

Caribbean Regional Response Team: Activation Procedures

Regional Contingency Plan, Section 4.A.

Triggers. Incident-specific RRT may be activated as an inter-governmental coordination team when an actual or potential discharge or release occurs that:

- Exceeds the response capability available to the federal OSC in the place where it occurs.
- Transects commonwealth/territorial/RRT/sector/international boundaries.
- Poses or potentially poses, a substantial threat to the public health, welfare, environment, or to regionally significant amounts of property, or poses a hazard to workers engaged in emergency response activities or associated cleanup operations.
- Meets the definition of a major discharge as defined in the NCP.
- Requested by FEMA or others in Regional events.

Bottom Line: *exceeds OSC capability/capacity and/or crosses jurisdictional boundaries.*

Method: in-person or teleconference

Activities: provide technical advice/consent/consultations; request and coordinate provision of other agencies authority, jurisdiction, and resources

Members:

- 15 federal agencies, 40 C.F.R. § 300.175
- Commonwealth/Territory *Designated Representative & Lead Agency*, 40 C.F.R. § 300.180
- NGOs, 40 C.F.R. § 300.185

Scenario

Category 4+ hurricane landfall in U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico causes Chinese-flagged very large crude carrier (VLCC) to flounder north of San Juan threatening to discharge 1 million+ gallons of crude oil into the waters surrounding U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

CG Sector San Juan IMT reports that their post-landfall overflight identified one of the large crude oil tankers located 50 miles north of Puerto Rico/USVI. It is listing heavily and seemingly without propulsion. Following this report, the vessel's captain reaches out to CG Sector San Juan RSC – he reports the vessel is taking on water and foundering. The

captain gives the order to evacuate and requests CG assistance. Shortly thereafter, the captain and crew are safely disembarked and rescued by CG Station San Juan. While enroute to San Juan, PR, the captain tells the Coast Guard that the vessel contains over 1 million gallons of crude oil, and he believes the vessel is in imminent danger of discharging crude oil into the sea.

CRRT Activation Trigger

Because of the potential for a significant discharge transecting territorial boundaries, the CG FOSC requested CRRT activation to update RRT members and align operational response.

Pursuant to Section 4: Regional Response Team Operations and Administration of the RCP, the CRRT coordinator scheduled a RRT consult/coordination Teams call for Thursday morning.

Contact list will be sent out to CRRT membership for review prior to the Teams call.