

Environmental Unit Role

- Provides scientific / technical expertise to Unified Command
 - Recommendations based on available scientific data and subject matter expertise.
- Falls under Planning Section Chief
 - Comprised primarily of environmental technical specialists
- Works closely with Operations, Safety, Situation, Logistics, Liaison Officer, and Public Information Officer
 - Coordination with IMT on environmental related issues and concerns

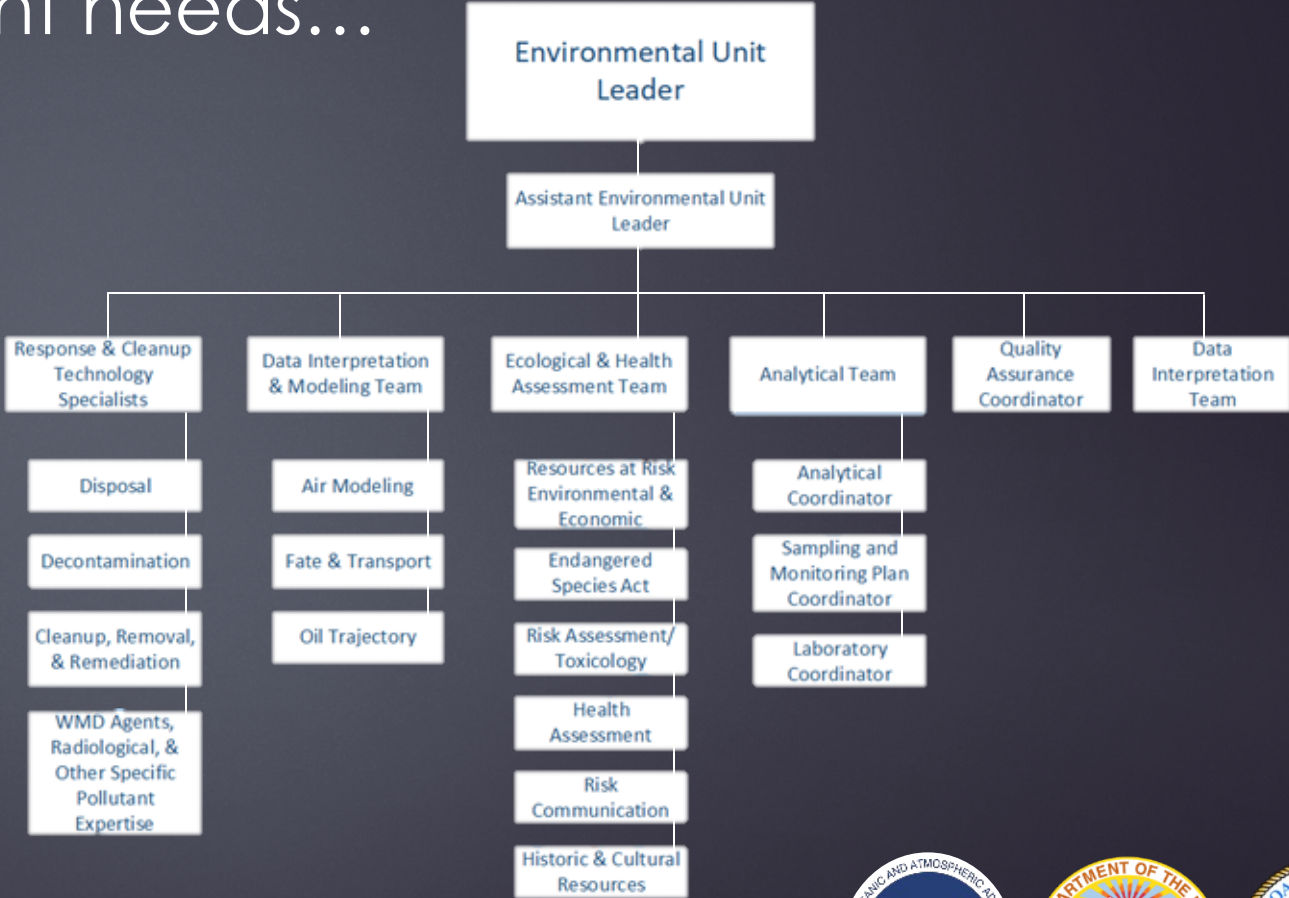


Environmental Unit Organization

- Flexible based on incident needs...



