

EPA's Counter-Terrorism Response Capabilities

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Presentation Overview

- Why is EPA involved in Counter-Terrorism (CT)?
- What is the NRS and how does it work?
- What types of CT incidents might EPA be involved in?
- What are some EPA Lessons Learned from the World Trade Center/Pentagon and Anthrax Responses
- What is the Criminal Investigations and Environmental Response MOU?

Why is EPA Involved in CT?



Federal Mandates

Existing Programs

Hazmat Expertise

State & Local Partnerships

EPA's Role as a Key Federal Partner

- Included in strategy endorsed by Congress and the White House
- Anticipated confirmation by Vice President's Task Force
- Mandated by the NCP and FRP Emergency Support Function #10 (Hazardous Materials)
- Augmented by Presidential Decision Directives



EPA General CT Responsibilities

- Provide technical personnel and supporting equipment to the lead Federal agency during a WMD terrorist incident
- Monitor and assess public health and environmental impacts
- Develop/provide protective action guidance
- Assist the lead Federal agency in recovery, clean-up, and mitigation



EPA New/Additional Mandates

- Assist FBI in threat assessments and determining hazards associated with releases in a terrorist incident
- Assist FEMA with environmental monitoring, decontamination, and long-term site cleanup
 - EPA is the lead agency for Hazmat response under ESF #10 of the FRP
- Lead agency for the Water Supply Sector



What is the National Response System?

- EPA participates in federal-wide CT activities via the NRS
- The Federal mechanism to prepare for and respond to hazardous materials releases
- In existence for 30 years
- Multi-agency/multi-level system
- Designed to support state and local responses



What Assets Are Available Through the NRS?

- Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
- Other OSCs (including USCG Captains of the Port)
- Regional Response Teams
- EPA Removal Managers
- Response contractor support
- Special Forces



What is the Role of the FOSC?

- Ensure proper notification and evaluation
- Direct/coordinate, and/or provide technical assistance to all response efforts at site
- Maintain final decision-making authority for protecting health and safety
- Ensure access to information by other interested, relevant parties

