

EPA's Roles and Responsibilities in Emergencies



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Overview: EPA's Roles and Responsibilities in Emergencies

- EPA's Emergency Response Program
 - EPA's Capabilities
- Role in the National Response Framework (NRF)
- National Approach to Response (NAR)
 - Examples of NAR Priorities
- Examples of Recent Responses
- Overview/Purpose of the Technical Assistance Document for Bacillus Antracis Intentional Releases

EPA Emergency Response and Preparedness

“...to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment...”

- Clean Water Act/Oil Pollution Act
- CERCLA
- Stafford Disaster Relief/Emergency Assistance Act
- National Response Framework
- Homeland Security Presidential Directives

EPA's Emergency Response Program

- Respond quickly and decisively to releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil
- Support state/local efforts...provide safety net
- Under the National Response System (NRS):
 - Cornerstone of national preparation and response to HAZMAT incidents
 - Supported by National and Regional Response Teams
 - Includes Superfund Removal authorities



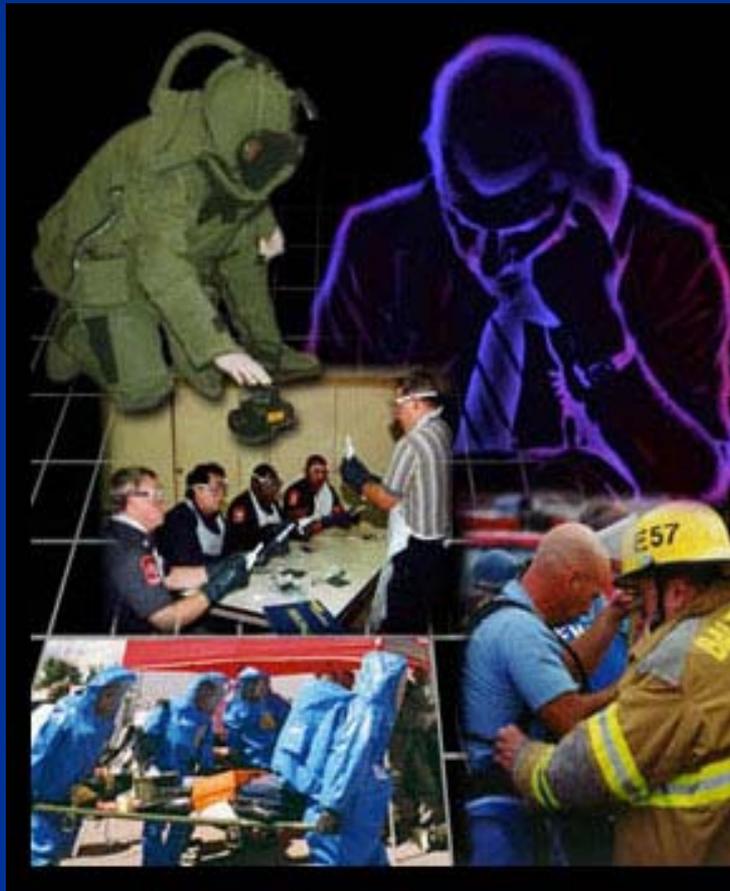
National Response Team



- Comprised of 16 Federal Agencies
- EPA Chair, USCG Vice Chair
- The NRT is a federal level planning, policy, and coordinating body
- Provides advice and assistance to the FOSCs and RRTs
- Eight of the NRT member agencies are key federal CT agencies- DOJ/FBI, FEMA, EPA, DOD, HHS, DOE, DOT, and USDA

Wide Range of Emergency Scenarios

(Any or all could constitute a national security emergency)



**Routine oil or hazardous substance
spill/discharge**



Catastrophic natural disaster



Terrorism incident



Major national security event

EPA's ER Program Statistics

- 30,000 incident notifications/year
 - Of these 20,000 are hazmat, 10,000 are oil
- Approximately 300 responses /year
- 500 other emergency responses where EPA monitors and provides technical assistance under CERCLA or CWA

What We Do

- Site Screening
- Sampling and Monitoring
- Laboratory Analysis
- Decontamination
- Site Clean-up
- Disposal
- Risk Communication
- Data management



How We Respond

- Responsive, decentralized operations based in the ten regional offices
- 250 EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) with experience and delegated authority to manage incidents
- Comprehensive program infrastructure: intra-agency, interagency and contracted
- Extensive working and planning relationships with local, state and federal responders
- 24/7 scientific and engineering support and state-of-the-art technology
- 30 year history spanning an extraordinary range of high-hazard, large scale responses
- Highly specialized Decon Team recently put in place