Example from CG Incident Management Handbook

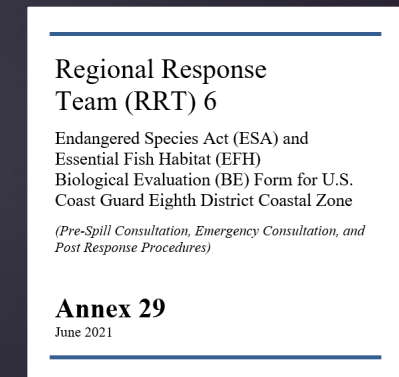
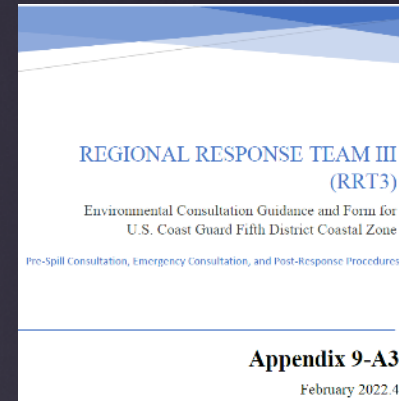


Example from EPA ENVL Job Aid



Environmental Consultation Guide / Form

- Provide clear and consistent guidance and process to Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) on when and how to initiate Environmental consultation with the “Services” (i.e., National Marine Fisheries Service & U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
- Examples:
 - NRT ESA Consultation Guidance
 - Regional Response Team 3 Environmental Consultation Guide & Form for USCG 5th District Coastal Zone
 - Regional Response Team 6 ESA / EFH BE Form for USCG 8th District Coastal Zone
- Provides information/resources to document the presence and effects of federal actions on federally listed threatened and endangered species, critical habitats, and/or essential fish habitats.
- Ongoing efforts to incorporate tools to assist FOSC in making species determinations.



Environmental BMPs for Oil Spill Response

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Environmental BMPs for Coastal Zone Oil Spill Response