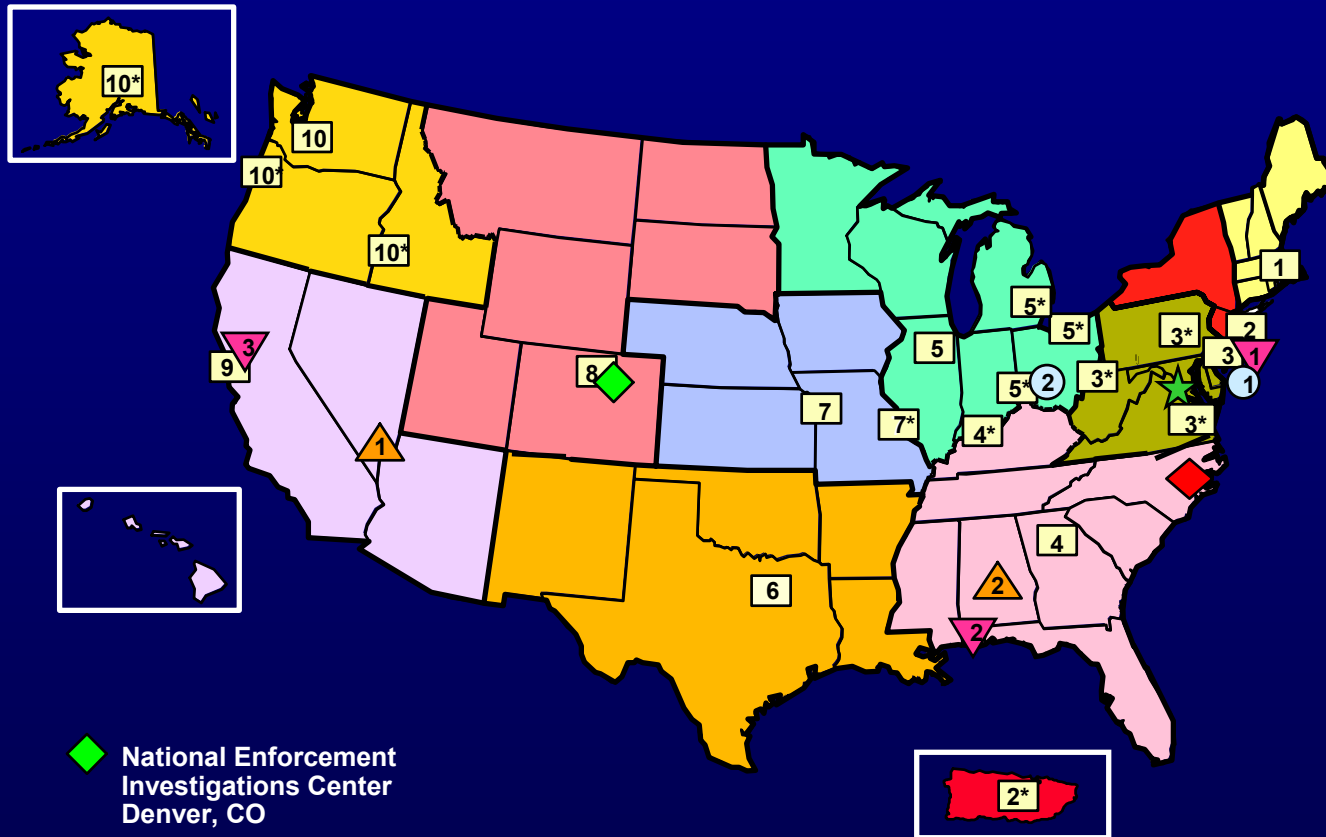


What Special Teams are Available Through the NRS?

- EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)
- EPA's Radiological Environmental Response Team (RERT)
- NOAA and EPA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC)
- USCG National Strike Force (NSF)
- USCG District Response Groups (DRG)
- USCG Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)
- Navy Supervisor of Salvage (SUPSALV)
- Radiological Assistance Teams (RATs)



NRS Response Assets



◆ National Enforcement Investigations Center
Denver, CO

◆ USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center
Elizabeth, NC

▽ National Strike Force Teams
1 Atlantic, Fort Dix, NJ
2 Gulf, Mobile, AL
3 Pacific, Novato, CA

★ EPA Headquarters
Washington, DC

■ Regional Offices and Field Offices

- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 2* Puerto Rico
- 3* Allentown, PA
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 3* Wheeling, WV
- 3* Richmond, VA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 4* Louisville, KY
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 5* Charlesville, IL
- 5* Cincinnati, OH
- 5* Cleveland, OH
- 5* Grosse Ile, MI
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 7* St. Louis, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 San Francisco, CA
- 10 Seattle, WA
- 10* Portland, OR
- 10* Boise, ID
- 10* Anchorage, AK
- * denotes field office

● Environmental Response Teams

- 1 Edison, NJ
- 2 Cincinnati, OH

▲ Radiation Labs

- 1 Las Vegas, NV
- 2 Montgomery, AL

What Types of Involvement Might EPA Have in a CT Incident?

- **Major WMD incidents**
 - Follow CONPLAN process
 - State/local response capabilities overwhelmed
 - Mass casualties
 - Potential for multiple events
- **Non-FRP incidents**
 - Threats/hoaxes
 - CONPLAN process not fully implemented
- **NRS initiated incidents with WMD implications**
 - Initially appears to be routine hazmat incident
 - NCP process followed through NRS
 - Potentially terrorist motivated

What is EPA's Involvement in Response to a Major WMD Incident?

- Support **FBI** in crisis management
 - Law enforcement activities
- Support **FEMA** in consequence management
 - Activities to mitigate or respond to the incident effects
 - Under the FRP and Terrorism Incident Annex



Major WMD Incident Response: EPA's Role During Crisis Management

- Coordinate through FBI with others
- Participate in FBI-led Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST), HQ Strategic Information Operations Center (SIOC), and, if appropriate, Foreign Emergency Support Team (FEST)
- Provide incident-specific technical support
 - Chemical hazards evaluation
 - Modeling
 - Coordination/notification
- Provide evidence collection support
- Resources available to support FBI-led response teams
 - OSCs, Special Forces deployment (ERT, USCG, NEIC)

Major WMD Incident Response: EPA's Role During Consequence Management

- Initially may respond under own authorities
- Conduct response action through FRP/ESF #10:
 - Threat assessment, site evaluation and removal actions, agent identification, hazard detection and reduction, environmental monitoring, decontamination, and long-term site restoration
 - Integration with and assistance to ICS/UC
- Support state and local responders as key focus of response
- Coordinate with local, state, and key federal partners such as FEMA, FBI, DOD, PHS, CDC, DOE, USCG, and others

What is EPA's Involvement in Response to a Non-FRP Incident?

