of the RRT-4 RCP.

## 6300 National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The NE and E Central AC will manage spill incidents in accordance with the NIMS version of the Incident Command System (ICS). The Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook (IMH) is designed to assist Coast Guard personnel in the use of the NIMS ICS during response operations and planned events. This handbook outlines specific details related to NIMS ICS, including position job aids, forms, and other information to guide responders during an event. Brief discussion of a few NIMS ICS concepts are included below, and a link to the handbook may be found in Section 11000, Planning and Response Tools.

### 6301 Unified Command (UC)

When appropriate, a UC shall be established consisting of, at a minimum, the FOSC, the SOSC, and the RP's Incident Commander (IC). The UC can be established "virtually" as deemed necessary. The UC structure allows for a coordinated response effort, which takes into account the federal, state, local, and RP concerns and interests when implementing the response strategy. A UC establishes a forum for open, frank discussions on problems that must be addressed by the parties with primary responsibility for response operations. **Note:** NIMS ICS also provides for local and/or tribal representation within the UC. As such and at a minimum, consideration should be given to expand the UC to accommodate local and/or tribal interest during a particular response.

### 6301.1 FOSC Decision Authority

The FOSC has the ultimate authority in a response operation and will only exert this authority, consistent with the NCP, if the other members of the unified command are not present or are unable to reach consensus quickly.

### 6301.2 Responsible Party

Each responsible party for a vessel or a facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses a substantial threat of a discharge, into or upon the navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, or the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States, is liable for the removal costs and damages specified in OPA. Any removal activity undertaken by a responsible party must be consistent with the provisions of the NCP, the Regional Contingency Plan (RCP), this ACP, and the applicable vessel or facility response plan required by OPA. If directed by the UC at any time during removal activities, the responsible party must act accordingly. Specific responsibilities and requirements for the responsible party during a pollution incident can be found in the NCP, 33 C.F.R. 154 Subpart F, and 33 C.F.R. 155 Subpart D.

### 6301.3 Common Operating Picture (COP)

The COP provides visual up-to-date response information so the UC can make informed decisions on the effectiveness of response strategies and future operations. The Coast Guard has adopted NOAA's Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) as the platform to display a COP during a response. ERMA is a viewer that pulls real-time and static data to display a single interactive map. Generally speaking, RPs will provide their own COP, but ERMA can be used in conjunction with other platforms to make it easy for users to visualize an active environmental situation or long-term case assessment. **Note**: Internet Explorer is not compatible with ERMA; please use Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

### 6302 Incident Command Post

When a UC is established – beyond a "virtual UC" -- to manage a multi-day response, an Incident Command Post (ICP) shall be established as near as practicable to the spill site. All responders (federal, state, tribal, local, and private) should be incorporated into the response organization at the appropriate level. A list of potential pre-identified ICPs can be found in the Contact Spreadsheet, Annex 2.

### 6303 Public Information

Considering the high level of environmental awareness in many communities, any pollution incident is likely to generate interest from the public and the media. The public's perception of a response's success or failure is often determined early on in the response; this makes the need to provide the public with timely, accurate information critical. For smaller responses these efforts can be managed by a Public Information Officer or appropriate Branch Chief; however, large, more complex events will require the establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC) to manage information access and flow. For more information, please refer to the National Response Team's (NRT) Joint Information Center guidelines.

## 6400 Oil Spill Containment, Recovery and Cleanup

The goal of most oil containment and recovery strategies is to collect the spilled oil from the water and prevent it from reaching sensitive resources. Unfortunately, this is not always possible and sensitive resources do get oiled in spite of response efforts, especially during large oil spills. In those cases, the goal will be to minimize environmental impact using a variety of booming, containment, and recovery techniques.

**6401 Containment**

Before discharged oil can be effectively recovered, the spreading of the oil must be controlled, and the oil contained in an area accessible to oil recovery devices. Generally, discharged oil is contained using oil containment boom. Typical boom has a floatation section that provides a barrier on and above the water surface and a skirt section that provides a barrier below the surface. The physical dimensions of the boom to be used for a particular spill will be dependent on local conditions. In the open water, it may be necessary to use a boom that is several feet tall. In a protected marsh, a boom that is only a few inches tall may be appropriate.

There are limitations on the effectiveness of any boom. Oil will be lost if the conditions are such that there is splash-over from breaking waves. Oil will also be carried under the boom skirt (entrainment) if it is deployed in such a way that currents cause the oil to impact the boom with a velocity perpendicular to the boom of greater than 0.7 knots. Once a boom has been deployed, it may be necessary to reposition it due to changing tides and currents. It is desirable to have personnel available to readjust the boom as required. In all cases of boom deployment, consideration must be given to protecting the safety of those involved in the activity.

Hard/Containment booming is used to prevent spreading and to concentrate the oil so it can be skimmed or vacuumed. Factors that need to be considered are type and size of boom required for weather, winds, tides, and currents in the vicinity of potential spill areas; the type of deployment vessel needed; the amount of boom needed for effective containment; and available skimming capabilities. Fixed or natural anchor points should be selected.

Sorbent booming is useful when the amount of oil is minimal, when tides and currents are light, or when shorelines require protection. Heavier oil can be recovered using adsorbent (oil “sticks” to the boom) and lighter fuels generally are recovered using absorbents (sausage, sweep, or diapers). Sorbent booming can also be used as a backup for other types of booming to recover product that may have entrained past the primary barrier.

As oil escapes containment, it becomes increasingly difficult to recover. Additional measures must be included to deal with escaping oil. This is particularly necessary where oil booming is subjected to winds, waves, and strong currents; oil entrains or is splashed over boom. To counter oil escapement, deployments should include preplanning to anticipate where it may happen and measures to prevent it.

**6402 Shoreline Protection Options**

The ACP planning area is home to a large expanse of mud flat and marsh systems. These areas are particularly difficult to protectively boom, and every effort should be made to contain and recover the oil before it approaches any of these areas. If the on-water recovery operations are not entirely effective and oil still threatens the marsh areas, intertidal barrier boom may be used to protect the mud flats.

A recommended deployment strategy is as follows: Place intertidal boom along the entire front of the mud flat, with the boom being anchored just offshore of the low –low tide line. In areas where wave entrainment of the boom at high tide is considered to be a problem, place a line of boom across the upper mud flat near enough to the marsh to be away from the threat of wave entrainment. The boom positioned on the mud flat would rest on the flat at low tide and be of the type of

construction that would prohibit oil from passing under it on the rising tide. The boom would eventually lift up off the tidal flat surface as the tide continues to rise.

Deployment of this type of boom and its supporting arrangement is extremely labor intensive. It should only be implemented if there is a high probability that oil will reach the marsh areas. It is envisioned that these resources would not be available until equipment began to cascade into the area sometime after the initial response. Other factors to consider for this type of booming are:

- Water body type,
- Water current velocity,
- Water depth,
- Wave height, and
- Shore type.

Generally, sediment berms, dikes and dams will most often be used to protect small coastal inlets or perhaps tidal channels serving wetlands and marshes when these channels are accessible. The object of berms, dikes and dams is to keep oil outside an inlet because there are often abundant natural resources and economically significant areas that use the sheltered waters within.

