

## b) Radiation Environmental Laboratories

EPA has two state-of-the-art radiological laboratories: one in Montgomery, Alabama, and the other in Las Vegas, Nevada. These laboratories can assist by quickly characterizing radiation sources to help make decisions about how to protect the public health.

## c) Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System

EPA operates the Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System (ERAMS) for measuring radioactivity and other contaminants in various environmental media. ERAMS is a national comprehensive radiation monitoring network with over 250 sampling stations distributed across all 50 States and U.S. Territories. In a radiological emergency, these sampling stations may be able to provide information about how far contamination has spread.

## 3. OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

### a) National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)

EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center is the technical support center for EPA enforcement and compliance assurance programs nationwide. The NEIC maintains multi-disciplinary teams of experts who perform inspections and technical evaluations of petrochemical and industrial facilities involved in the manufacture and handling of hazardous substances. The NEIC offers expertise in the following areas:

- C Environmental forensic evidence collection & sampling
- C Environmental forensic analysis
- C Information management/computer forensics
- C Enforcement related technical analysis

NEIC support for site-specific environmental forensic evidence handling can be requested through the appropriate Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Regional Office. The EPA OSC can help state and local responders contact the CID Office.

## b) EPA Contractor Resources

EPA's emergency response contracts provide swift access to cleanup services for removal of oil and hazardous substances. Under these contracts, response resources are available around the clock responding within 6 to 48 hours, depending on the location. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractors are able to mobilize the fastest and can provide immediate monitoring, sampling, analysis, and technical support and can perform minor containment activities. Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractors can mobilize between 2 to 48 hours based on the geographic location of the incident and can provide containment, countermeasure, cleanup, and disposal services.

## c) Research Laboratories

EPA has research laboratories with programs in field monitoring and analytical and technical support. The laboratories can also provide the models for fate and transport of chemicals that can provide information needed to make informed risk management decisions. Some of these labs have the capability to deploy mobile units to a contaminated site for chemical and biological analysis.

## d) Contract Laboratories

EPA's Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) provides a range of state-of-the-art chemical and analytical services. These include both routine and specialized analytical services, and the analyses of basic and unusual chemicals in air, water and soil media.

## THE NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (NCP) AND OTHER PLANS

Depending on the circumstances surrounding an incident, different federal plans (i.e., the NCP, the Federal Response Plan [FRP], the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan [FRERP], and the federal crisis and consequence management plans for terrorist incidents) provide the structure for federal response. These plans allow the NRS to provide support under most circumstances that would involve WMD. For instance, under the Terrorism Incident Annex to the FRP, EPA activates environmental response capabilities to support the federal response to acts of NBC terrorism, either by coordinating with NRS agencies

to use the structures and capabilities developed to support NCP operations, or by activating the NCP itself.

## EPA COUNTER TERRORISM PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY AND POLICY COORDINATION

EPA's Emergency and Deputy Emergency Coordinator provide national policy coordination across EPA's program offices and with other government agencies for counter-terrorism preparedness and response efforts.

## PLANNING AND RESPONSE CONTACTS

During an emergency, the National Response System can be accessed 24-hours-a-day by calling the National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802. The NRC will notify the appropriate EPA OSC and Regional Office. For non-emergencies/planning activities, State and local responders can access the NRS through their EPA Regional Removal Manager:

EPA Region I: 617-918-1260  
EPA Region II: 732-321-6656  
EPA Region III: 215-814-3241  
EPA Region IV: 404-562-8721  
EPA Region V: 312-353-9295  
EPA Region VI: 214-665-2270  
EPA Region VII: 913-551-7952  
EPA Region VIII: 303-312-6827  
EPA Region IX: 415-744-2293  
EPA Region X: 206-553-6709

For EPA's counter-terrorism programs, the Emergency or Deputy Emergency Coordinator can be contacted at 202-260-8600. Or visit <http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/>.



## EPA CAPABILITIES: RESPONDING TO NUCLEAR-BIOLOGICAL-CHEMICAL (NBC) TERRORISM

### EPA OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has statutory authorities and responsibilities to prepare for and respond to emergencies involving oil and hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, which include chemical, biological and radiological materials that could also be components of a weapon of mass destruction (WMD). A WMD is defined as a weapon, device, or large conventional explosive that produces catastrophic loss of life or property. EPA carries out its preparedness and response efforts primarily under the mandate of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and the Radiological Response Program. EPA provides technical support, response coordination and management, and resource assistance to local and state first responders under the National Response System (NRS). The NRS is the federal government's mechanism for emergency response to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants and discharges of oil that threaten human health and the environment. The NRS is fully described in the NCP at 40 CFR Part 300.

### Additional EPA Responsibilities

In recognition of EPA's responsibilities, capabilities and experience, Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) #39 assigned EPA the task of assisting the FBI in threat assessments and determining the type of hazards associated with releases or potential releases of materials in a terrorist incident. EPA is also assigned to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with environmental monitoring, decontamination, and long-term site cleanup. EPA is the lead agency for hazardous materials response under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #10 of the Federal Response Plan (FRP). PDD #62 reinforces EPA's mission to enhance the nation's capability to prevent and

respond to terrorist events involving WMD. PDD #63, which addresses the protection of America's critical infrastructure, named EPA the lead agency for the Water Supply Sector. Under these and other Federal authorities, EPA may participate during the crisis and consequence management phases of a terrorist incident response and may prevent and prepare for deliberate releases resulting from terrorist incidents. In addition, in the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation, EPA was named as one of the six Federal agencies for assisting in the provision of the WMD training program for first responders in 120 of the country's largest cities.

