

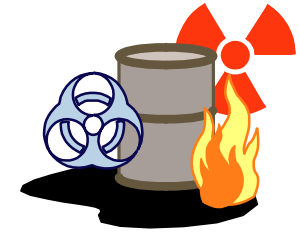
# Hazardous Materials Response Overview



July 28, 1997

# II. Hazardous Materials Response Overview

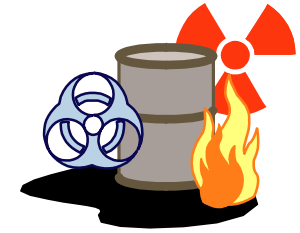
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- The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Response System (NRS)
- Authorities
- Organization and Components (Headquarters Level)
  - Regional and Area Components
    - Initial response process
  - Special Teams
  - Headquarters
  - Additional Resources

# The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Response System (NRS)

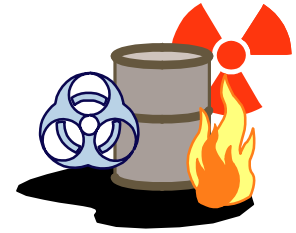
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- Federal mechanism to prepare for and respond to hazardous materials releases
- In existence for almost 30 years
- Multi-agency/multi-level system
- Primary objective is to support State and local responses

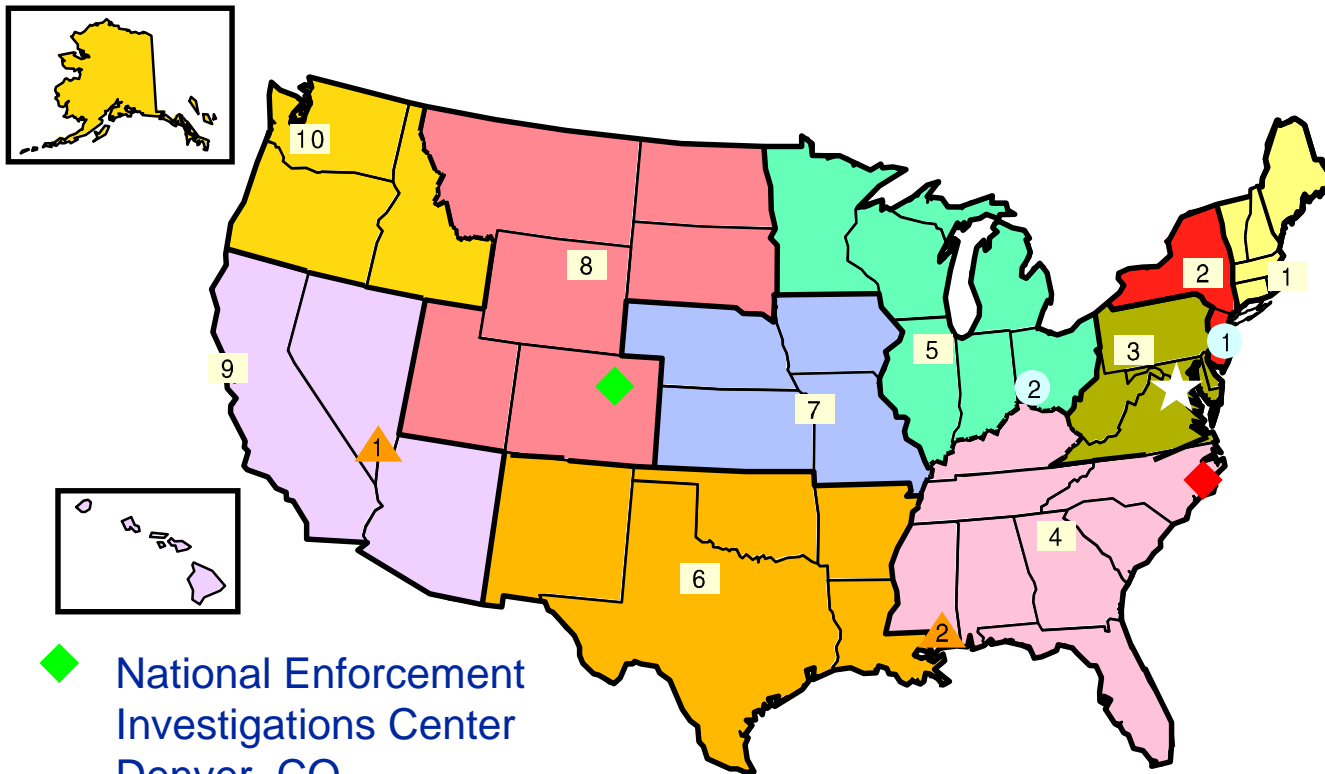
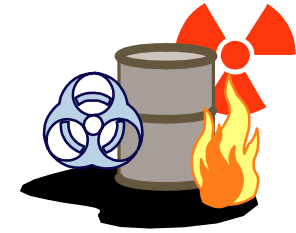
# Authorities