Occasionally, dikes and dams have been used across a channel to contain the oil within a portion of marsh in order to prevent widespread contamination of other resources. Dikes and dams are not practical when currents are great, waters are deep, and waves are large. Also, beaches with abundant sand are generally the most suitable for building dikes and dams. Berms can be built above the active beach face to prevent oil contamination of high beach during spring tides. Alternative strategies should be prepared and the necessary supplies and equipment in place should a berm, dike, or dam fail.

### 6403 On-Water Recovery

#### 6403.1 Open Water

Oil removal/recovery in open water is accomplished through the use of skimming devices once the oil has been contained. Skimmers can be freestanding, in which the skimmer is a separate piece of equipment which pumps the oil-water mixture from the contained surface into tanks on a vessel. These skimmers are usually driven by hydraulic units on board a vessel. Self-propelled skimmers have a skimmer as an integral part of the vessel. The skimming vessel positions itself at the head of a concentrated or contained pool of oil and recovers the oil into tanks on board the vessel. There is also a type of skimmer in which the weir or collection zone of the skimmer is an integral part of the boom which is close to the skimmer.

Vessels of Opportunity (VOO), such as fishing vessels, may be used to deploy or tow boom and, depending on the size of the vessel, may be equipped with skimming equipment. VOOs need to have adequate deck space and lifting cranes to carry the necessary equipment.

#### 6403.2 Near-shore/Shallow Water

Oil recovery techniques and equipment are different in near-shore/shallow water locations than in open water locations. Shallow draft vessels and smaller boom and skimmers are used in these situations. These vessels can maneuver into tight places behind and under wharfs or in sloughs and can actually skim next to shore in many near-shore locations.

Strategies for near-shore cleanup can differ depending on the depth of the water and the location. Near-shore operations, within a bay or inlet, will also require shallow draft vessels, workboats, and skimmers. However, the vessels may only be operable at high tide. At or near low tide, the operation may evolve into a shoreline cleanup operation. Any boom towing boats or skimmers must be able to withstand going aground without sustaining major damage.

### 6403.3 High Current Environments

In the ACP planning area, it is not uncommon to encounter currents in excess of three knots per hour. With appropriate skimmer operations, it is possible to recover spilled oil in these high current areas. Standard skimming techniques must be modified somewhat to optimize oil recovery.

To be successful, most containment and skimming systems must encounter oil at speeds of less than one knot. Typically, skimmers are operated in conjunction with containment boom. If oil encounters the boom/skimming system with a perpendicular velocity greater than 0.7 knots, the oil will carry under the boom and be lost. Therefore, the most important consideration for skimming in high currents is to keep the speed of the skimming system below one knot relative to the water's surface.

As a basic example: A skimmer pointed upstream in a 5-knot current would actually be proceeding downstream or backwards at four knots to keep its velocity relative to the water's surface at one knot. Gauging a skimmer's velocity relative to the water's surface can be somewhat difficult. Often the most reliable method is for the skimmer operator to closely monitor the skimming system. They should look for signs of oil entrainment as well as ensuring the integrity of the containment system. As current speeds change, so must the speed of the skimmer. The skimmer monitoring can be aided by using an aerial asset (helicopter, plane, or drone) with an observer. The observer can tell if oil is being lost by the skimmer as well as direct the skimmer to the best skimming location. Boom is often deployed in front of the skimmer forming a V thus directing oil into the skimmer. The practice increases the area being covered by the skimmer. Ideally this V should be as wide as possible. In high currents, as the V width is increased, the speed of the oil encountering the boom perpendicularly is increased.

Oil will spread more quickly in the direction of the current flow; skimmers should operate in an up and down stream orientation. The oil slick will be elongated in the direction of the currents. Skimmers will encounter the most oil as they proceed up and down stream within the slick. Operating back and forth across stream and across the slick will result in sub-optimal recovery efficiency.

## 6404 Non-floating Oil Recovery and Protection

Non-floating oil that is spilled and transported subsurface either remains suspended in the water column or is deposited on the seabed, usually after interaction with suspended sediments or sand. Different strategies for containing these oils can depend on the location of the oil.

The recovery of sunken oil has proven to be very difficult and expensive because the oil is usually widely dispersed. Several of the most widely used recovery methods are manual removal, pump and vacuum systems, nets and trawls, dredging, and onshore recovery. Additional information is available in the Unconventional Oil Response Plan, Annex 11. (Currently under development).

**6405 Shore-side Recovery and Natural Collection Points**

There are predictable locales where recovery efforts can be optimized at shorelines. There are two situations where oil collection should be vigorously attempted at the shoreline:

- Places where oil naturally collects at the shoreline because of winds and currents
- Diversion and capture of oil as it flows past or along the shoreline to locations with low environmental sensitivity

Oil is a substance that spreads primarily in two dimensions on the water's surface while water moves in three dimensions; oil will spread thin, but it will also accumulate at predictable locales; it will accumulate wherever water has downward currents: such as tide rips along mud flats, and at windward coves. Responders are encouraged to also consider barge staging areas in the vicinity of a response for collection/pocketing of oil.

**6406 Shoreline Cleanup**

While skimming and recovery operations are being conducted, concurrent cleanup efforts will need to be taken to address the impacts resulting from an oil spill's contact with shorelines, man-made infrastructure, areas of vegetation, vessels, etc. The appropriate cleanup technique required will vary greatly and primarily depend upon the type of oil spilled, the degree of contamination, the sensitivity of the area and its economic or ecological importance and the ability to conduct the cleanup without causing further damage or trauma.

Following an oil spill's impact to a shoreline, an FOSC will need to identify those areas requiring treatment, establish cleanup priorities, and monitor the effectiveness and impact as a cleanup progresses. The information gathered during the surveys described in Section 6102, and decision-making tools provided in Annex 1 can assist the FOSC in selecting the most appropriate cleanup method(s) based on the kind of oil spilled and the type of shoreline habitat impacted. While evaluating cleanup options, an FOSC may determine that the use of a burning agent chemical countermeasure in support of the In-Situ Burn (ISB) technique provides the greatest net environmental benefit. For more information on the policy, procedures and checklists for burning agent use in support of the ISB technique within the Region 4 coastal zone (out to 3 miles offshore) please refer to the RRT-4 In-Situ Burn Policy, Annex J of the RRT-4 RCP.

For hard surface man-made areas impacted by a spill (sea walls, pier faces, rip rap, vessel hulls, etc.), evaluation of the options for removing the oil require the same care and consideration as naturally occurring areas of the environment. The challenges posed by the cleanup of these areas can be compounded by economic pressures as well as environmental, making the issue of a timely cleanup all the more urgent. In addition to having some of the same techniques available for the cleanup of a shoreline (manual removal, low/high pressure washing, passive use of sorbents, etc.), an FOSC may determine that use of a Surface Washing Agent (SWA) chemical countermeasure may be appropriate. For more information on the policy, procedures and checklists for SWA use within the Region 4 coastal zone please refer to the RRT-4 Surface Washing Agent (SWAs) policy, Annex J of the RRT-4 RCP.