RRT3

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General Response Operations

- ☐ Response personnel may not attempt to scare, herd, disturb, or harass any protected species to encourage them to leave the area. Coordination with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Stranding Coordinator, or appointed point of contact, may result in authorization for these actions.
- ☐ Report stranded, injured, sick, trapped, entangled, or dead wildlife to the Incident Commander (IC) and Environmental Unit as soon as possible to ensure appropriate agency notifications are made. *Utilize the 'USFWS Wildlife Spill Response Survey' within the Survey123 app if available and being utilized for incident [ArcGIS Survey123 Downloads \(esri.com\)](https://esri.com/downloads/ArcGIS_Survey123_Downloads). The USFWS species are preloaded into the Wildlife Spill Response Survey, however any species including NMFS species can be recorded in the app.*
- ☐ If a sea turtle is stranded, injured, or sick, and actively moving, it should be retained onboard a vessel or if on land, responders should remain with the turtle until the stranding/rehabilitation personnel provide guidance on what action should be taken, which could include transferring the turtle to a designated stranding/rehabilitation facility.
- ☐ If a sea turtle is stranded, injured, or sick but unresponsive (doesn't move its head or flippers when handled), you should follow the handling and resuscitation guidelines after you have called the NOAA hotline at 866-755-NOAA (6622). Do not assume that an inactive turtle is dead. The onset of rigor mortis and/or rotting flesh are often the only definite indications that a turtle is dead. Releasing an unresponsive turtle into any amount of water may drown it. Unresponsive sea turtles may recover following resuscitation.
 - For your and the turtle's safety, always pick it up by the shell and keep your hands away from the head. Sea turtles have been known to revive up to 24 hours after resuscitation procedures have been followed. In accordance with Sea Turtle Resuscitation Regulations (50 CFR 223.206(d)(1)), steps for resuscitation can be found at https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/dam-migration/sea_turtle_handling_and_resuscitation_measures.pdf.
- ☐ Handling live sturgeon should be minimized and used only when necessary. Sturgeon should be supported by a sling or net when being moved. Live sturgeon must never be held vertically by the tail or gills and should never be tied by the tail. Sturgeon should be kept in water to the maximum extent possible to reduce stress.
 - For a non-responsive or overly stressed sturgeon, personnel must allow the animal to recover in floating net pens or in well-aerated onboard live tanks and shielded from direct sunlight. Alternatively, the sturgeon may be immersed in clean river water and moved back and forth to aid water passage over the gills.
 - The sturgeon should be released as soon as possible when it has recovered. At water temperatures <7°C (44°F) and >27°C (80°F), holding time of a recovered sturgeon must not be greater than 30 minutes. A spotter should watch the fish as it is released making sure it stays submerged and does not need additional recovery immediately after release.
 - Sturgeon are extremely sensitive to chlorine and other sanitizing solutions. Use care when using any of these products around sturgeon.

Vessel Operations

- ☐ All response vessel operators and crew must watch for and avoid collision with species protected under the ESA and MMPA (sea turtles, manatees, seals, dolphins, whales, Atlantic and short-nose sturgeon). The Environmental Unit can provide an updated list of protected species in the response area. When available a dedicated wildlife observer should be assigned for each response area.
- ☐ All response vessels shall maintain minimum distances specified below for specific species:
 - 1,500-ft distance (500 yards) from North Atlantic right whale.
 - 300-ft, as practicable, from all other marine mammals (i.e., dolphins, other whales, seals/pinnipeds, and porpoises):
 - Seal colonies will likely flush (i.e., move away from) from haul outs into the water at greater distances than 300-ft. Consideration should be given to the potential presence of pups on haul outs in certain seasons. A biologist associated with an authorized marine mammal stranding response program experienced in marine mammal/protected species identification should be onboard to advise location of boom deployment distances when possible.
 - 300-ft from waterfowl /seabird aggregation sites. Large numbers of sea birds and waterfowl winter in coastal waters bays and tributaries, with flocks of up to 5,000 individuals. Boat operations must maintain a minimum distance from waterfowl / sea bird aggregation sites.
 - 150-ft from sea turtles.
 - 50-ft from manatees (rare in RRT3). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shut down if a manatee comes within 50 ft of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-ft radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 ft of the operation. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatees. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
 - 100-ft from all other protected species not already listed above. Stop operating mechanical equipment, including response vessels, immediately if any protected species is observed within a 100-ft radius and resume after the species has departed the area of its own volition.



ENVL Quick Reference Guide

- Outlines essential roles, responsibilities, tasks, and recommendations to be taken under consideration by Environmental Unit members.
- Deconflicted with both CG/EPA Guidance
- Quick start guide for key actions that fall under ENVL.

- ❖ General description and role
- ❖ Technical Specialists (THSP) Supporting ENVL
- ❖ ENVL Forms / Plans
- ❖ Agencies / Organizations Supporting ENVL
- ❖ Key ENVL Tasks

