Regional Response Team III Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024
NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction

0900-16:16

- Convene, Introduction and Co-Chairs Opening Remarks
  - Admiral introduction by Kelly
  - Ann Logan – master chief
- Welcome to MD – Geoff Donahue
  - Medical waste of Atlantic beaches. Relationships in RRT made it successful.
  - Quote "Plan for emergencies…"
    - March 26
- RRT3 Executive Committee Report
  - Reiterate mission of RRT3
  - Work in between meetings to prepare
  - Yesterday's work included refreshing annual work plan
  - RRT Management Review
  - Addition of tabletop exercise to spring meeting
  - Reminder to review the website
  - Canceling the big stone Anchorage Zone A from dispersion plan
    - Will ensure notification this change has occurred
  - Transition from Cindy Santiago to Sabina Bastias
    - Thank you to Cindy from co-chairs and Coast Guard
- RRT3 Coordinator Report
  - Broadcast upcoming RRT meetings and larger conferences
  - Meetings
    - RRT2 in NY – Dec 18
    - RRT3 in VA - April 30-May 1
      - Book hotels sooner rather than later
  - Other events
    - National academy gulf-Alaska knowledge exchange workshop
    - 2025 NJEPA Conference
    - IOSC international oil spill
    - Interspill
    - International hazardous material response team
    - Clean Waterways
  - Launching new training form/dashboard to broadcast trainings/exercises
- NCWCP Presentation
  - Frank introduces Jaime Rosenberg
  - Everything from weather service comes from NOAA

- Office of Satellite and product Operations (OSPO)
  - Run through of NOAA satellites
  - OSPO Satellite Data Supports … examples on slide
  - NOAA satellite operate at three viewpoints
    - Ensure products communicate with each other
    - Space weather – over Colorado
  - Satellite Data Operations Flow
  - OSPO Satellite Products and services division
    - Explains different branches
- Frank introduces Juan Velasco
  - Physical scientist at NOAA
- NOAA Satellite-Based Oil Spill Detection and Reporting Program
  - SAB Marine Oil Spill Program Overview
    - When a new report is created, an email is sent to a list of primary users and then the general public
  - Routine Satellite Data and Associated Products
    - MODIS – lower resolution
    - Sentinel-A – Radar data
    - Program doesn't rely on this data alone, too coarse
    - Group is first to report on pipeline bursts
    - 90 min per orbit, 15 orbits per day
      - Gaps in data due to this, because data isn't aligning with the orbits
      - Rely on commercial data to fill the gaps (contracts)
      - Get Landsat data from USGS
      - ESAT launched another Sentinel last week, looking forward to more data
  - MPSR Example Based on Optical Satellite Data
    - Difference in colors distinguish thickness of oil spill, brighter = thicker
    - Can get full zip of products, products posted on page
  - MPSR Web Access
    - Where to find products
    - Sends data to ERMA
  - Satellite Analysis Branch Marine Pollution Desk
    - Monitored 24/7

- State/Commonwealth Reports
  - Delaware
    - Emergency management team transferred to natural resource defense position
    - Haven't had team lead since summer. Anyone interested in applying?
      - State emergency response and administrator