**6407 Decontamination**

Decontamination is the process of removing or neutralizing contaminants that have accumulated on personnel and equipment during an oil spill response. Effective decontamination procedures protect responders from having unnecessary contact with oil that contaminates and permeates the

protective clothing, respiratory equipment, tools, vehicles, and other equipment used during the response. It also protects people and the environment by minimizing the transfer of oil into clean areas of the response site and prevents the uncontrolled transportation of contaminants from the site into a community.

A decontamination plan should be developed (as part of the Site Safety Plan) and set up before any personnel or equipment may enter areas where the oil recovery or cleanup is taking place. The decontamination plan should at a minimum:

- Determine the number and layout of decontamination stations;
- Determine the decontamination equipment needed;
- Determine appropriate decontamination methods;
- Establish procedures to prevent contamination of clean areas;
- Establish methods and procedures to minimize responder contact with oil during the removal of personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE), and;
- Establish methods for disposing of clothing and equipment that are not completely decontaminated.

For more information about recommended decontamination procedures and practices please refer to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Decontamination Site.

**6408 Disposal**

During the course of any response involving the collection and removal of oil, it becomes necessary to address the proper disposal of those materials which were contaminated by oil. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), also known as the Solid Waste Disposal Act, addresses this issue. RCRA directs that the generation of hazardous waste is to be reduced or eliminated as expeditiously as possible and that when it is generated, it be treated, stored, or disposed of to minimize the threat to human health and to the environment. In order to ensure the proper disposal of materials contaminated by hydrocarbons in accordance with all regulations (local, state, federal), please refer to the Disposal Plan, Annex 6b.

**6409 Terminating Cleanup Operations**

When to terminate specific oil spill cleanup actions can be a difficult decision; when is clean, clean enough? The increasing cost of the cleanup and the damage to the environment caused by cleanup activities must be weighed against the ecological and economic effects of leaving the remaining oil in place. The decision to terminate cleanup operations is site-specific. Cleanup usually cannot be terminated while one of the following conditions exist:

- Recoverable quantities of oil remain on water or shores
- Contamination of shore by fresh oil continues
- Oil remaining on shore is mobile and may be refloated to contaminate adjacent areas and near shore waters

Cleanup may normally be terminated when the following conditions exist:

- The environmental damage caused by the cleanup effort is greater than the damage caused by leaving the remaining oil or residue in place
- The cost of cleanup operations significantly outweighs the environmental or economic benefits of continued cleanup

- The FOSC, after consultation with the members of the Unified Command, determines that the cleanup should be terminated

**Note:** Per 40 C.F.R. 300.320(a)(5)(b), removal shall be considered complete when so determined by the FOSC in consultation with the Governor(s) of the affected state(s).

# 6500 Hazardous Substance Response

### 6501 Introduction

This segment of the ACP provides general guidelines for initial response actions necessary to abate, contain, control and remove the released substance and describes some of the unique issues associated with a hazardous substance release. Hazardous substance response is outlined within Subpart E of the NCP, 40 C.F.R. 300.400. Subpart E establishes methods and criteria for determining the appropriate extent of response authorized by CERCLA and CWA Section 311(c). These include:

- When there is a release of a hazardous substance into the environment; or
- When there is a release into the environment of any pollutant or contaminate that may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public of the United States.

The release of hazardous substances is unique compared to an oil spill in that hazardous substances have a greater potential to impact human health. In general, oil spills are of great concern due to their potential to cause long-term damage to the environment. However, oil spills do not routinely pose an immediate threat to human life. On the contrary, hazardous substance releases can pose an immediate danger to humans when released in even the smallest quantities.
The definition of a hazardous substance is: Any substance designated as such by the administrator of the EPA pursuant to the CERCLA (42 U.S.C. Sec. 9601 et seq.), regulated pursuant to Section 311(c) of the federal CWA (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1321 et seq.), or designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The definition of harmful quantity is: A quantity of a hazardous substance the release of which is determined to be harmful to the environment or public health or welfare or may reasonably be anticipated to present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare by the Administrator of the EPA pursuant to federal law and by FL DEP.

The Sector Jacksonville AOR is also home to the dynamic and rapidly changing commercial space industry. A large majority of the domestic rocket launches are conducted at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Almost every rocket and space vehicle uses a host of different hazardous substances for propellant. These fuels are present in large amounts for both launch and re-entry operations. More information on unconventional/hazardous substances responses, specifically with space operations, see Annex 11 (Currently under development).

More information on area specific Hazardous Substance response can be found in Annex 8.

### 6502 Environmental Support to the FOSC

In the event of a Spill of National Significance or pollution incident which poses a threat to public health, local, state, and national health, public officials shall be notified. For more information about environmental support available to the FOSC, please refer to Annex 5.

**6503 Florida Department of Environmental Protection**
It is the policy of the State to assist the Federal On-Scene Coordinator in response to pollutant spills in Florida. No state funds shall be expended for the removal of a coastal pollutant until federal funds have been used to the maximum extent possible or until federal authorities have declined to expend federal funds in a cleanup efforts. It is the policy of the State to respond immediately to all oil spills, control the source of any oil spill, and to contain any discharge to the maximum extent possible.

Mechanical and other physical control methods shall be the preferred method for removal of oil from the environment with subsequent proper disposal. The option of taking no mitigating actions should be considered when such actions would cause greater environmental damage than the spilled oil alone. The use of oil spill cleanup agents shall be subject to the Secretary of FDEP's best judgment and coordinator with federal OSC and EPA representatives to the RRT.

Whenever it is determined the responsible party for the discharge is taking adequate action to remove and mitigate its effects, the principle thrust of the state is to observe, monitor, and provide advice and counsel, as necessary. The FOSC or FDEOP will take steps to access the applicable state or federal fund to ensure adequate cleanup whenever they determine the responsible party for the discharge was unknown, did not act promptly, take proper and appropriate actions to contain, clean up, and dispose of the oil or oily debris, or the total cleanup cost are beyond those expected to the borne by the responsible party. In addition, the responsible party must also protect the environment and adhere to safety practices.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is a state trustee for fish, wildlife, and habitats that may be affected by pollutant spills. Per Florida Statute 379.224 and the memorandum of agreement relating to Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, FWC provides technical support and response for oil spills, ship groundings, major marine species die-offs, hazardous spills, and natural disasters. Per Florida Statute 376.121(8), the FWC shall assist the FDEP in the assessment of damages to wildlife impacted by pollutant discharges.

The State Watch Office is the state of Florida's emergency notification center. The State Watch Office can contact the appropriate FDEP office and other emergency responders in the event of an emergency.

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) is responsible for implementing the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) provisions in Florida. The SERC, along with the LEPCs, work to mitigate the effects of a release or spill of hazardous materials by collecting data on the storage of hazardous chemicals above planning quantities. The Technological Hazards Section at the Florida Division of Emergency Management provides programmatic support for the SERC.

Coordination with this group can be accomplished through the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

**Georgia:**

Under provisions of Article 3, Section 38-3-22, of the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended, the Governor has the authority to activate and implement all or selected response actions of State and local emergency plans and may delegate this authority to the Director of Emergency Management in advance of any emergency or disaster declaration. Camden County is the only county in Georgia that is in the Sector Jacksonville area of responsibility.