RRT3 Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL) Quick Reference Guide (QRG)*	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>The purpose of this Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL) Quick Reference Guide (QRG) is to provide end-users with a condensed set of essential instructions, responsibilities, tasks, and recommendations to be taken under consideration by Environmental Unit (EU) members. It is not a replacement for agency specific guidance or job aids but rather a quick start guide for key actions that fall under the role of the EU.</p> <p>Environmental Unit (EU)</p> <p>The EU provides scientific and technical expertise to the Unified Command (UC), ensuring environmentally sound response strategies. Led by the ENVL, the EU develops and monitors plans for a comprehensive range of activities. These include assessing environmental impacts, conducting monitoring and surveillance, developing predictive models (e.g., trajectory, fate and transport), and recommending remediation strategies. The EU also plays a key role to ensure response actions comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations. This often involves data analysis and interpretation, sampling plan development, response technology evaluation, and providing technical support to the Operations Section Chief with early and consistent communications to assess response actions with the greatest net environmental benefit and monitoring environmental consequences. The EU should coordinate with the Safety Officer (SOF) regarding potential environmental, safety, health risks, or hazards. The EU also prepares environmental data for the Situation Unit to inform overall situational awareness.</p> <p>Technical Specialists (THSP) Supporting ENVL</p> <p>Evaluate and determine appropriate staffing needs to meet UC goals, including potential use of the below THSP to support the EU; not all incidents will require a robust EU.</p> <p>Scientific Support Coordinator: Principal Scientific Advisor to the POSC (not the ENVL).</p> <p>Trajectory Forecasting Specialist: Providing projections on movement / behavior of spill to include trajectories, plume monitoring, and fates / effects of the released hazardous substance or discharge of oil.</p> <p>Data Analyst: Collect and conduct environmental data quality control, interpretation, and development of environmental summaries and metrics for IMT Staff.</p> <p>GIS Specialist: Incorporation of environmental data and information into display products.</p> <p>Weather Forecast Specialist: Develop real-time and incident-specific weather forecasts.</p> <p>Sampling Specialist: Sampling plan development and monitor / evaluate implementation.</p> <p>Response Technology Specialist: Providing mechanical containment and recovery, dispersant application, in-situ burning, and bioremediation expertise.</p> <p>Resources at Risk Specialist: Identify resources at risk from exposure to spilled product and response activities. Recommend priorities for protection based on importance / risks.</p> <p>Historic/Cultural Resources Specialist: Identify historical / cultural sites and develop strategies for protection / cleanup of sites to minimize damage from response activities.</p> <p>Wildlife Specialist: Develop Wildlife Management Plan and provide wildlife expertise.</p> <p>Disposal/Waste Management Specialist: Develop Disposal Plan and validate disposal data.</p> <p>Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Coordinator: Shoreline assessments, recommendations for shoreline treatment methods/endpoints, shoreline inspection against cleanup endpoints, and recommendations for signoff of treated shorelines.</p>	<p>ENVL Forms / Plans</p> <p>Coordinate with resource trustees to develop the Resources at Risk Summary (ICS 232), as appropriate, to identify and document sensitive areas due to environmental, archaeo-cultural, or socio-economic resources at risk, and identify incident specific priorities and issues. Maintain a daily Unit Log (ICS 214) to capture EU members and activities.</p> <p>Work with technical specialists (THSP), state and local authorities (e.g., health, environmental, natural resources), non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and/or the Operations Section in the development of supplemental plans (e.g., Disposal / Waste Management Plan, Decontamination Plan, Air Monitoring Plan, Wildlife Management Plan).</p> <p>Coordinate with Liaison Officer (LOPR) as needed to coordinate with other cooperating agencies or stakeholders not already present in the EU and to assist with coordination of issues identified as being of interest to stakeholders.</p> <p>The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Program may fall under the EU or Operations Section. The SCAT Coordinator develops a Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Plan that includes: 1) Organization of field surveys to document shoreline oiling conditions; 2) Habitat-specific shoreline treatment methods / endpoints; 3) Development of shoreline Treatment Recommendations (STRs); and 4) Shoreline Inspection Reports (SIRs) to support sign-off of shoreline treatment. The EU / Operations provides input for the Assignment List (ICS 204) for SCAT, depending on the ICS structure.