



## IncidentNews.gov Internet Site

**S**pill operations seriously strain the normal abilities of organizations to gather, process, and distribute information. In addition to the time-critical support requirements of local multi-agency decisions within the Unified Command, there are often information needs from groups not directly involved in response operations and the public for rapid access to information about the spill.

### Spill Operations and the Internet

A Unified Command can provide command post staff, official personnel not on-scene, and the public with specifically tailored information by using the Internet. The Emergency Response Division (ERD) (formerly Hazardous Materials Response Division [HAZMAT]) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to establish IncidentNews.gov as an Internet portal for incident operations.

Spill information on the Internet keeps the local populace informed and provides a direct route for public feedback on the response. It is also a valuable tool for informing those outside the command post, such as RRT members, about the spill situation. These supporting organizations can more quickly respond to Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) calls for assistance when they have up-to-date incident information.

Communicating incident information on IncidentNews.gov has three objectives:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of response operations through better information sharing;
- Allowing remote government and private sector groups to monitor operations with a minimum of intrusion; and
- Maintaining direct communications with the public to build confidence in response operations.

Incident-specific Internet sites rapidly disseminate information about the response to target audiences inside and outside the command post. Topics on the site can include press releases, pollution reports, photographs, oil spill trajectories, and maps depicting the status of cleanup operations.

### How to get on the IncidentNews.Gov site

When the Unified Command determines that IncidentNews.gov will be a component of the Incident Command System, the FOSC or Information Officer can request that the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator activate IncidentNews.gov for a spill or drill. At that time the following decisions will need to be made:

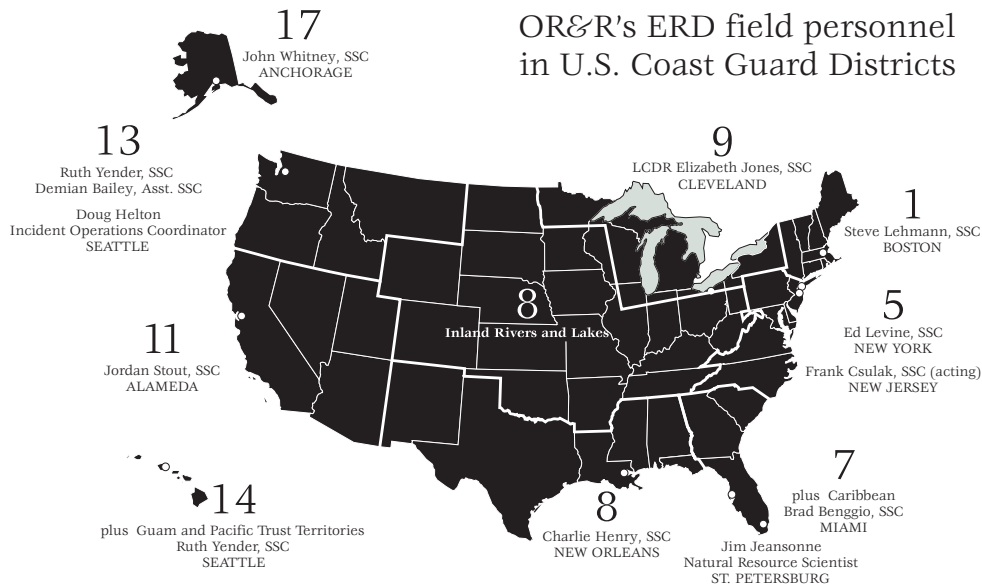
- Information topics to be included in each area of the site;
- Delegating clearance authority for each information topic; and
- Posting frequency for each information topic.

The site design for IncidentNews.gov is preestablished to provide consistent user access, rapid updating, and appropriate security. Alteration of the site for a specific spill need only focus on the information content and not the site structure or appearance. Adding a new incident to the site takes about 1 hour from the time of request.

At the conclusion of response activities, information on IncidentNews.gov can be archived to CD-ROM and made available for public distribution. On-line information is transitioned to the Historical Incidents section of the site for long term access. The Historical Incidents section is a great resource for researching lessons learned during past responses. Visit <http://www.incidentnews.gov> for examples of this site in action.

Contact your local SSC or call (206) 526-6317 to establish a spill or drill on <http://www.incidentnews.gov>.

## OR&R's ERD field personnel in U.S. Coast Guard Districts



### District 1

Steve Lehmann  
NOAA SSC  
CDR 1st Coast Guard District (MEP)  
408 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
Office: 617-223-8016  
Cell: 617-877-2806  
E-mail: Steve.Lehmann@noaa.gov

### District 5

Ed Levine  
NOAA SSC  
USCG Battery Park Building  
1 South Street Room 321  
New York, New York 10004  
Office: 212-668-6428  
Cell: 206-849-9941  
E-mail: Ed.Levine@noaa.gov

Frank Csulak  
NOAA SSC (acting)  
74 MacGruder Road  
Highlands, New Jersey 07732  
Office: 732-872-3005  
Cell: 732-371-1005  
E-mail: Frank.Csulak@noaa.gov

### District 7

Brad Benggio  
NOAA SSC  
909 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 714  
Brickell Plaza Federal Building  
Miami, Florida 33131  
Office: 305-530-7931  
Cell: 206-849-9923  
E-mail: Brad.Benggio@noaa.gov

Jim Jeansonne  
NOAA Natural Resource Scientist  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702  
Office: 727-551-5714  
Cell: 206-276-5308  
E-mail: Jim.Jeansonne@noaa.gov

### District 8

Charlie Henry  
NOAA SSC  
CDR Eighth Coast District (M-SSC)  
Hale Boggs Federal Building  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130  
Office: 504-589-4414  
Cell: 206-849-9928  
E-mail: Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov

### District 9

LCDR Elizabeth Jones  
NOAA SSC  
U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office  
AJC Federal Building  
1240 East Ninth Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44199  
Office: 216.522.7760  
Cell: 206-849-9918  
E-mail: Elizabeth.Jones@noaa.gov

### District 11

Jordan Stout  
NOAA SSC  
Coast Guard Island, Building 50-7  
Alameda, California 94501  
Office: 510-437-5344  
Cell: 206-321-3320  
E-mail: Jordan.Stout@noaa.gov

### Districts 13 and 14

Ruth Yender  
NOAA SSC  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
Office: 206-526-6081  
Cell: 206-849-9926  
E-mail: Ruth.Yender@noaa.gov

Doug Helton  
NOAA Incident Operations Coordinator  
7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, Washington 98115  
Office: 206-526-4563  
Cell: 206-890-7760  
E-mail: Doug.Helton@noaa.gov

### District 17

John Whitney  
NOAA SSC  
Peterson Towers Building, Suite 100  
510 L Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Office: 907-271-3593  
Cell: 907-440-8109  
E-mail: John.Whitney@noaa.gov

In the event an SSC cannot be reached,  
or for 24/7 emergency support, contact  
the ERD Duty Officer at 206-526-4911.

*NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment*

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,  
please visit our Web site at**

**<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov> or call (301) 713-2989.**