It is the policy of the State of Georgia to be prepared within its resources to deal with any emergency or disaster resulting from natural or man-made causes. Emergency functions and services of the State will be maintained in a high state of readiness to protect and save lives, prevent or minimize damage to property, and provide for the benefit of all citizens who are threatened by an emergency, or who become victims of any disaster or catastrophe. Further, it is the policy of the State to provide emergency services assistance to local governments upon request and the determination that local capability is insufficient to cope with the situation or that resources have been expended. These services shall be coordinated to the maximum extent with comparable activities of other local governments, other states, the federal government, and private agencies of every type. The Governor shall determine the level and duration of State commitment of resources at the time of each specific request or disaster situation and prior to any declaration or request for Federal assistance.

Parties responsible for oil spills or hazardous material releases are required to make notification to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR). The responsible party is also responsible for cleanup of the spill or release and all associated costs.

# 6600 Funding

### 6601 Oil Spill Response Funding

The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) is a billion-dollar fund established as a funding source to pay removal costs and damages resulting from oil spills or substantial threats of oil spills to navigable waters of the United States. The OSLTF is used for costs not directly paid by the responsible party (RP). The fund is also used to pay costs to respond to "mystery spills," for which the source has not been identified. The OSLTF was established by Section 311(k) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) and is administered by the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC). In the event of an oil spill, an FOSC, state, claimant, or trustee can obtain access to these federal funds through the processes outlined in the following sections.

### 6602 HAZMAT Pollution Response Funding

An MOU between the USCG and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes the USCG to access the Hazardous Substance Trust Fund (Superfund) when it undertakes response activities pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). A USCG FOSC has the authority to approve the expenditure of these funds to prevent or mitigate immediate and significant harm to human life or health or to the environment from the release or potential release of hazardous substances. The process through which a USCG FOSC accesses these funds is outlined below (FOSC Access to the Federal Funds). The NPFC is responsible for the administration of the USCG's portion of the Superfund, while the EPA retains overall responsibility for the fund's general administration.

**6603 FOSC Access to Federal Funds**

When federal actions are authorized by the Clean Water Act or CERCLA, the OSLTF or the Superfund, respectively, may be accessed to fund them. A USCG FOSC uses the NPFC's Ceiling and Number Assignment Processing System (CANAPS) to establish and manage a Funding Project Number (FPN) for an oil spill or a CERCLA Project Number (CPN) for a HAZMAT incident. These lines of accounting provide the funding necessary to carry out the FOSC's response actions. The NPFC works with the USCG's Finance Center (FINCEN) to create the accounting line and directly coordinates with the FOSC to ensure that the funds are utilized and accounted for appropriately. For specific guidance regarding the administration of a FPN or a CPN, refer to the "Procedures for Accessing the Funds" as well as the "CANAPS User Guide" in the NPFC User Reference Guide.

**6604 Funding Authorizations for Other Agencies**

Federal, state, local, and tribal governments assisting the FOSC during a response may receive reimbursable funding through a Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA). The NPFC can be consulted regarding PRFAs, but authorization to establish and use this funding source is provided by the FOSC. The decision to use another agency to help in the response must be documented in writing (to include what is required and why it is needed) and should be agreed to and signed by both the RP and FOSC. After the PRFA has been approved by the FOSC, the other agency is required to follow the same cost documentation procedures used by the FOSC. If additional or an increase in funding is required, the request must be made to the FOSC. For more information about PRFAs please refer to NPFC User Reference Guide.

**6605 State Access to the OSLTF for Immediate Removal or Prevention Costs**

OPA allows state Governors to request payment of up to $250,000 from the OSLTF for removal costs required for the immediate removal of a discharge of oil, or prevention of a substantial threat of a discharge of oil. Requests are made directly to the FOSC who will determine eligibility. If a state anticipates the need to access the OSLTF, they must submit a request which shall include the person's name, title, address, telephone number, and the capacity in which they are employed. FOSCs will provide initial coordination of the request and subsequent coordination and oversight. For more information about a state's access to the OSLTF please refer to Technical Operating Procedures for State Access to the OSLTF.

**6606 Trustee Access to the OSLTF**

OPA provides access to the OSLTF by Trustees for the purpose of conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). Executive Order 12777 introduced the concept of a Federal Lead Administrative Trustee (FLAT) in an effort to provide a focal point for addressing natural resource issues associated with a specific incident. The NPFC will only accept requests for initiation of a NRDA from, and normally work directly with, the designated FLAT. For purposes of requests for initial funding for a NRDA, State and Tribal Trustees must work through a FLAT. When a request for a NRDA has been made, the NPFC Natural Resource Damage Claims Division will then assign a claims manager to coordinate the approval process. Together, the NPFC Natural Resource Damage Claims Manager and the FLAT will execute a request and authorization for obligation of funds through an Inter- Agency Agreement (IAA). For more information about the process of initiating a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) and for the regulations and procedures for making a natural resource damage (NRD) claim please refer to NPFC Natural Resource Damage Claims.

### 6607 Local and Tribal Government Access to the Superfund

Local and federally recognized tribal governments may request reimbursement of cost to carry out temporary measures to protect human health and the environment without a contract or cooperative agreement. All costs for which local governments are seeking reimbursement must be consistent with the NCP and Federal cost principles outlined by the Office of Management and Budget. Reimbursements are limited to $25,000 per hazardous substance response. In addition, reimbursement must not supplement local government funds normally provided for emergency response. States are not eligible for reimbursement from the Superfund and no state may request reimbursement on behalf of political subdivisions within the state.

The EPA will make all decisions regarding recovery of expenditures from the Superfund. All agencies expending Superfund money must submit an itemized account of all funds expended in accordance with provisions of contracts, Interagency Agreements (IAA), or Cooperative Agreements with EPA. These agreements must be in place prior to the expenditure of funds. For more information on the Local Government Reimbursement (LGR) program please refer to EPA Local Government Reimbursement Program.

### 6608 Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request

When an FOSC makes the determination that a DoD asset or DoD resources are necessary to conduct a response (i.e., SUPSALV), a Military Interdepartmental Purchase Request (MIPR), vice a PRFA, must be established. For more information about establishing a MIFR please refer to NPFC Technical Operating Procedures - Chap 5 (MIPR).

## 6700 Documentation and Cost Recovery

### 6701 National Contingency Plan (NCP) Documentation Requirements

Maintaining a thorough and complete record of response actions and expenditures is a critical element to any successful response. Keeping a thorough record aids in the recovery of costs and can be used to generate best management practices and lessons learned as well as support the restoration of natural resource injuries. The NCP outlines broad documentation and cost recovery requirements and can be found in 40 C.F.R. 300.315. During significant and protracted pollution responses, the FOSC is encouraged to mobilize one of the USCG's Type 1 Documentation Unit Leaders to oversee all facets of incident-related documentation. An ICS Form 207 with Type 1 Documentation Unit Leaders is provided in Annex 2a.

### 6702 Cost Documentation Procedures

Costs generated against the fund during a response will be paid by the NPFC through the line of accounting established by the FPN or CPN. Upon completion of the response, the NPFC will seek to recover those costs from the RP. Only through careful documentation of those costs and expenditures is cost recovery possible; this makes maintaining a detailed cost documentation process a critical part of any response. For specific information on cost documentation requirements and cost recovery procedures, please refer to the NPFC Technical Operating Procedures for Incident and Cost Documentation.