        - Secretary signed permits for US wind farm
            - Allow cable to come up Delaware coastline into seashore state park
            - Fought by OCMD
    - Maryland
        - 11/4 – the crew did not do their job and wasn't fueled. Tried to plug hole but tank was empty
        - Bob Hornbacher new hire
    - Pennsylvania
        - More incidents
        - Venango County – hillside of plugged wells, which one is leaking? Railroad wells cut. Source not discovered yet.
        - Franklin – nitric acid over facility, evacuation of residents, someone exposed while doing the inspection.
        - Lancaster – 13,00 gal of mineral oil on the way to Susquehanna River
        - Columbia – coal refuse pile
            - Mining coal piles and transporting to power plants to burn
            - Recreation area and tons of coal caught on fire
            - Wasn't sure of CO levels and did aggressive metering during response
                - Handheld monitoring only goes so far
                - Event repeated in May
                    - Internal discussions about protected community
                    - Not a listed hazardous substance but affects community
            - Department of health and toxicology set values and triggers into instruments to alert fire chief
    - Virginia (VDEM)
        - Helene
        - Brunswick County
            - Abandoned chemicals at college
        - Mecklenburg
            - Industrial fire
            - Working with state and federal partners for remediation
        - Trends
            - Unintended chemical reactions
            - Acquisition of hazardous materials
                - Husband procured a safe from a pharmacy operational late 1800 to early 1900. Broke container of chloropicrin and wife became incapacitated.
                    - Other chemicals were found in the safe.
            - Alternative energy source issues

        - Converted car
            - Cylinders failed, worked with DOT to secure other cylinder.
    - Best practices
        - Worked with state college to track waterways to see where materials may end up
    - Agency Updates
        - Andy John – responsible for EM regional support staff, special operations, etc.
            - Hazmat program involvement
- Virginia (DEQ)
    - South Hill
        - Pesticide warehouse
        - Runoff discharged 2 different watersheds and threated two water intakes
    - Wilderness water treatment
        - Fuel odors from water system
        - Checked units and smelled odor, do not use water notice sent out
        - Health dept informed UC
        - Source was catastrophic failure in pump at facility
        - Report on health department website
    - Eastern shore med waste
        - Plastics washing on beaches
    - Helene
        - Debris management, fugitive tanks and containers
        - Kevin Boyd helped put out Mission Assignment request
    - Lesson Learned
        - Bring back in-person management presence
        - Struggling to manage incidents while keeping people informed
        - Connections with other states are important
        - Need to collect data to make decisions
            - Know what you're doing with your data
            - How to present data
- West Virginia
    - Mercury spill
        - Dug a 4x4 pit and mercury kept coming out of the ground
        - Over 50 pounds of recovered mercury
        - Cause: Scrap builder had a cast of mercury and threw it in his backyard
    - HAM Landfill fire
        - Cause unknown
        - Needed air monitoring

                - WV was in a drought, made difficult to fight the fire
                    - Virginia gave permission to get water from New River
                - Contractor arrived and was able to put fire
            - Struggles
                - Difficulty finding contractors to help with spills
                    - WV put together a response contractor vendor list to hand to Responsible Party to respond to spills more quickly.
    - District of Columbia – Not present
- FOSC Reports
    - EPA Region III – Myles Bartos
        - Challenges
            - Communication between agencies
    - Sector Delaware Bay
        - 20th anniversary of Athos spill. Still have oil out there
        - Notable cases
            - Susan Rose cleaned
            - DOUBLE SKIN 59
        - Best practices / lessons learned
            - Communicate salvage plans earlier and hope to spread across USCG
            - Getting responders harder post-COVID
- Sector Maryland-National Capital Region
    - LOVEBUG
        - Yacht capsized
        - Salvage operations to lift vessel
        - Weather challenges, tropical storms
    - Medical waste still under investigation
    - SSI DEFIANT
        - Lengthy response
    - AVALON
        - Federalized case
        - Oily waste removed
    - Best practices
        - Work with OSRO
- Sector Virginia
    - Recognition of Sector Virginia staff
    - DALI
        - Challenge: how to safely remove products and remediate them
    - Leveraged intelligence.
        - Find out where spill came from
    - Challenges
        - Spaceport Authority – fuel