</p> <p>Specific Agency / Organizations Supporting the ENVL</p> <p>Provided below are some of the key federal, state, and NGOs that may provide support to the EU; it is not all inclusive.</p> <p>Responsible Party (RP) / Potential Responsible Party (PRP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ RP/PRP Representative (e.g., Qualified individual, Incident Commander, contractors, OSROs)➤ Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can be assigned to the roles listed above as appropriate <p>U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ District Response Advisory Team (DRAT), Sector personnel, National Strike Force (NSF) <p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Environmental Response Team (ERT)➤ Radiological Emergency Response Team (RETT)➤ Consequence Management Advisory Team (CMAT)➤ EPA Contractors: Provide air monitoring and water/soil sampling, particularly regarding public health. <p>Department of the Interior (DOI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ DOI Regional Environmental Officer (REO)➤ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge Managers, Law Enforcement, Field Spill Response Coordinator➤ USFWS Survey/22 Spill Response Wildlife Survey, dashboard, and data manager➤ USFWS Biologists: Resources at Risk, Endangered Species Act species and consultations➤ USFWS NRDA Liaison: Coordination of NRDA activities and response operations.➤ National Park Service (NPS) Managers, Law Enforcement, and SMEs <p>Tribal Representatives (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tribal Liaison / Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)➤ Tribal Monitor <p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC): Principal Scientific Advisor to the POSC➤ SCAT Coordinator, Data Analyst, and Field Staff: Manage the SCAT Program➤ Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Database Managers: Establish and maintain the Common Operational Picture (COP) for USCG➤ National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Resources at Risk, Endangered and Threatened Species, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultations➤ National Weather Service (NWS): Weather forecasts➤ Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Liaison: Coordination between NOAA NRDA activities and response operations <p>State/Commonwealth Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)➤ Environmental/Natural Resource/State Park Agencies➤ State Health Department and/or Seafood Safety (public health, water, air, sediment, shellfish safety)➤ State NRDA Liaison: Coordination of NRDA activities and response operations <p>Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research: Oiled Wildlife Responders & SMEs➤ National Aquarium➤ Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation (MERR) Institute➤ Environmental stakeholder liaisons (e.g., riverkeepers)
RRT3 Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL) Quick Reference Guide (QRG)*	
<p>General Tasking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Attend and participate in meetings, briefings, and debriefings, as requested to provide environmental input during briefings and clarifying any environmental aspects.❑ Support the development of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).❑ Maintain and submit Environmental Unit Log (ICS 214).❑ Conduct EU meetings to assign tasks, set priorities, assess personnel needs, identify issues, etc.❑ Determine EU staffing / space requirements including use of THSP over the duration of the response; THSP needs and staffing should also be coordinated with Operations Section and SOFR.❑ Submit resource request forms (ICS 215SR) for personnel and/or equipment required to the Planning Section Chief for approval; continuously assess resources ready for demobilization.❑ Coordinate with the Liaison Officer (LOPR), Public Information Officer (PIO), and SOFR to compile and assess environmental data to address stakeholder perceptions and concerns about environmental, safety, health risks, and hazards; may include development of presentation materials for briefings or providing THSP regarding the summary and evaluation of environmental data.❑ Coordinate with the SSC on special scientific topics, as necessary. <p>Trajectories, Fate, Behavior, and Forecasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Compile information on the spilled product characteristics (chemistry, behavior), fate, and effect.❑ Create comprehensive quality assurance, sampling, and analysis plans for use across the incident. Plans may include arranging for collection of source and field samples for characterization and/or fingerprinting analysis, including split samples for on-scene Coordinators, RP / PRP, Trustees, etc.