### 6703 NPFC User Reference Guide

The NPFC User Reference Guide is designed to serve as a reference tool during an oil discharge or hazardous substance release when the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) is providing oversight or conducting response operations under the NCP. This guide includes all relevant Federal regulations, technical operating procedures (TOPs), forms and sample letters, and other

documentation designed to make funding of recovery operations and the recovery of Federal expenditures as efficient and easy as possible. This guide is available to all interested parties and can be found at: NPFC User Reference Guide.

# 6800 Oil Spill Claims

### 6801 Claims to the OSLTF

Claimants (individuals, corporations, and government entities) can submit claims for uncompensated removal costs or certain damages caused by an oil spill (as listed below) to the OSLTF, administrated by the NPFC, if the Responsible Party for the discharge does not satisfy their claim. The NPFC adjudicates claims and pays those with merit.

The Responsible Party can submit claims to the NPFC provided that:

- The total of all response costs and damage claims exceeds the Responsible Party's statutory limit of liability; or
- The spill was solely caused by a third party, an Act of God, or an Act of War.

The categories of uncompensated losses covered by the OSLTF are:

- Removal costs,
- Real or personal property damages,
- Loss of profits or earning capacity,
- Loss of subsistence,
- Loss of government revenues,
- Cost of increases public services, and
- Damages to natural resources.

Generally, claims for all costs and damages resulting from an oil pollution incident must be presented first to the Responsible Party or its guarantor. For more information about the claims process, please refer to the NPFC Claimant Guide.

### 6801.1 NOAA Damage Assessment Procedures

NOAA published a final rule to guide Trustees in assessing damages to natural resources from discharges of oil. The rule provides a blueprint that enables Natural Resource Trustees to focus on significant environmental injuries, to plan and implement efficient and effective restoration of the injured natural resources and services, and to encourage public and responsible party involvement in the restoration process.

Under the rule, the NRDA process is divided into three phases:

- Pre-assessment: The trustees evaluate injury and determine whether they have the authority to pursue restoration and if it is appropriate to do so;
- Restoration Planning: The trustees evaluate and quantify potential injuries and use that information to determine the appropriate type and scale of restoration actions; and
- Restoration Implementation: The trustees and/or responsible parties implement restoration, including monitoring and corrective actions.

This process is designed to rapidly restore injured natural resources and services to the condition that would have existed had the spill not occurred and to compensate the public for the losses

experienced from the date of the spill until the affected natural resources and services have been recovered. For more information about this process please refer to NOAA NRDA Process.

# 7000 Response Resources

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) to require the preparation and submission of response plans by the owners or operators of certain oil-handling facilities and for certain oil-carrying tank and non-tank vessels (referred to here as plan holders). These plan holders are required to submit response plans which identify and ensure either by contract or other approved means (i.e., Letter of Intent), the availability of response resources (i.e., personnel and equipment) necessary to remove a worst case discharge (WCD), including a discharge resulting from fire or explosion, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat of such a discharge. Additional response resources for marine firefighting and salvage are identified in Annex 9 (Currently under development) .

## 7100 Oil Spill Removal Organizations (OSROs) and Equipment

### 7101 OSRO Classification Program

The U.S. Coast Guard created the voluntary OSRO classification program so that plan holders could simply list OSROs in their response plans rather than providing an extensive, detailed list of response resources. If an OSRO is ***classified*** by the U.S. Coast Guard, it means their capacity has been determined to be equal to, or greater than, the response capability necessary to ensure plan holder compliance with the statutory requirements. A more in-depth discussion of the classification program can be found here: USCG OSRO Guidelines.

### 7102 Response Resource Inventory (RRI) database

As part of maintaining their classification, OSROs must provide detailed lists of their response resources to the Response Resource Inventory (RRI) database. The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) administers this database, along with the OSRO classification program. The RRI database is the backbone of the classification program and its capabilities are two-fold: a classification element and an inventory function. The classification element of the RRI database complements the Facility Response Plan and Vessel Response Plan development and review processes by systematically classifying OSROs' response capabilities to meet the plan holders' response capability requirements. An OSRO's classification levels (Maximum Most Probable Discharge and Worst Case Discharge Tiers 1, 2 & 3) are based on its ability to meet time delivery requirements for containment boom, temporary storage capacity and skimmer capacity. Once entered into the system by the OSRO, the RRI database translates the information into an estimated daily recovery capacity (EDRC) that determines an OSRO's level of classification for each of the six various operating areas (Rivers/Canals, Great Lakes, Inland, Nearshore, Offshore, and Open Ocean) in a particular COTP zone.

The inventory function of the RRI database makes a great deal of information available to response and contingency planning personnel; it not only outlines the locations and amount of "core equipment" (boom, skimmers, temporary storage), but includes other important support equipment including vessels, dispersant application platforms, aerial oil tracking capabilities and personnel. In order to access the inventory functions of the RRI database, administrator login privileges are required. These privileges are issued by the NSFCC and are limited to members of the U.S. Coast Guard and those OSRO members designated by their company to maintain the equipment

inventory. To make a request for administrative login privileges, contact the NSFCC at: Contact NSFCC for RRI Administrative Access.

**7103 Classified OSRO listings for the Sector Jacksonville COTP Zone**

The NSFCC maintains a portion of the RRI database that allows all interested parties (no administrative access required) open access to reports about a company's Mechanical, Dispersant, Marine Fighting and Salvage and Non-Floating Oil classifications. This site also provides a point of contact report (listed by name/company number) for all the OSROs in the United States. The mechanical classification reports can be viewed by company name, by USCG District, or by COTP zone and outline which operating environments the classification has been granted (Rivers/Canals, Nearshore, Open Ocean, Inland, etc.) and for which volume of discharge. To see which OSROs are classified within the Sector Jacksonville COTP zone, please refer to: RRI Classification and POC Reports site.

**7104 Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs)**

The U.S. Coast Guard's Director of Operations Logistics (DOL), Office of Procurement and Contracting (DOL-9) Contingency and Emergency Support Division (DOL-92) maintains a list of pre-established emergency response contracts known as BOAs. These contracts are established with OSROs around the country and are available for use at any time by a USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC). DOL-92 negotiates the terms and rates of these contracts ahead of time, enabling an OSRO to be quickly hired to provide pollution response services when the FOSC needs to conduct oil removal or hazardous substance response operations under the National Contingency Plan. While an FOSC always has the option to exercise a BOA contract, this does not preclude the hiring or contracting of a non-BOA pollution response service provider should the FOSC deem it necessary. DOL-92 contracting officers are available 24/7 to support the FOSC.