- Examples: anthrax and chemical agent hoaxes
 - CONPLAN process unlikely
 - EPA OSCs respond in conjunction with an FBI Special Agent to support local responders
 - Work with other members of the ICS/UC to identify a strategy and response plan
 - Coordinate and/or direct response actions per the NCP in support of the FBI/FEMA
 - Health and safety issues must remain a concern

What is EPA's Involvement in an NRS Initiated Response with WMD Implications?

- EPA responds through the NRS until the incident is discovered to be terrorist in nature
- EPA can notify the other federal agencies
- Transitioning from an NCP/NRS incident to a terrorist threat or incident
 - Ensure that the evidence is not affected by the response
 - Notify the FBI SAC for the district affected
 - Transition to FBI as LFA upon arrival
- EPA can continue to support the response after transition to an FBI lead



Pre-deploying for National Security Special Events

- EPA's OSCs are active in planning and pre-deploying EPA assets for National Security Special Events
 - 2000 Democratic and Republican National Conventions
 - North Atlantic Treaty Organization 50th Anniversary Summit
 - 1996 and 2002 Olympics
 - World Bank/IMF Meetings in Washington, DC
- EPA's planning experience is a unique asset in preparing for the potential for terrorism at these significant events

Training and Exercises

- EPA provides hazmat training to its OSCs and other responders to ensure their health and safety
- EPA has been an integral part of the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program
- EPA has been an active participant in several terrorism exercises
 - Exercise TOPOFF in May 2000
 - Wasatch Rings Exercise in April 2001 (in preparation for the 2002 Olympics)
 - Currently preparing for TOPOFF 2

WTC/Pentagon Lessons Learned

- Contingency plans and guidelines need to be revised and expanded to address terrorist/intentional events
- EPA and USCG have different perceptions of how the NCP and FRP should be concurrently implemented
- The NRT works well because its components interact on a regular basis
- There was confusion and inconsistency regarding the roles and responsibilities of various federal agencies

WTC/Pentagon Lessons Learned (continued)

- Greater coordination among entities involved in CT planning and response is needed
- The expectations of FBI as lead agency need to be clarified
- The NRS needs to be integrated with OHS
- ICS/UC is effective and should be promoted and utilized



WTC/Pentagon Lessons Learned

(continued)

- EPA's emergency response program is better prepared than other federal programs because it responds everyday
 - Health and safety of EPA employees, as well as all first responders at a hazmat response, is EPA's responsibility
 - Biological agent response is EPA's number one vulnerability in terrorism response readiness
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Anthrax Lessons Learned (continued)

- Pre-incident sharing should be improved
- Existing information and technology should be adapted for biological responses
- The NRT should examine its planning and response roles to ensure that the needs of RRTs and OSCs are met



Anthrax Lessons Learned (continued)

- Existing environmental cleanup approaches should be adapted for deliberate releases of bio contaminants
- The response to biological agents presents health and safety risks/challenges that differ from hazmat responses
- A mechanism is needed to ensure adequate and consistent training for all NRS responses to bio incidents

Criminal Investigation & Emergency Response Memorandum of Understanding (CI/ER MOU)

- Drafted by an *ad hoc* committee of the NRT to address potential conflicts during the interface of criminal investigations and environmental response actions
- Status of the MOU and supporting documents
 - MOU, Background Document, Signatory Pages, and Transmittal Letter are nearly final
 - MOU will be signed by top-level officials representing more than 15 Federal agencies

Purpose of the MOU

- Establishes on-scene priorities, does **not** determine or affect selection of lead response agency
- Explicitly states that protection of human life is the highest priority during a response
- Ensures coordination, cooperation, and communication between investigative/enforcement personnel and environmental responders
 - Requires reciprocal notice upon arrival
 - Requires agencies to incorporate appropriate points of the MOU into training and guidance documents
 - Does not change or supercede any existing legal requirements, plans, or agreements

Conclusion

- WMD incidents are also hazmat incidents and require a very similar response
- EPA brings the existing system for hazmat response, and coordination experience with state and local responders, to the federal response to a terrorism event

For More Information. . .

VISIT

EPA's CT Website:

www.epa.gov/swercepp/cntr-ter.html

National Response Team Website:

www.nrt.org