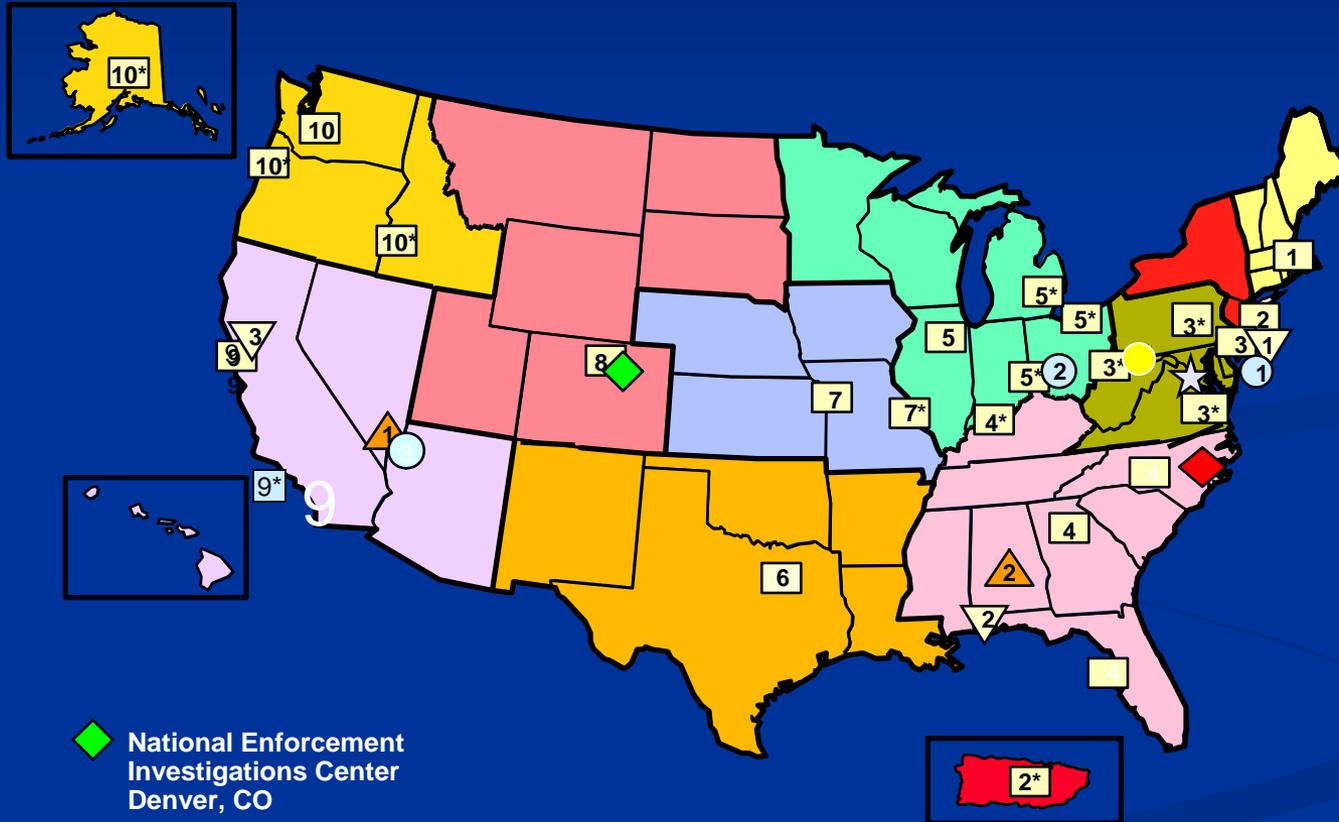
On Scene Coordinators (OSC)

OSC means the federal official predesignated by EPA or the USCG to coordinate and direct responses or coordinate and direct removal actions under the National Contingency Plan (NCP)

OSC Responsibilities

- Ensure prompt state notification of spills
- Evaluate the need for a removal response
- Evaluate the magnitude of the spill
- Decide when a removal response begins and ends
- Determine when a substantial threat exists
- Ensure site safety

Response Assets



Regional Offices and Field Offices

- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 2* Puerto Rico
- 3* Allentown, PA
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 3* Wheeling, WV
- 3* Richmond, VA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 4* Tampa, FL
- 4 Raleigh, NC
- 4 Louisville, KY
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 5* Charlesville, IL
- 5* Cincinnati, OH
- 5* Cleveland, OH
- 5* Grosse Ile, MI
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 7* St. Louis, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 San Francisco, CA
- 9* Los Angeles, CA
- 10* Seattle, WA
- 10* Portland, OR
- 10* Boise, ID
- Anchorage, AK
- * denotes field office