**7105 Oil Spill Response Cooperatives and Consortiums**

There are numerous industry-funded major oil spill response cooperatives and consortiums in the United States today. Unlike a classified OSRO which is hired by a single plan holder to ensure compliance with statutory requirements, these organizations are formed to provide pollution response services to companies from the oil and gas industry which elect to become members and pay for the coverage or service. Each consortium or cooperative makes the decision about the type and quantity of equipment they offer to their member clients. This equipment is often highly specialized and tailored to serve a specific sector of the oil and gas industry (exploration and production, or transportation, for example) and allow them to meet worst case discharge planning standards. Some examples of cooperatives and consortiums that operate in the Atlantic Ocean include the following:

- Jacksonville Spillage Control
- Oil Spill Response Limited
- Wild Well Control

# 8000 Alternative Response Technologies

## 8100 Chemical Countermeasures

While mechanical recovery (e.g., booms, skimmers, etc.) will typically be the most widely used response option, there are several other tools available to mitigate oil spills. The NCP directs that Regional Response Teams (RRTs) and Area Committees address, as part of their planning activities, the desirability of using certain alternative response technologies when removing or controlling oil discharges. RRT-4 has developed several policy documents to address the approval and use of these chemical countermeasures. Annex J contains more information on the use of Dispersants, In-Situ Burning, Shoreline Cleaners, Solidifiers, and Ballast Water Treatment

### 8101 Dispersants

Dispersants are chemical agents (similar to soaps and detergents) that help break up an oil slick into very small droplets, sending them from the surface down into the water column. These agents are typically sprayed onto discharged oil by specially outfitted boats or aircraft. While dispersants don't remove the spilled material, they do allow the smaller dispersed particles of oil to be more easily biodegraded by the water's naturally occurring microbes. The application of this chemical countermeasure can be a critical element in preventing significant oiling of sensitive habitats during an oil spill response. Before a dispersant can be used, it must first be listed on the NCP Product Schedule (see Section 8104 of this document). Within RRT-4, the use of dispersants within the offshore environment has been preauthorized.

In some instances, oil discharges do not originate from sources on the surface, but rather from oil exploration, production, and/or transmission facilities located hundreds, and often thousands, of feet below them. These discharges can result from any number of casualties including loss of well control or loss of a pipeline's integrity. In cases such as these, dispersants can be injected directly into the flow at the oil discharge's source using the technique known as subsea dispersant injection (SSDI). By reducing oil droplet size at the source, SSDI reduces the amount of oil reaching the sea surface. This in turn, lowers the potential for oil to impact wildlife on the surface or to impact environmentally sensitive areas on the shore.

**Note**: Preauthorization extends only to the aerial and surface spray application of dispersants; SSDI is not preauthorized.

For the most up-to-date policy, procedures, and checklists when conducting a surface dispersant application operation in the offshore environment of the RRT-4 coastal zone (seaward starting from the ten-meter isobath or three nautical miles offshore, whichever is farthest) please refer to RRT-4 Dispersant Pre-Approval Guidelines and Checklist. For the most up-to-date policy, procedures, and checklists when conducting an operation in the nearshore environment of the RRT-4 coastal zone (seaward starting at the shoreline, but shoreward of the ten-meter isobath or three nautical miles offshore, whichever is farthest from shore – i.e., shoreward from the area of preauthorization) please refer to RRT-4 Nearshore Dispersant Guidelines and Checklists (Expedited Approval Process).

### 8102 Burning Agents (In-Situ Burn)

The word "in-situ" is the Latin term for "in-place." An In-Situ Burn (ISB) refers to the initiation of a controlled burn of discharged oil as a means to mitigate the oil's harmful impacts. The fuels

to feed an ISB are provided by the vapors from the spilled oil and, for those spills with impacts inshore or on land, any other organic materials with which the oil may have come into contact. Often the source of ignition is insufficient to light the oil and start the burn; in these instances, FOSCs may decide to use burning agents to help start the burn. Burning agents are defined by the NCP as "*…those additives that, through chemical or physical means, improve the combustibility of the materials to which they are applied."* Burning agents are not required to be included on the NCP Product Schedule. In RRT-4, burning agent use has been preauthorized within the offshore environment; the terms and conditions of this preauthorization may be found by using the above link to Annex J. Burning agent use has not preauthorized within the inshore/nearshore environment.

For the most up-to-date policy, procedures and checklists when conducting an in-situ burn operation in the Offshore Environment of the RRT-4 coastal zone (seaward starting three nautical miles offshore) please refer to RRT-4 In-Situ Burn Policy for the Offshore Environment of the RRT-4 RCP. For the most up-to-date policy, procedures and checklists when conducting an operation in the Inshore/Nearshore portion of the RRT-4 coastal zone (out to three nautical miles offshore) please refer to RRT-4 In-Situ Burn Policy, located within Annex J of the RRT-4 RCP.

**8103 Surface Washing Agents (SWAs)**

SWAs are chemicals that are used to enhance oil removal from hard surfaces. They generally contain a mixture of a non-polar solvent and a surfactant. The solvent dissolves into the highly viscous or weathered oil to create a less viscous and somewhat uniform liquid oil or oily mixture. The surfactant reduces the interfacial tension between the liquid oil and the surface the oil has adhered to. Depending on environmental conditions and the combination of solvents and surfactants, the removed oil will either float or disperse. The latter may have a negative environmental impact, making SWAs with the "***lift and float***" characteristics generally preferable.

SWAs cannot be used unless they are listed on the NCP Product Schedule (see Section 8104 of this document). SWA use is preauthorized by RRT-4 for "*lift and float*" products ***only*** for locations pre-identified within the Area Contingency Plan. For the most up-to-date policy, procedures and checklists when using SWAs within the RRT-4 coastal zone please refer to RRT-4 Surface Washing Agents (SWAs) Policy, Annex J of the RRT-4 RCP.

**8104 NCP Product Schedule**

Subpart J of the NCP directs the EPA to prepare a schedule of spill mitigating devices and substances that may be used to remove or control oil discharges; this is known as the NCP Product Schedule. The NCP Product Schedule lists the following types of products authorized for use on oil discharges: Dispersants, Surface Washing Agents, Surface Collecting Agents, Bioremediation Agents, and Miscellaneous Oil Spill Control Agents.

**Note**: Before any chemical countermeasure may be used, the FOSC must first seek RRT-4 approval through the consultation and concurrence process or have its use preauthorized. The only exception to this is when the FOSC uses the provision listed in 40 C.F.R. § 300.910(d).

Per 40 C.F.R § 300.920(e), the listing of a product on the Product Schedule does not mean that EPA approves, recommends, licenses, certifies, or authorizes the use of the product on an oil discharge. The listing means only that data have been submitted to EPA as required by 40 C.F.R

§ 300.915. For the most current listing of approved substances for use, please refer to the NCP Product Schedule.

# 8200 Monitoring and Evaluation of Alternative Response Technologies

### 8201 Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART)

The Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART) protocols are a set of cooperatively designed monitoring standards utilized when conducting In-Situ Burn or Dispersant operations. SMART establishes a monitoring system for the rapid collection and reporting of real-time, scientifically-based information, in order to assist the Unified Command (UC) with decision-making during In-Situ Burn or Dispersant operations. SMART recommends monitoring methods, equipment, personnel training, and command and control procedures that strike a balance between the operational demand for rapid response and the UC's need for feedback from the field.