- Sector Eastern Great Lakes
    - TIM S. DOOL grounding
        - Unable to remove
        - Challenge: remote and long travel distance
    - SLO MOTION
        - Owner did not comply to take action
        - Challenge: couldn't find a marina to take vessel out
- Sector North Carolina
    - Chlorine gas release
    - Petroleum report and sheens
        - Beach closed
    - Lessons learned
        - TCCA case
        - Region IV involvement
            - Shifted to a support role for Region III
    - Buxton site
        - Removed 4000 cubic yards petroleum contaminated soil
        - 60000 gallons of ground water removed
        - Parks service – happy for remediation
- MSU Pittsburgh – 328 river miles
    - Part of inland zone and work closely with EPA, split between Regions 3 and 5
    - Robert Dean Moore
        - Overfills during refueling of towing vessels (common occurrence)
    - Elizabeth Dam demo
        - Low water on the Monongahela leading to increase in grounding
    - GIUE
        - Last one, 180 curve and vac truck could not make it down
            - OSRO was able to fit smaller truck. Learned to describe site conditions before coming on site
    - Large turnover
- MSU Huntington
    - GATE CITY
        - November 2017, USCG gave it a risk to environment. Sank in January 2018 without anything removed. Pollution went into river and cities had to secure drinking water intake. Water supplies had to be trucked in.
        - Owner – 1.5-year federal probation
    - TOM FRAZIER
- Outbrief - Dali Incident
    - 5 waste streams
        - Perishables – started smelling and had to remove
        - Perfume removed into waste drums
    - Chemical disinfectants
        - Did not want tools to spark due to flammable materials onboard

        - Had to get creative with salvage
    - WESTON 705T
        - Caused respiratory irritation to staff
    - Sludge - Rainwater mixed with hydrosulfonic acid
        - Heavier than water
    - Soybeans on board made it difficult to see condition of cargo containers
    - Drilling and draining submerged containers
        - Decontaminated containers before removal
            - Added volume
    - Hazardous liquids transfer plan
        - Used frac tanks – 80% capacity. 6 total
        - 50 feet of hose was too short
        - Hazmat into containers
            - Worried about transfer or rupture
            - Lines were all new
            - Placed corrugated plastic around lines as a secondary containment
    - Identified challenges
        - Boom was not very effective
    - Challenge mitigation techniques
        - Pump used was a dredging pump – very effective
        - Aluminum frac tanks – had to wait for shipment
        - Mimicked a mobile facility to prepare for any issues encountered
    - Key transfer procedures
        - All pumping was new
    - Daily air monitoring locations
        - Furthest hole was 90 feet to account for gases heavier than air
        - All stops were called to evaluate data
    - Mitigation tools
        - Crews wearing firefighting ensembles
            - Cycling crews to mitigate heat exposure
        - Constant re-evaluation
    - Working towards from top to bottom
        - Measuring for buoyancy
        - Moving at the speed of safety
        - Finding out status of containers while moving through
    - Pumping operations
        - Sloping back of vessel allowed to offload as much product as possible
    - Transfer hose to barge
        - Secondary containment
    - Underdeck passageway
        - Soybeans went everywhere, even under concrete
            - Began growing in some areas
        - SCBA while cleaning

    - Pressure cleaned vessel
    - Sludge departure
        - Weren't considered Hazardous due to dilution but still treated properly
        - Placed frac tanks on barge to transfer
    - Second transfer
        - Corrugated
    - Decontamination of frac tanks
    - Question: why did transfer from Baltimore happen?
        - Lack of resources
    - Question: Were manifests adequate? Surprises?
        - no surprises. All categorized but had to fight once mixed
    - > 40 million for all work
- Presentation – ERMA update
    - Continuum of "response" framework for office of response and restoration
        - Come up with data management to span full response and restoration
    - Provides centralized access
    - Different levels of data shown based on your access
    - ERMA Regions
    - ERMA is a USCG MER COP
    - NOAA response brought into NRT
    - ERMA layout
        - Layers, tools
        - Data layers arranged by theme
        - Search bar available due to large amounts of data layers
    - Finding data
        - Multiple ways to search
        - Choose recent data to see what's new
    - Oil Spill Trajectories
        - Floating and beach particles
    - ERMA's time slider
        - Full run of trajectory or individual timesteps
        - Look ahead
        - Use animation to view model
    - ESI
        - 50-55 atlases give information sensitive to human use during spills
        - PDF maps accessible
    - Querying ESI
        - Draw areas of interest
        - Pick out components of data
        - Download data as an excel file
    - Draft ICS 232
        - Summaries endangered species and levels
        - Shoreline types