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- Clean Water Act, as amended by Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- CERCLA
- NCP
- Other Authorities

# Organization and Components - Regional and Area Components



- Regional Offices
- 1 Boston, MA
- 2 New York, NY
- 3 Philadelphia, PA
- 4 Atlanta, GA
- 5 Chicago, IL
- 6 Dallas, TX
- 7 Kansas City, MO
- 8 Denver, CO
- 9 San Francisco, CA
- 10 Seattle, WA

- Environmental Response Teams

- 1 Edison, NJ
- 2 Cincinnati, OH

- Radiation Labs

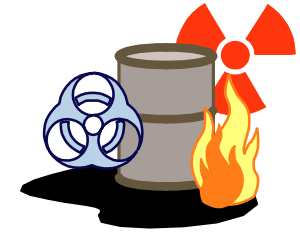
- 1 Las Vegas, NV
- 2 Montgomery, AL

◆ National Enforcement Investigations Center  
Denver, CO

◆ USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center  
Elizabeth, NC

# Organization and Components - Regional and Area Components

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- EPA On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
- Regional Response Teams
- EPA Removal Managers
- Other Federal agency OSCs (including U.S. Coast Guard Captains of the Port)
- Response contractor support

# Organization and Components - Federal On-Scene Coordinators



- Ensure proper notification
  - Conduct Removal Evaluation
  - Recommendation/Decision
- Direct and coordinate all response efforts at site
  - State and locals
  - Other Federal agencies
- Maintain final decision-making authority
- Ensure access to information by other interested, relevant parties

# Organization and Components - Special Resources

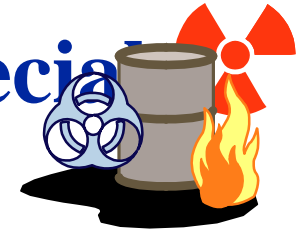


## ■ Special Forces

- EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)
- NOAA and EPA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC)
- USCG National Strike Force (NSF)
- USCG District Response Groups (DRG)
- USCG Public Information Assist Team (PIAT)
- Other special forces



# Organization and Components - Special Resources (cont.)



## ■ Laboratories

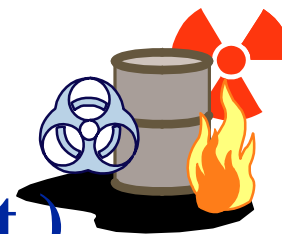
- Research Laboratories
- Contract Laboratories
- Radiological Laboratories
- National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)

# Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT)



- Customized multi-disciplinary team of technical experts
  - Response and remediation
  - Unusual or unique response requirements
- Equipment and resources
- Training - Environmental Response Center

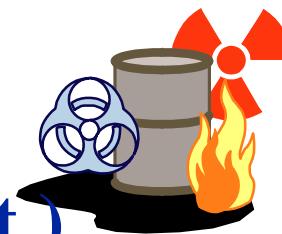
# Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)



- Maintains “around the clock” emergency response activation system
- Assists Regions and other Federal agencies in responding to environmental emergencies and uncontrolled hazardous materials incidents
- Provides technical expertise on:
  - Water and air quality criteria
  - Health and safety protocols
  - Ecological risk assessments
  - Interpretation and evaluation of analytical data
  - Engineering and scientific studies
  - Site-specific safety programs
  - Other environmental concerns

# Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)

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- Skills, Resources, and Capabilities
  - Chemical, biological, and physical treatment and monitoring
  - Control, restoration, disposal, and contingency planning
  - Operating and evaluating instrumentation and field response systems
  - State of the art sampling and analysis
  - On-site laboratory analytical support
  - Biological and ecological environmental assessments
  - On-site health and safety assessments

# Organization and Components - EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) (cont.)

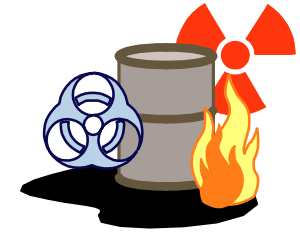
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- Training
  - Safety and health
  - Response and remediation
  - Technical skills and knowledge