### 8202 Dispersant Monitoring

When making a dispersant application, the UC needs to know whether the operation is effectively dispersing the oil or not. The SMART dispersant protocols are designed to provide the UC with real-time feedback on the efficacy of the dispersant application and consist of three different levels (or tiers) of monitoring. It should be noted that the SMART dispersant protocols may be useful for evaluating the dilution and transport of the dispersed oil, but they do not monitor the fate, effects, or impacts of the dispersed oil.

The three tiers of monitoring are Tier I, Tier II and Tier III:

- **Tier I** consists of visual observation by an observer to provide a general, qualitative assessment of a dispersant's effectiveness. Visual monitoring may also be enhanced by advanced sensing instruments such as infrared thermal imaging or other like devices. However, sometimes a dispersant's effectiveness is difficult to determine by visual observations alone.
- **Tier II** protocols employ a monitoring team to confirm the visual observations by taking water samples and running them through a fluorometric instrument while on-scene.
- **Tier III** follows Tier II procedures, but also collects information on the transport and dispersion of the oil in the water column. This level of monitoring can help to verify that the dispersed oil is diluting toward background levels. Tier III is simply an expanded monitoring role and may include monitoring at multiple depths, the use of a portable water laboratory, and/or additional water sampling. It also can be moved to a sensitive resource (such as near a coral reef system) as either a protection strategy or to monitor for evidence of exposure.

### 8203 In-Situ Burn (ISB) Monitoring

Air monitoring is an important component of any ISB operation. These measurements allow the FOSC to continuously evaluate air quality data, ensuring that human health and safety are safeguarded in real-time. Typical by-products from an in-situ burn include carbon dioxide, water vapor, soot (particulate matter), and other gaseous compounds. Of these, the soot, being comprised of very fine, carbon-based materials, is responsible for a smoke plume's dark/black appearance and pose the greatest inhalation hazard.

The SMART protocols for air monitoring are used when there is a concern that the public or response personnel may be exposed to the hazardous components of the burning oil's smoke. These monitoring operations are conducted by one or more teams, depending upon the size of the operation. Each monitoring team uses a real-time particulate monitor capable of detecting the small particulates emitted by the ISB (ten microns in diameter or smaller), a global positioning system, and other equipment required for collecting and documenting the data. Each monitoring instrument provides an instantaneous particulate concentration as well as the time-weighted average over the duration of the data collection. The readings are displayed on the instrument's screen and stored in its data logger. In addition, the SMART protocols direct that particulate concentrations be logged manually every few minutes by the monitoring team in a recorder data log.

Monitoring teams are deployed at designated areas of concern to determine ambient concentrations of particulates before the burn starts. During the burn, if the team's instruments detect high particulate concentrations or if the time weighted averages approach exceed pre-established levels, the information is passed to technical specialists within the UC for further review and possible action (i.e., personnel evacuation, termination of burn, etc.).

To review the complete set of SMART protocols for ISB and Dispersant operations, please refer to Special Monitoring of Alternative Response Technologies (SMART).

**8204 Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System (ARTES)**

While actively mitigating the effects of an oil discharge or, when engaging in the preparedness effort to do so, the FOSC has any number of mechanical or chemical countermeasures' use to consider. These responses or planning efforts can often generate interest within a local community, region, or even the nation. As this interest grows, members of the general public, companies or sectors of industry can feel compelled to approach the FOSC to offer their non-conventional service or idea to help the response or preparedness effort. In these instances, the FOSC may be requested to consider using a non-conventional alternative countermeasure (a method, device, or product that hasn't been or isn't typically used for spill response). To assess whether a proposed countermeasure could be a useful response tool, it's necessary to collect and quickly evaluate information about it.

To assist an FOSC in evaluating the efficacy of a non-conventional alternative countermeasure, a process known as the Alternative Response Tool Evaluation System (ARTES) was developed. The ARTES is designed to evaluate potential response tools on their technical merits against established, consistent criteria either during an actual incident or during pre-spill planning. Using a series of forms which examine a proposed response tool and document its properties, a designated team can rapidly evaluate it and provide feedback to the FOSC with a documented recommendation regarding its use.

Under the ARTES framework, when it has been determined that it would be appropriate for a product to be evaluated, a vendor or supplier will complete and submit the Proposal Worksheet (PWS); this form is designed to capture data about the product and once filled in, is provided to a review team for analysis and evaluation.

Once the vendor has filled out and submitted the PWS, it will then be reviewed by either one of two review teams depending upon whether the request for evaluation was being made during an actual spill response, or during a period of pre-spill planning. The Response Tool Subcommittee (RTS) will conduct the review during a pre-spill planning effort, and the Alternative Response Tool Team (ARTT) does so during an actual incident. To document their review and evaluation of the product and the PWS, the review team will complete a Data Evaluation Worksheet (DEW).

Once the evaluation has been completed and documented on the DEW, the review team then will formulate their recommendation and document it on the Summary Evaluation Worksheet (SEW). The SEW captures the team's recommendation of whether or not the proposed response tool should be used, and is provided to the FOSC as well as to the initiator of the evaluation request (vendor).

It should be noted that that the FOSC need not wait for the ARTES recommendation when deciding whether or not to use a response tool. The ARTES is designed to help assist in the decision-making process but does not limit or prevent an FOSC from using a product they deem necessary.

**Note:** Completion of the ARTES evaluation does not mean that a product is pre-approved, recommended, licensed, certified, or authorized for use during an incident.

# 9000 Environmentally and Economically Sensitive Areas

## 9100 Priority Protection Areas

Area Committees (ACs) are directed by OPA and the NCP to identify environmentally, socio-economic, and otherwise sensitive areas within their defined ACP planning area. These areas are often referred to as ***priority protection areas***. ACs have broad latitude to develop specific criteria for identification. Response plans required by federal law or regulation associated oil exploration, production, transport, or storage, e.g., Oil Spill Response Plans, Vessel Response Plans, and Facility Response Plans must ensure maximum protection of Area Committee identified priority protection areas.

## 9200 Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs)/Plans (GRPs)

Once priority protection areas are identified and adopted, ACs have the flexibility to provide information that may be useful to ensure appropriate strategies are implemented during any oil removal operation. One methodology is often referred to as geographic response strategies (GRSs) or geographic response plans (GRPs).

Although GRSs/GRPs are developed and available for use during the planning and response phases, the IC/UC and OSROs must remain flexible and utilize on-scene initiative and their experience and competence in determining actual pollution mitigation "tactics" for a particular incident. GRSs/GRPs are developed using neutral weather conditions and mean-average tidal data and assume an incident response location. The scenarios for a pollution incident are nearly limitless; every spill is different and there are no absolutes. As a result, GRS/GRP locations should be reviewed and considered, but with the understanding that incident-specific mitigation tactics will likely be developed and executed on-scene. Factors such as current and projected winds, water currents/flows, tidal cycles, equipment limitations, bottom conditions, seasonal implications, exact incident location, potential hazards, and the type of oil can have a significant effect on any

proposed strategy and should be carefully considered. **If applicable, modifications to any preplanned strategies should be expected**.

**To access existing GRS/GRPs, please use the link below:**

Oil Spill Planning and Emergency Response

# 10000 Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan (FWSEP)

## 10100 Purpose

The National Contingency Plan (NCP) directs that Area Committees (ACs) incorporate an annex into their Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) which contains a Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan (FWSEP). The contents of this plan are designed to facilitate the coordinated and effective protection of fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and other environmentally sensitive areas found within an AC's planning area.