        - GRS not standardized
    - Geographic response strategy
        - Available in ERMA
        - Can download quick reference
    - Layer slider
        - Turn on any number or layers
        - Show where data is displayed
        - See how data interacts
        - Can arrange any way you like
    - ESF-10 with hurricane response
        - Get NGS and NOAA imagery and identify vessels that pose a threat
        - Use ESRI map application to investigate vessels
        - See dashboard with progress
    - MPSR
        - ERMA has all MPSR
        - 6-7 years available
        - Draw polygon around a region to see all MPSRs
    - ERMA layer – data view
        - Use to filter and export to excel or GIS
        - Create own temporary layer
        - Flexibility to view and export data
    - Filtering data
        - New icon
        - Go in and filter characteristics that you want
            - Toggle filters on and off
    - Add map data
        - Can add your own data
        - Great way for QA/QC
    - UAS oil-on-water
        - 2 job aids for UAS work on water
            - 1 – acquiring imagery and what parameters you need to assess oil on water
            - 2 – data management, names file types, naming, etc.
        - Will be out in the next month
    - Discussion
        - 1 – datasets not consistent. Work on moving towards more comprehensive data flow
        - 2 – tiers of security of data
        - 4 – better integration to use pieces of this data
    - Question: Layer for flooding prediction?
        - Datasets produced by NOAA for innovation
    - Question: Large enough spill to use ERMA in extensive way, can someone from NOAA come out?

        - Answer: Yes, personnel can be embedded
- Presentation – nationwide permit 20
    - USACE – 8 divisions, 38 districts
        - Baltimore – north Atlantic division
    - Baltimore district
    - NWP background
        - NWP have changed over the years, changed based on priorities
    - Enable effective regulatory program
        - Nationwide permits are majority
    - Nationwide permits
        - Authorized by specific categories of activities
        - Once headquarters release NWP, regions add specificities to their regions
    - NWP reg authorities
        - Section 10 – structure
    - NWP 20
        - No acreage limit for this permit because it must be done with the
        - When an applicant proposes to use NWP 20 for spill cleanup the request verification from specific district
        - PCN is not required but could be required through triggers in conditions
        - Through data run, only 3 project specific permits since January 2021
    - NWP conditions that may trigger PCN
        - 16- require PCN to be submitted
    - PCN
        - Form = procedures
    - Requesting a PCN NWP 20
        - If RRS is not used, sometimes states have their own administration
        - Some districts have taken actions to suspend NWP 20 and
            - Suspended in PA, except Pittsburgh district and some waterways in Philadelphia
            - 6 new England states, only using region permits
    - NWP suspension and regional conditions
        - Links in presentation
    - NWP20 process when no PCN required
        - If 401 WQC hasn't been granted or waved it can delay process
        - 401 WQU has to be completed if PCN isn't needed
    - NWP20 when PCN required
    - Special conditions when PCN required
    - What happened when NWPS expires
    - Question: Eligibility? Sector Delaware way has exercise when deploying boom. Do they need to comply with NWP 20 process. Dropping anchors and placing boom
        - Yes