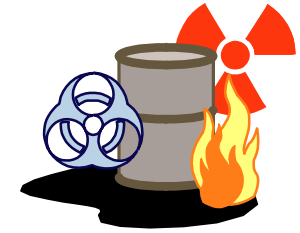
# Organization and Components - Headquarters Level

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- National Response Team (NRT)
- National Response Center (NRC)
- EPA's Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
- National Pollution Funds Center

# Organization and Components - Headquarters Level

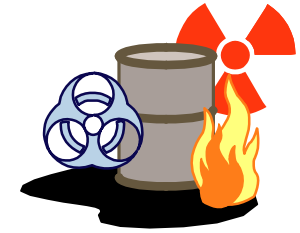


## National Response Team Members



# When Will EPA Respond?

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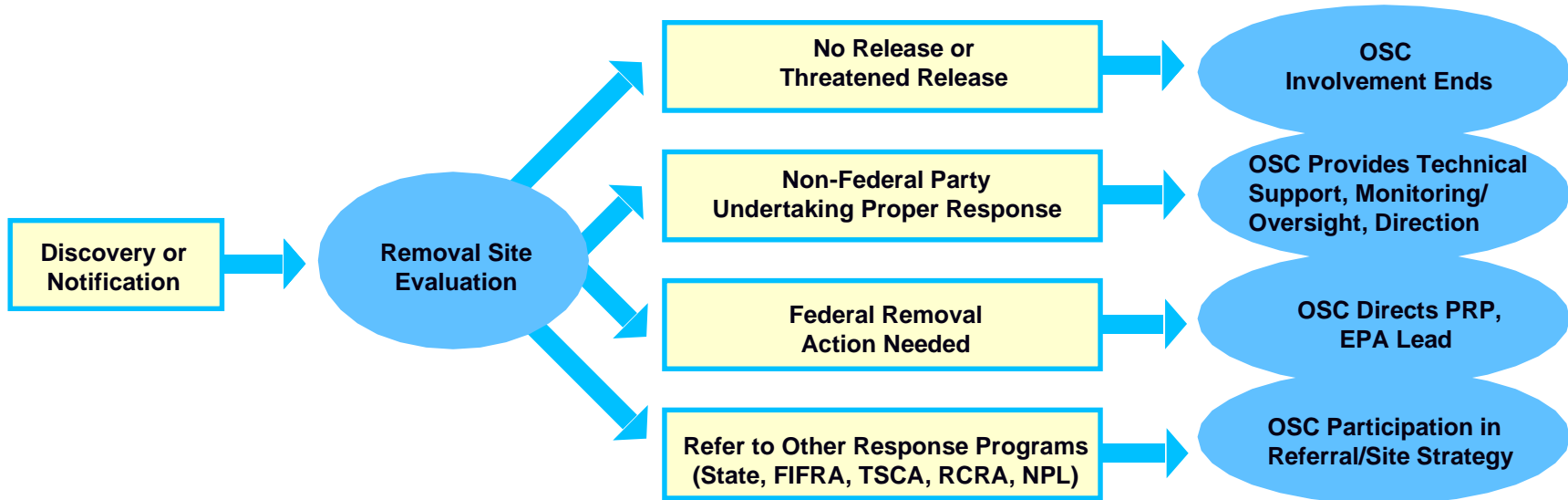


- Promptly
  - If human health or environment is threatened by an actual or potential accidental or deliberate release of hazardous materials
- EPA has the authority and will actively engage when an incident results in:
  - Actual or potential human or animal food chain exposure
  - Actual or potential drinking water contamination
  - Fire or explosion threat (threats posed by containers of hazardous materials)
  - Contaminated surface soil migration potential
  - Weather-related migration potential of hazardous materials
  - Unavailability of other response or enforcement mechanisms



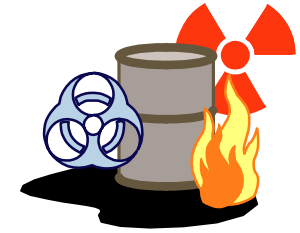
# How Is the Appropriate Response Discovered and Selected?

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# How Can EPA Respond?

