

INTEGRATED AREA CONTINGENCY PLANS THAT WORK

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ABSTRACT: For Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) to be truly useful in a response, they must meet the needs of the Local, State and Federal responders, as well as contain information on the needs of the public, Natural Resource Trustees, and regulators. This has been accomplished in EPA, Region VIII by incorporating hazmat and oil response plans into one document. The plan is written by the Sub-Area Committee consisting of all Federal, State, Tribal, and Local agencies, as well as industry, that would be involved in a hazmat or oil spill event. The planning process has worked out many issues that avoid confusion during the response. The plan is broken into two separate documents, available in hard copy or on a self contained computer program. The first document is the Emergency Response Action Plan that contains all the information that is found to be needed to complete the response actions. The second document is the material that is needed to develop the Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) but is not needed during an actual response. Planners emphasize that the information in the second document is important, but it is kept separately because it is not needed during a response. The plan is also in a digitized format that runs off GIS maps. The maps contain all contacts, spill/release sources, available equipment, drinking water intakes, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, fish, wildlife and other sensitive environments. This plan is believed to be the tool that will insure smoother, more efficient responses in the future.