    - Question: When USCG overseeing pollution response action required to coordinate with ESA. Going through Frank currently
        - Have to follow NWP20
- USACE
    - Hurricanes
        - 40 people providing support, specifically VA
    - Washington aqueduct
- DHHS/CDC
    - New Region III director – Mike Byrns
        - PHD in toxicology – able to provide more support
- DHS – not present
- DHS – not present
- FEMA
    - Hurricane Helene
    - Inauguration preparation
    - FIFA World Cup preparation
        - Many sites hosting games in Region III
    - Concept of resource support – figure out what resources to pre-stage based on scenario
- DOC
    - CAMEO – developed 35 years ago
    - ERMA – new updates discussed earlier
        - Sectors have a lot of data that would be useful for application
        - Frank will reach out to sectors for their data
    - Science of Chemical Releases classes
    - Science of oil spills
    - SCAT
    - 11 SSCs
- DOD
    - No major updates
- DOI
    - District 9 looked at tactics they would deploy and see what they would effect
    - Dielectric fluid
        - Completed report on technology evaluation
    - Tribe outreach to understand what barriers there might be for more involvement
        - Provide training for them to address needs
- USFWS
    - Medical waste
        - Jurisdiction difficulties
        - Role because of NPS due to damages
    - Refuge spill
        - Help them become more prepared
- DOL – not present

- DOT
    - Office of pipeline safety and office of hazardous materials safety
    - OPS – ensuring safe reliable operation of pipelines
    - FIMSA - Updates regularly
        - Working on completing mandates
        - Status of rulemaking on website – web chart shows stages of rulemaking
    - White house emissions reduction act
        - FIMSA - Reduce emissions from oil and gas infrastructure, stricter standards and regular inspection/maintenance to detect potential issues earlier
        - Partnership initiative – collaborates with other federal agencies, etc. to develop methane reduction initiatives
        - Collecting data of blending on hydrogen gas with outer natural gasses in pipelines
    - Pipeline Safety Act of 2011 – add safety standards of transportation of CO2 by pipeline
        - Gaseous form – safety oversight but no regulations
    - PERRY improving communication between EM responders and pipeline workers
        - Encourage development of more safety
    - Question: PERRY or FIMSA have cybersecurity in protecting pipelines?
        - Answer: There are guidelines to assess company's infrastructure to identify weaknesses
- GSA
    - Contact information through links
- USDA
    - Kane Fields Site
        - Plan to do site assessment and inspection in 2024
- ORSANCO
    - Meeting with USCG Sector Ohio valley
        - Partners gave capabilities for boats and other equipment for spill
- Tri-State
    - Activated during Buckeye spill
    - Birds were in poor condition due to fungal infections among population
    - Planning 2025 effects f oil on wildlife
        - In Africa
        - African penguins endangered
    - New position as response manager in April
    - Award – Outstanding Wildlife Leadership Award to Sector Delaware Bay
- Case study – DE City Refinery Crude Oil Spill
    - Reported as 16-barrel oil spill
    - Leaked from burst gasket – impacted vegetation and dock and area south
    - Source location
        - Base of pipe rack

        - 30 in line to transport crude oil
        - Occurred at night and spraying
    - Impacted areas
        - Impacted substrate under pipe rack, was only a 2 foot space hard to remove soil
    - Vactor operations
        - Area underneath was difficult to get to and difficult to dig
        - Microblade suggested but not used
        - High powered wet dry vac to remove soil and rocks
    - Impacted vegetation south of pier 2
        - Oil saturated area
        - Phragmites was present (invasive species) and wanted to protect spartina
            - Challenge how to reserve the good and get rid of the bad
            - The phragmites was holding onto the oil
                - Removed impacted phragmites by cutting and keeping the spartina
                - Extensive research on mitigation efforts
    - Impacted vegetation north of pier 2
    - Pier structures / intertidal riprap
        - High pressure cleaning
        - Used high volume, low pressure and was more effective
    - Potentially impacted spartina grass
    - Spartina regrowth
    - Phragmites regrowth
    - Not federalized but tracked indirect costs
    - Mudflats caused extensive boom use and skimming
    - Cooperative Responsible Party
    - Flushing was very beneficial, no more sheen
- Closing remarks
    - Shoutouts among partners
    - Not often Region III has hurricane response
        - Rare Mission Assignment, but RRT3 was able to deliver
    - DOLLY
        - Very effective cleanup
    - “No response is straightforward”
    - Thanks to everyone!
    - Happy Hour following meeting at Hall CP
    - Adjourned at 16:16