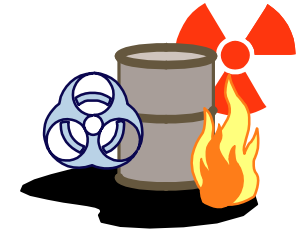
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- Typical types of response actions carried out under the NRS/NCP include:
  - Site safety plan development (response planning)
  - Sample collection and analysis (air/water monitoring)
  - Alternative water supply provisions (potable water)
  - Source control and stabilization (berms, booms, dikes, plugging release points)
  - On-site treatment (neutralization, thermal destruction, solidification, detonation)
  - Temporary relocation
  - Off-site disposal or treatment

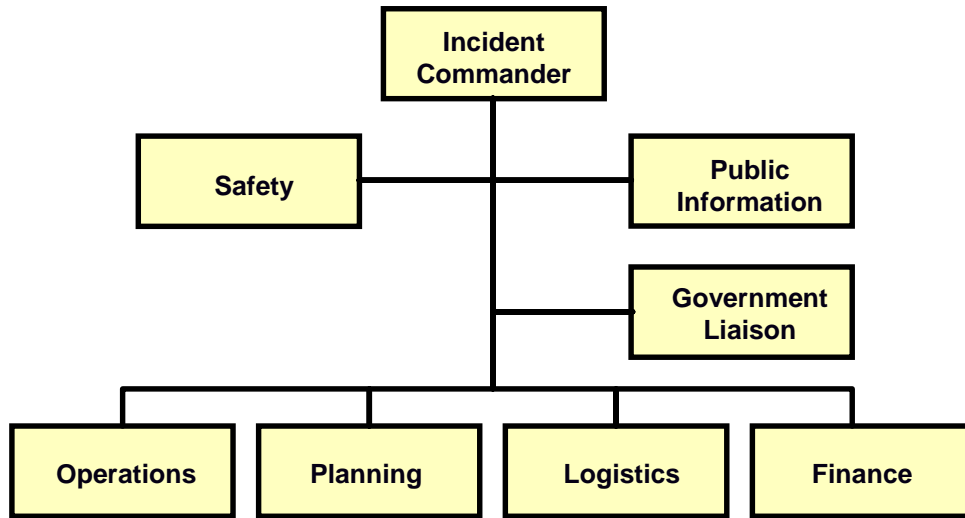
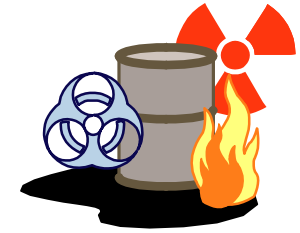
# Are There Activities Typically Not Performed by EPA?

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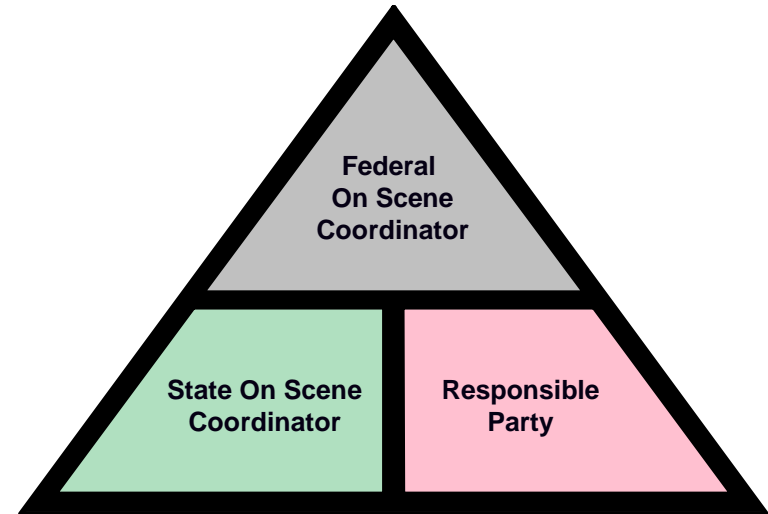


- The following response actions are not typically conducted by EPA or NRS agencies:
  - Disposal of non-hazardous waste
  - Blood or medical waste cleanup (as a result of accidents) (lead responsibility)
  - Limitations in CERCLA 104
    - Naturally-occurring releases of substances in natural form
    - Oil spills that do not threaten surface water
    - Others

# On-Scene Emergency Response Structure



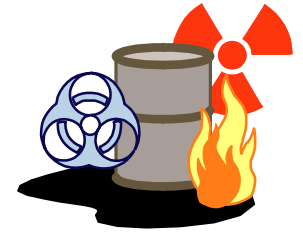
Incident Command (IC)



Unified Command (UC)

# Access to National Response System

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- National Level - Contact the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802
- Regional Level - Contact Regions.

# Preparedness Components Under the NRS