❑ Request initial spill modeling and trajectories and identify any existing data gaps. Conduct flow, fate, air, and transport modeling. Coordinate with NOAA, Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMACC), or others to update SITL / Operations.❑ Request aerial overflights to ground truth trajectories, identify impacted resources, and determine extent/degree of shoreline impact for potential treatment.❑ NWS (if in EU), provides spill-specific weather forecasts and analysis to support SITL / Operations. <p>Resources at Risk / Ecological Assessment and Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Identify resources at risk and priority protection areas using ICS 232 (as appropriate). Initial resources include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC)➤ NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) atlases➤ State and local agencies❑ Identify the need for and obtain permits, consultations (e.g., ESA / EPH, NHPA, SHPO, Tribal Liaison, THPO) and other authorizations, including governmental / agency provisions.❑ Consult with Natural Resource Trustees to address the protection of environmental sensitive wildlife and other resources to include recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs).❑ Identify sensitive areas and recommend response priorities; review existing geographic response strategies for accuracy and provide input on implementation of strategies.❑ Coordinate with the Wildlife Branch (if established) to develop a Wildlife Management Plan.	<p>Data Analysis / Quality Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Support the Situation Unit in establishment of a GIS-based data management team and a Common Operating Picture (COP); support development of environmental maps / charts (e.g., extent of discharge / release, shoreline impacts, trajectories, wildlife surveys).❑ Ensure that all data and information products are reviewed for accuracy and quality assurance. Prepare environmental data and information presentations / packages and provide to SITL / DOCL to support situation awareness and documentation (e.g., sampling / monitoring locations and results, SCAT data, wildlife rescue / recovery data, overflight maps, chemistry data, trajectories). <p>Support of Response Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Develop incident-specific BMP recommendations for the Operations Section Chief based on agency input; Note that there may be existing templates to work from or existing general BMPs for initial implementation during the initial response.❑ Coordinate with Operations Section Chief / Air Operations Branch to recommend establishment of flight restrictions, as necessary, for sensitive wildlife and sensitive areas.❑ Recommend staging areas and access points that will minimize potential environmental impacts.❑ Under the SCAT Program (if established), develop shoreline assessment and cleanup plans, including endpoint recommendations by habitat, Shoreline Treatment Recommendations (STRs), and recommend final inspection and signoff forms and procedures.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Coordinate with the Operations Section Chief to ensure they clearly understand the shoreline treatment recommendations.➤ Recommend Operations Section Rep in the EU for complex shoreline treatment conditions.❑ Coordinate with the Wildlife Branch (if established) under the Operation Section to provide input on wildlife protection / recovery priorities and strategies.❑ Develop waste / disposal and decontamination plans.❑ Monitor the effectiveness of response measures; evaluate the opportunity to use other response technologies that may be more effective and/or have less impact.❑ As appropriate, provide recommendations on fishery closures; State has the lead for fishery closures / openings in State waters and NOAA has the lead for fishery closures / openings in Federal waters.❑ Be aware of navigational closures, as they might affect operational activities, transportation for responders, wildlife recovery, etc.❑ Assist with the decision on closures by land managers, such as National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, USFWS, State Park managers, etc.❑ Assess and work with the Safety Officer and Liaison Officer to address stakeholder concerns about environmental, safety, health risks and hazards, and closures and advisories.❑ Coordinate with NRDA Trustees.
<p>* Note: In accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS), additional Environmental Unit Leader tasks and guidance may be found in Agency specific Incident Management Handbooks, Environmental Unit Job Aids, and/or Guides. Many of the Environmental Unit tasks involve close coordination and/or potential overlap with the Operations Section, Logistics Section, Liaison Officer, and Public Information Officer to ensure environmental related issues and concerns are appropriately addressed by the Incident Management Team. It is important to remember that the EU is not a decision maker in the UC but rather their role is to provide sound recommendations based on available scientific data and subject matter expertise.</p>	