Meeting Attendance Roster	
Attendee Name	Attendee Organization
Adkins, Dana	Chickahominy Tribe
Adler, Emily	US EPA
Andersen, Ben	DE DNREC
Bachur, Beth	USACE
Banda, JoAnn	DOI - USFWS
Bannon, Sheena	USCG
Bartos, Myles	US EPA
Bastias, Sabina	US EPA
Belcer, Joshua	USCG D8
Bennett, James	US EPA
Bernatos, Anthony	FEMA
Bodner, Christopher	USCG D8
Boyd, Kevin	US EPA
Burkett, Patrick	USCG D5
Byrns, Michael	ATSDR
Campbell, Joshua	USCG D5
Ciani, Lydia	START – Tetra Tech
Clark, Kevin	US EPA
Concepcion, Roberto	USCG D5
Conrad, Jerry	USCG D5
Cook, Elisha	USCG D5
Csulak, Frank	DOC - NOAA
Darby, Valincia	DOI

Davis, Steve	US EPA
DiDonato, Ann	US EPA
Donahue, Geoff	MDE
Dyer, Kevin	DHS
Erickson, Michael	DOC - NOAA
Feist, Brian	PEMA
Ferguson, Tracy	USCG D5
Gaynor, Kevin	US EPA
Guerra, Shari	USCG
Hanewich, Steve	USCG D5
Heym, Kevin	US EPA
Hogan, Patrick	Tri-State Bird & Rescue
Hornbacher, Robert	MDE
Johnson, Christopher	USCG D5
Justin Jolley	USCG D8
Jordan, Tom	VDEM
Lacy, Alan	VDEQ
Lohman, Elizabeth	VA DEQ
Long, Mike	USCG
Kersnick, Alan	USN
Kormos, Dane	US EPA
Martin, William	US EPA
Matthews, James Peter	DOT - PHMSA
McElhaney, Josh	USCG
McWhirter, Travis	USCG
Meadows, Nathan	WV DEP

Miller, Josh	USCG D5
Miller, Mark	
Mims, Mariclair	USCG D5
Moore, Brian	PADEP
Montoya, Duban	DOD
Mulholland, Patrick	US EPA
Muse, Katlyn	Tri-State Bird & Rescue
Nelson, John	DOI
Nilsen, Ashley	US EPA
Nunez, Candice	USACE
Peek, Kathleen	GSA
Peglow, Jessica	
Pillow, Lauren	VDEQ
Powers, Beau	USCG D5
Pugh, Dave	USCG D5
Raju, Nitander	DOT - PHMSA
Rodriguez, Alfonso	USCG
Rosenberg, Jamie	NOAA
Sanders, David	GSA
Santiago, Cindy	US EPA
Scheaffer, Sarah	DOI - FWS
Shaffer, Kate	National Aquarium
Sigler, Silvia	USCG D5
Smith, Jessie	START – Tetra Tech
Suckow, John	USCG D5
Symons, Lisa	NOAA

Takaki, Daniel	DOC - NOAA
Thorkilson, Kelly	USCG D5
Towle, Mike	US EPA
Townsend, Tracy	USCG D5
TerVeen, Jay	USCG
Tsiominas, Jamie	ORSANCO
Vazquez, Aurea	USCG
Velasco, Juan	NOAA
Ventura, Dominic	US EPA
Wagner, Marc	USCG D8
Welsh, Joshua	USCG
Welsh, Monet	USCG D5
Wilson, Daniel	Tri-State Bird & Rescue
Wright, Rob	NOAA
Wu, Eda	
Yandrich, Micheal	USDA
Ziolkowski, Lila	ORSANCO