

Developing National Response Team (NRT) Initiatives

National planning and coordination for oil and hazardous substance preparedness and response is accomplished through the 16-agency National Response Team. The Annual NRT/RRT Co-Chairs meeting took place in San Antonio Feb.1-3, 2000 to discuss ideas and directions. The NRT's Fresh Water Spills session in Albuquerque will include a short (15 min) presentation on results from the National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs (NRT/RRT) Annual Meeting. Then, an NRT interagency panel would like to share ideas with you.

In the past few years, NRT publications on preparedness and planning have focused on:

- S Showing successful examples of coordinated (Federal, State local) contingency planning (Federal actions centered on EPA, Coast Guard and FEMA) ;
- S Suggesting ways that response organizations could coordinate better with local fire departments through area plans and the use of OPA and CERCLA reimbursements;
- S Fostering multi-agency, integrated contingency plans at the facility level;
- S Electronic Contingency Planning;
- S Strengthening the Federal OSC role in the area planning process;
- S Lessons learned from Incidents and Exercises

The aim of this session in Albuquerque is to discuss ideas for the NRT's next steps to help improve preparedness, training and contingency planning:

What have we learned? What works? What are the next steps? Ideas for discussion include: improving interagency training opportunities; improving coordination between Coastal Area Plans and Inland Area Plans; improving HAZMAT and oil plan coordination; sharing technology; emerging issues based on incidents or exercises.

If you have ideas for the discussion, please contact John Gustafson, NRT Exec.Director (Gogus@AOL.COM or 202/260-3315)