RRT3 Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL) Quick Reference Guide (QRG)

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ENVL QRG (Side 1)

- Introduction
- Environmental Unit
- THSP Supporting ENVL
- ENVL Forms / Plans
- Agency / Organizations Supporting ENVL

Specific Agencies / Organizations Supporting ENVL

Responsible Party (RP) / Potential Responsible Party (PRP)

- RP/PRP Representative (e.g., Qualified Individual, Incident Commander, contractors, OSROs)
- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can be assigned to the roles listed above as appropriate

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

- District Response Advisory Team (DRAT), Sector personnel, National Strike Force (NSF)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Environmental Response Team (ERT)
- Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)
- Consequence Management Advisory Team (CMAT)
- EPA Contractors: Provide air monitoring and water/soil sampling, particularly regarding public health.

Department of the Interior (DOI)

- DOI Regional Environmental Officer (REO)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Refuge Managers, Law Enforcement, Field Spill Response Coordinator
- USFWS Survey123 Spill Response Wildlife Survey, dashboard, and data manager
- USFWS Biologists: Resources at Risk, Endangered Species Act species and consultations
- USFWS NRDA Liaison: Coordination of NRDA activities and response operations.
- National Park Service (NPS) Managers, Law Enforcement, and SMEs

Tribal Representatives (if applicable)

- Tribal Liaison / Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Tribal Monitor

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC): Principal Scientific Advisor to the FOSC
- SCAT Coordinator, Data Analyst, and Field Staff: Manage the SCAT Program
- Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Database Managers: Establish and maintain the Common Operational Picture (COP) for USCG
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Resources at Risk, Endangered and Threatened Species, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 Consultations
- National Weather Service (NWS): Weather forecasts
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Liaison: Coordination between NOAA NRDA activities and response operations

State/Commonwealth Representatives

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Environmental/Natural Resource/State Park Agencies
- State Health Department and/or Seafood Safety (public health, water, air, sediment, shellfish safety)
- State NRDA Liaison: Coordination of NRDA activities and response operations

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research: Oiled Wildlife Responders & SMEs
- National Aquarium
- Marine Education, Research & Rehabilitation (MERR) Institute
- Academic institutions
- Environmental stakeholder liaisons (e.g., riverkeeper)



RRT3 Environmental Unit Leader (ENVL) Quick Reference Guide (QRG)*

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ENVL QRG (Side 2)

- General Tasking
- Trajectories, Fate, Behavior, and Forecasts
- Resources at Risk / Ecological Assessment and Protection
- Data Analysis / Quality Control
- Support of Response Operations

Note: Additional tasks and guidance may be found in Agency Specific handbooks, job aids, and/or guides.