 National Enforcement Investigations Center
Denver, CO

 USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center
Elizabeth, NC

 National Decontamination Team
Cincinnati, OH

 National Strike Force Teams

- 1 Atlantic, Fort Dix, NJ
- 2 Gulf, Mobile, AL
- 3 Pacific, Novato, CA

 EPA Headquarters
Washington, DC

 Environmental Response Teams

- 1 Edison, NJ
- 2 Cincinnati, OH
- 3 Las Vegas, NV

 Radiation Labs

- 1 Las Vegas, NV
- 2 Montgomery, AL
- 2

Environmental Response Team (ERT)

- Mission: *Support the nation's response, cleanup and renewal of its contaminated land, water and air.*
- Established in 1978
- 41 experienced responders
- 125+ trained contractors
- Focus: “classic environmental” emergencies and more...

Characterization Sampling/monitoring

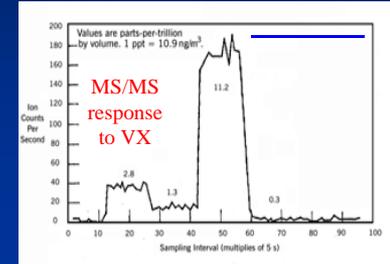
Hazard Evaluation Risk Assessment

Safety Decontamination/disposal



ERT Assets

- TAGAs
- Contaminated Water Dive Unit
- Radiation detection resources
- WMD sampling & monitoring
- Air dispersion modeling
- Response & command vehicles



National Decontamination Team (NDT)

- Established 2003
 - 15 multi-disciplined response personnel
 - Contract support,
 - Surge capacity additional expertise
 - Focus: WMD agents
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- ✓ Sampling
 - ✓ Decontamination
 - ✓ Nature and extent of contamination
 - ✓ Health and Safety
 - ✓ Waste Disposal



Buildings, infrastructure, indoor environments, agriculture, environmental media

NDT Assets



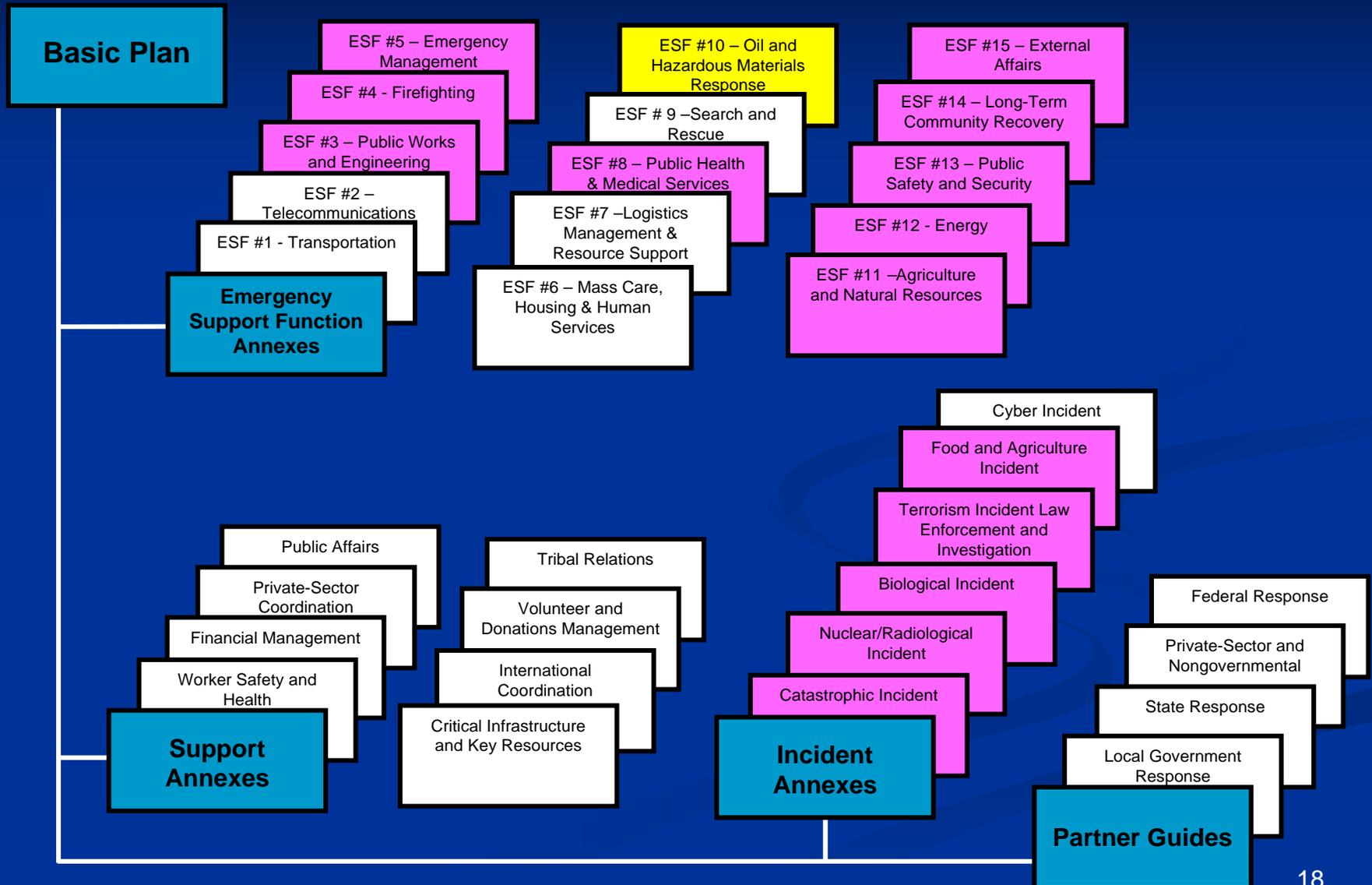
- Technical experts in Health & Safety, Rad, HVAC, nanotechnology, toxicology, medicine, and risk assessment
- Mobile laboratory and communications vehicles
- Air monitoring expertise/equipment
- Scientific information provided via the Decon Portfolio
- ASPECT - Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology



National Response Framework

- Mandated by HSPD-5
- All Hazards Plan
- How the Federal Government Responds to Incidents of National Significance
- EPA is the Coordinator and the Primary Agency, along with the U.S. Coast Guard for Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10, Oil and Hazardous Materials
- EPA is a Support Agency for numerous other ESFs

Organization of the NRF



ESF#10-Oil and Hazardous Materials Response

EPA is the Coordinator and Primary Agency
along with the Coast Guard

- Remove drums, barrels, containers
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- Permitting and monitoring of debris disposal
- Water quality monitoring and protection
- Air quality sampling and monitoring
- Protection of Natural Resources

ESF #10: Examples of EPA Hazmat Response

■ September 11, 2001

■ WTC:

- Technical support, sampling, disposal

■ Pentagon

- Air monitoring, health & safety

■ Western Pennsylvania

- Evidence collection, assessment

■ Anthrax Attacks

■ Capitol Hill

- sampling, assessment, cleanup, disposal, clearance

■ Other locations

- oversight, technical support

ESF #10: Examples of EPA Hazmat Response

- Columbia Space Shuttle
 - Debris collection
- Katrina
 - Oil spill and hazmat cleanup
 - Floodwater and sediment sampling
 - Household hazardous waste collection
 - Coordination with USACE on debris mgt
- Pre-deployments for NSSEs
 - State of the Union
 - Political conventions
 - Superbowl

EPA's National Approach to Response

- Agency wide approach put in place after 9/11 and anthrax responses
- Clearly defined roles for Regions and Headquarters
- Incorporate Government-wide National Response Framework and National Incident Management System

- Priorities:
 - Administrative Issues
 - Contracts
 - Decon Strategy
 - Equipment
 - Data Management
 - Health and Safety
 - Human Capital Strategy
 - Incident Command System
 - Lab Capacity
 - Public Outreach/Risk Communication
 - Radiological Response
 - Response Support Corps
 - Telecommunications
 - Training and Exercise

Public Outreach/Risk Communication

- Workgroup Co-chairs from Office of Public Affairs, Office of Emergency Management and Public Affairs Directors from Lead Regions for Homeland Security and Superfund
- Crisis Communications Plan (Agency Order)
- Crisis Communications Resource Guide
 - Under development
 - Builds on 5 DHS Scenarios (Anthrax, RDD, Blister Agent, Hurricane, Earthquake)

Public Outreach/Risk Communication (cont'd)

- Workshops for technical experts and communicators have been conducted for the Anthrax, RDD and Blister Agent scenarios
- Goal for the Crisis Communications Resource Guide is to have pre-scripted messages ready to adapt to specific circumstances
- EPA is reaching out to CDC, DHS and others to coordinate related messages

TA Document for *Bacillus anthracis* Intentional Releases

- 2003: Interim-final TA Document following response to the 2001 anthrax incidents in DC
- 2005: Slight revision to the TA Document
- 2007: WMD Committee of the NRT tasked to Update the 2003/2005 document
- Environmental Response Technical Assistance Document for *Bacillus anthracis* will be a technical resource specifically for use by Federal OSCs when managing indoor, outdoor or wide-area releases