### **Federal On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)**

The Federal OSC is the primary federal representative at responses conducted under the NRS. Federal OSCs work with State, local, and private responders to protect human health and the environment. The Federal OSC is the point of contact for the coordination of federal efforts with the local response community. EPA OSCs possess the authority to manage all response efforts at the scene of an incident, and can call upon a variety of specialized equipment and highly trained personnel. Some of these include: the Environmental Response Team; the Radiological Emergency Response Team; the U.S. Coast Guard Strike Teams; and the National Enforcement Investigation Center. EPA has approximately 215 OSCs to address releases or potential releases in the inland zone of the country. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) provides OSCs for the coastal zones. When an incident report is received by the National Response Center (NRC), it is immediately relayed to a Federal OSC. The NRC serves as a first alert center for any potentially hazardous substance release to the environment of chemical, radiological, biological or etiological agents.

### **1. SPECIAL FORCES AVAILABLE TO THE OSCs**

The NCP discusses special forces and other assistance available to Federal OSCs during a response. The following are examples of the specialized assistance available to the Federal OSC.

#### **a) Environmental Response Team (ERT)**

EPA's ERT supports EPA's OSCs with expertise in treatment technology, biology, chemistry, hydrology, geology, and engineering. EPA's ERT can provide

24-hour access to special decontamination equipment for chemical releases and advice to the OSC in hazard evaluation; risk assessment; multimedia sampling and analysis; on-site safety, including development and implementation of plans; cleanup techniques and priorities; water supply decontamination and protection; application of dispersants; environmental assessment; degree of cleanup required; and disposal of contaminated material.

The ERT, located in Edison, NJ, can also be activated by the OSC to provide technical expertise for complex emergency responses involving or potentially involving weapons of mass destruction, especially chemical weapons such as VX nerve gas and sarin gas. ERT resources can be pre-deployed for special events having a high level of terrorism threats. In addition, the Emergency Response Training Program (ERTP), located in Cincinnati, OH, provides training courses for personnel who respond to or investigate and clean up abandoned hazardous waste sites. Training is provided in safety and health as well as in the various technical operations needed to identify, evaluate, and control hazardous substances that have been released.

#### **EPA's Portable Instrumentation and Entry-Level Capabilities**

In response to an NBC threat or incident, EPA's ERT can provide portable instrumentation and various entry capabilities to assist at the scene of an incident.

**Monitoring Instruments:** The ERT has numerous types of field portable instruments to:

- U** Monitor various toxic gases in real time, including nerve or mustard agent vapors and volatile organics in the low and sub parts-per-million concentrations.
- U** Qualify low-level alpha contamination on surfaces, personnel, and personnel protective equipment; assess the lateral distribution of gamma emitters in soil/pipes, etc.; and monitor for beta or beta-gamma emitters.
- U** Measure alpha, beta, or gamma radiation.

#### **Analytical Instruments, including:**

- U Minicam** - identifies volatile organic and inorganic compounds over wide concentration ranges.
- U Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS)** - identifies trace components in complex matrices.
- U Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA)** - MS/MS that allows real-time analysis and tracking of plumes. This is a mobile laboratory unit.

#### **ERT's Entry-level Capabilities:**

- U Level "A" Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)** - required when the greatest potential for exposure to hazards exists, and when the greatest level of skin, respiratory, and eye protection is required. These fully encapsulating suits afford protection against petroleum products and halogenated hydrocarbons, as well as against nerve and blister agents.
- U Level "B" PPE** - used under circumstances requiring the highest level of respiratory protection, with a lesser level of skin protection.
- U Level "C" PPE** - used when the concentration and type of airborne substances is known, and the criteria for using air-purifying respirators are met.

#### **b) The Coast Guard's National Strike Force (NSF)**

The NSF is composed of three strategically located strike teams, a public information assist team, and a coordination center. The strike teams have specially trained personnel and equipment to respond to major oil spills and chemical releases. The Public Information Assist Team (PIAT) is available to assist the OSC in demands for public information during a response. The National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) maintains a national inventory list of oil spill response equipment. NSF capabilities are especially suited to incidents occurring in the marine environment, but also include response management, entry-level A through C, site assessments, safety and action plan development, and documentation for both inland and coastal zone incidents. The NSF can be accessed through the Federal OSC and the National Response Center.

#### **c) Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC)**

The SSCs are the principal advisors to the OSCs for scientific issues, communication with the scientific community and coordination for requests for assistance from state and Federal agencies regarding scientific studies. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides SSCs in coastal and marine areas. For inland zones, SSCs are provided by EPA's ERT.

### **2. EPA's RADIOLOGICAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES**

EPA's role in response to a nuclear/radiological terrorism incident will vary depending on the situation. The three main areas of EPA radiological response are:

- C Monitoring and assessment
- C Protective action guidance
- C Assistance in coordinating federal response during the cleanup

Additionally, EPA has developed Protective Action Guides that help state and local officials protect potentially affected populations. Each EPA regional office has a regional radiation program, through which support can be obtained.

#### **a) Radiological Emergency Response Team**

EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) has established a Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT), with staff in Washington, DC, and at laboratories in Nevada and Alabama. The RERT provides support during incidents or at sites involving radiological hazards. Expertise is available in:

- C Radiation monitoring
- C Radionuclide analysis
- C Radiation health physics
- C Risk assessment

The RERT can provide on-site monitoring and mobile laboratories for field analyses of samples. Requests for RERT support may be made 24-hours-a-day via the National Response Center.