General Tasking <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Attend and participate in meetings, briefings, and debriefings, as requested to provide environmental input during briefings and clarifying any environmental aspects.❑ Support the development of the Incident Action Plan (IAP).❑ Maintain and submit Environmental Unit Log (ICS 214).❑ Conduct EU meetings to assign tasks, set priorities, assess personnel needs, identify issues, etc.❑ Determine EU staffing / space requirements including use of THSP over the duration of the response; THSP needs and staffing should also be coordinated with Operations Section and SOFR.❑ Submit resource request forms (ICS 213RR) for personnel and/or equipment required to the Planning Section Chief for approval; continuously assess resources ready for demobilization.❑ Coordinate with the Liaison Officer (LOFR), Public Information Officer (PIO), and SOFR to compile and assess environmental data to address stakeholder perceptions and concerns about environmental, safety, health risks, and hazards; may include development of presentation materials for briefings or providing THSP regarding the summary and evaluation of environmental data.❑ Coordinate with the SSC on special scientific topics, as necessary.	Data Analysis / Quality Control <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Support the Situation Unit in establishment of a GIS-based data management team and a Common Operating Picture (COP); support development of environmental maps / charts (e.g., extent of discharge / release, shoreline impacts, trajectories, wildlife surveys).❑ Ensure that all data and information products are reviewed for accuracy and quality assurance. Prepare environmental data and information presentations / packages and provide to SITL / DOCL to support situation awareness and documentation (e.g., sampling / monitoring locations and results, SCAT data, wildlife rescue / recovery data, overflight maps, chemistry data, trajectories).
Trajectories, Fate, Behavior, and Forecasts <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Compile information on the spilled product characteristics (chemistry, behavior), fate, and effect.❑ Create comprehensive quality assurance, sampling, and analysis plans for use across the incident. Plans may include arranging for collection of source and field samples for characterization and/or fingerprinting analysis, including split samples for On-scene Coordinators, RP / PRP, Trustees, etc.❑ Request initial spill modeling and trajectories and identify any existing data gaps. Conduct flow, fate, air, and transport modeling. Coordinate with NOAA, Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center (IMACC), or others to update SITL / Operations.❑ Request aerial overflights to ground truth trajectories, identify impacted resources, and determine extent/degree of shoreline impact for potential treatment.❑ NWS (if in EU), provides spill-specific weather forecasts and analysis to support SITL / Operations.	Support of Response Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Develop incident-specific BMP recommendations for the Operations Section Chief based on agency input; Note that there may be existing templates to work from or existing general BMPs for initial implementation during the initial response.❑ Coordinate with Operations Section Chief / Air Operations Branch to recommend establishment of flight restrictions, as necessary, for sensitive wildlife and sensitive areas.❑ Recommend staging areas and access points that will minimize potential environmental impacts.❑ Under the SCAT Program (if established), develop shoreline assessment and cleanup plans, including endpoint recommendations by habitat, Shoreline Treatment Recommendations (STRs), and recommend final inspection and signoff forms and procedures.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Coordinate with the Operations Section Chief to ensure they clearly understand the shoreline treatment recommendations.➢ Recommend Operations Section Rep in the EU for complex shoreline treatment conditions.❑ Coordinate with the Wildlife Branch (if established) under the Operation Section to provide input on wildlife protection / recovery priorities and strategies.❑ Develop waste / disposal and decontamination plans.❑ Monitor the effectiveness of response measures; evaluate the opportunity to use other response technologies that may be more effective and/or have less impact.❑ As appropriate, provide recommendations on fishery closures; State has the lead for fishery closures / openings in State waters and NOAA has the lead for fishery closures / openings in Federal waters.❑ Be aware of navigational closures, as they might affect operational activities, transportation for responders, wildlife recovery, etc.❑ Assist with the decision on closures by land managers, such as National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, USFWS, State Park managers, etc.❑ Assess and work with the Safety Officer and Liaison Officers to address stakeholder concerns about environmental, safety, health risks and hazards, and closures and advisories.❑ Coordinate with NRDA Trustees.
Resources at Risk / Ecological Assessment and Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Identify resources at risk and priority protection areas using ICS 232 (as appropriate). Initial resources include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (iPaC)➢ NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) atlases➢ State and local agencies❑ Identify the need for and obtain permits, consultations (e.g., ESA / EFH, NHPA, SHPO, Tribal Liaison, THPO) and other authorizations, including governmental / agency provisions.❑ Consult with Natural Resource Trustees to address the protection of environmental sensitive wildlife and other resources to include recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs).❑ Identify sensitive areas and recommend response priorities; review existing geographic response strategies for accuracy and provide input on implementation of strategies.❑ Coordinate with the Wildlife Branch (if established) to develop a Wildlife Management Plan.	* <u>Note:</u> In accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Incident Command System (ICS), additional Environmental Unit Leader tasks and guidance may be found in Agency specific Incident Management Handbooks, Environmental Unit Job Aids, and/or Guides. Many of the Environmental Unit tasks involve close coordination and/or potential overlap with the Operations Section, Logistics Section, Liaison Officer, and Public Information Officer to ensure environmental related issues and concerns are appropriately addressed by the Incident Management Team. It is important to remember that the EU is not a decision maker in the UC but rather their role is to provide sound recommendations based on available scientific data and subject matter expertise.



Questions?

Thank you



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