## 10200 Scope

In order to meet the provisions and requirements outlined by the NCP, this Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan will:

- Enable the identification and prioritization of resources at risk within the NE and E Central Florida planning area and outline the notification and consultation procedures with those resources' trustees and managers;
- Provide a mechanism during a spill which allows responders to establish protection priorities of resources at risk, evaluate and prioritize removal actions and/or countermeasure use, determine any environmental effects those removal actions and/or countermeasures may cause and identify ways to minimize them;
- Provide monitoring plans to evaluate response effectiveness in protecting the environment;
- Identify the guidance, capabilities, resources, and agency representatives needed to coordinate the protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife;
- Identify the guidance, capabilities, resources, and agency representatives needed to protect historic sites and sensitive environments; and
- Evaluate its interface with Non-Federal Response Plans on issues affecting fish and wildlife, their habitat, and sensitive environments.

For more information, please refer to the Region 4 RCP Annexes:

- Annex G: Sensitive Environmental and Economic Areas
- Annex H: Natural Resource Trustees
- Annex I: RCP/ACP Federal Permits Summary Table

## 10300 Environmental Consultation Requirements

There are three environmental consultation categories:

- Pre-spill consultation: This is required for an Action Agency (USCG within the coastal zone) to engage the Services (USFWS and NMFS) on the potential affects for ***all*** potential response actions that may be implemented during the emergency response.
- Emergency consultation: Whenever an FOSC makes a determination that federal response actions may affect ESA-listed (threatened or endangered) species and/or designated Critical Habitat or may adversely affect EFH, the action agency (USCG within the coastal zone) shall initiate emergency consultation protocols as appropriate. The FOSC initiates this emergency consultation as soon as practicable, via email to the Services, after the response is initiated.
- Post-response consultation: For actions not covered by a pre-spill consultation that are used, or are considered for use during an emergency response, the FOSC must follow ESA and/or EFH emergency response procedures and complete ESA and/or EFH consultations in collaboration with the Services once the emergency phase of the response has ended.

Additionally, the following appendices are also applicable to Endangered Species Act (ESA), Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) mandates:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Notification, Coordination and Consultation (Federal/State of Florida Guidance), Annex 7.
- The Wildlife Response Plan, Site Profile - RRT IV Plans, Policies and Guidance - NRTof the RRT-4 RCP.
- The all-inclusive FWSEP/WRP Contact Spreadsheet, see Annex G and Annex H of the RRT-4 RCP.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Form (for emergency consultations, pre-spill consultations and post-response procedures), Site Profile - RRT IV Plans, Policies and Guidance - NRTof the RRT-4 RCP.
  All-inclusive Listed Species Spreadsheet, Site Profile - RRT IV Plans, Policies and Guidance - NRTof the RRT-4 RCP.

# 11000 Northeast and Eastern Central ACP Annexes

## 11100 Introduction

The ACP Annexes, contain Quick Response Cards (QRCs), checklists, and other necessary job aids and documents to assist emergency management preparedness specialists and response personnel; all items are “grab and go” for ease of use. In addition to this brief overview, the accompanying table provides a centralized list for the annexes to support personnel in planning for or responding to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release within the ACP planning area. To maximize efficiency, all annexes are hyperlinked and incorporated by reference into this ACP.

## 11200 Purpose

Incidents involving oil and hazardous substances require planning and response personnel to mobilize resources and develop objectives, strategies, and tactics to mitigate the impact to the community and environment.

To be successful in the mitigation of oil discharges and hazardous substance releases a thorough risk analysis of the AOR must take place well in advance of an incident. Additionally, site safety,

public health and safety concerns, certain response protocols, and specific guidance for specialized responses should be identified and tailored to the area in which incidents will occur.

## 11300 Scope

In the accompanying table, you will find annexes developed and maintained by the NE and E Central AC. This list can expand or contract as necessary to meet the needs of local planners and responders.

Each annex in the table is hyperlinked to Sector Jacksonville Homeport site where they are housed. If you encounter trouble using the links provided, it is recommended that you right click on the link, edit hyperlink and copy and paste the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) into your browser to access the website.

The following table contains the List of Annexes for the ACP:

Table 5: List of Annexes

| Annex | Title |
|---|---|
| Annex 1 | Risk Analysis: Shoreline Cleanup Methods |
| Annex 1a | Risk Analysis: Area Planning Scenarios |
| Annex 1b | Risk Analysis: Places of Refuge Policy |
| Annex 2 | Contact Spreadsheet |
| Annex 2a | Contacts: USCG Documentation POCs (DOCL ICS Form 207) |
| Annex 3 | Initial Reporting Form |
| Annex 4 | Site Safety Plan |
| Annex 5 | Public Health and Safety: Environmental Health Support Guidance |
| Annex 6 | Response Protocols: 96 Hour Checklist |
| Annex 6a | Response Protocols: Volunteers |
| Annex 6b | Response Protocols: Disposal |
| Annex 7 | Consultations: |
| Annex 8 | Hazardous Substance Response |
| Annex 9 | Marine Fire Fighting and Salvage (Currently in development) |
| Annex 10 | Natural Disaster Response Plan |
| Annex 11 | Unconventional Oil Response (Currently in development) |

# 12000 Planning and Response Tools

## 12100 Introduction

Planning and Response Tools, contains Quick Response Cards (QRCs), checklists, and other necessary job aids and documents to assist emergency management preparedness specialists and response personnel; all items are “grab and go” for ease of use. In addition to this brief overview, the accompanying spreadsheet provides a central repository for numerous tools to support personnel in planning for or responding to an oil discharge or hazardous substance release within the ACP planning area. To maximize efficiency, all tools are hyperlinked and incorporated by reference into this ACP.

## 12200 Purpose

Incidents involving oil and hazardous substances require planning and response personnel to mobilize resources and develop objectives, strategies, and tactics to mitigate the impact to the community and environment. Planning and response operations involve many tools, which will inform decision makers on the next course of action. The magnitude of the incident, environmental conditions, and discharge/release status are just a few of the factors one must consider before selecting the appropriate combination of tools to use.

Additionally, to be successful in the mitigation of oil discharges and hazardous substance releases, emergency preparedness and planning activities must take place well in advance of an incident. There are many tools for responders including training opportunities, lessons learned from previous incidents and exercises, and education on relevant policy and procedures.

## 12300 Scope

In the accompanying spreadsheet, you will find some of the tools and other resources available to assist emergency planners and responders in their development of preparedness initiatives, response objectives, strategies, and tactics. This list, while extensive, is not all inclusive.

Beside the name of each tool (***hyperlinked as appropriate***) on the spreadsheet, you will find a brief description, purpose, and requirements for use of the tool. Some tools [***denoted with an asterisk (*)***] will require a username, password, and periodic log-in for continuous use. If you encounter trouble using the links provided, it is recommended that you right click on the link, edit hyperlink and copy and paste the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) into your browser to access the website. The following is a link to the Planning and Response Tools Excel Spreadsheet which is housed on the RRT-4 website.