

Regional Response Team (RRT)/Joint Response Team (JRT) Interim Activation Guidance for Poison Control Centers (Region 6)

CDR Patrick Young
ATSDR Regional Rep.
Region 6 – Dallas, TX



Disclaimer

CDR Patrick Young is an employee of the Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The information provided herein is the opinion of the author and does not represent the opinions or policy of the ATSDR or U.S. EPA

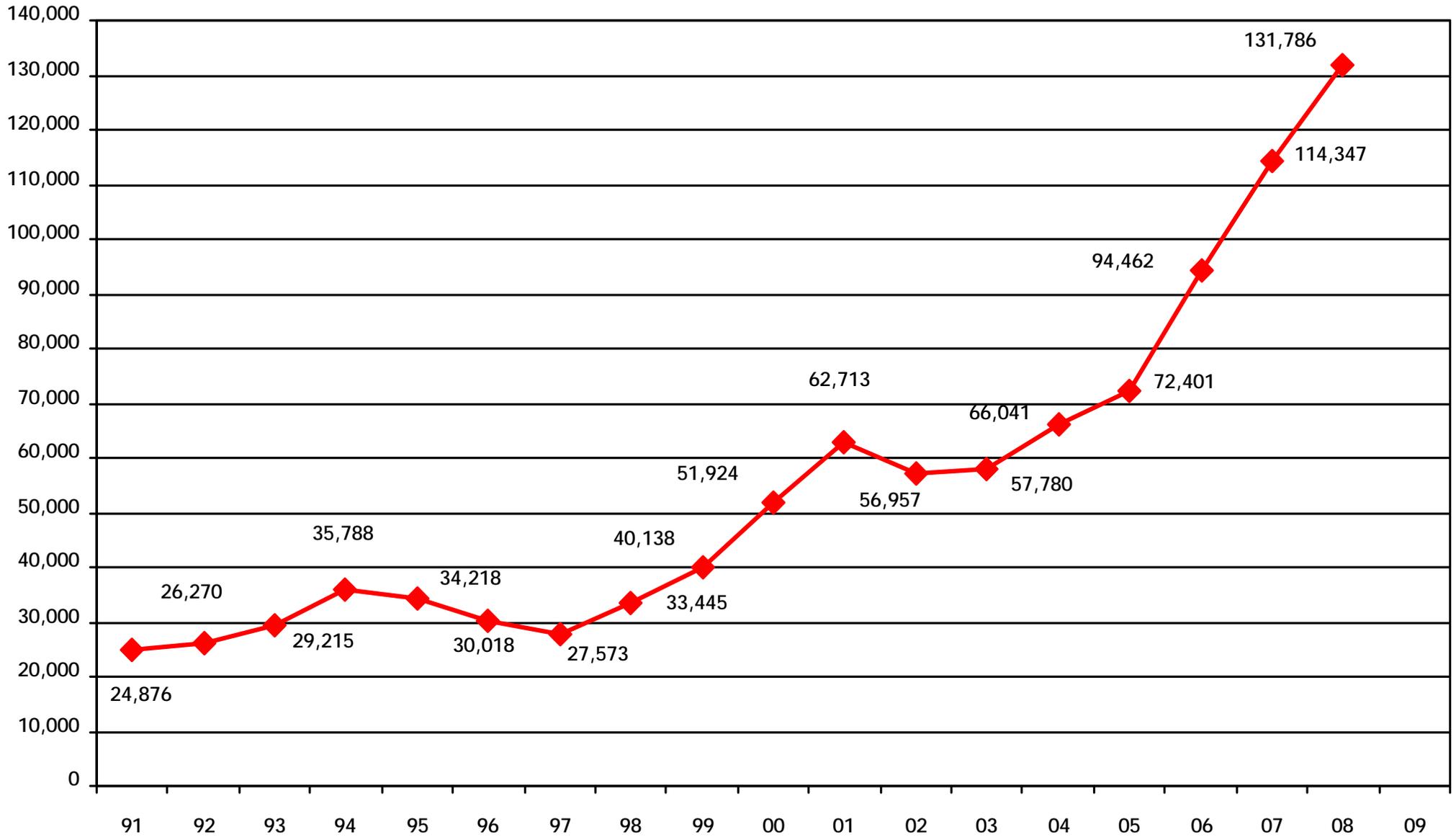


What is the National Response System?

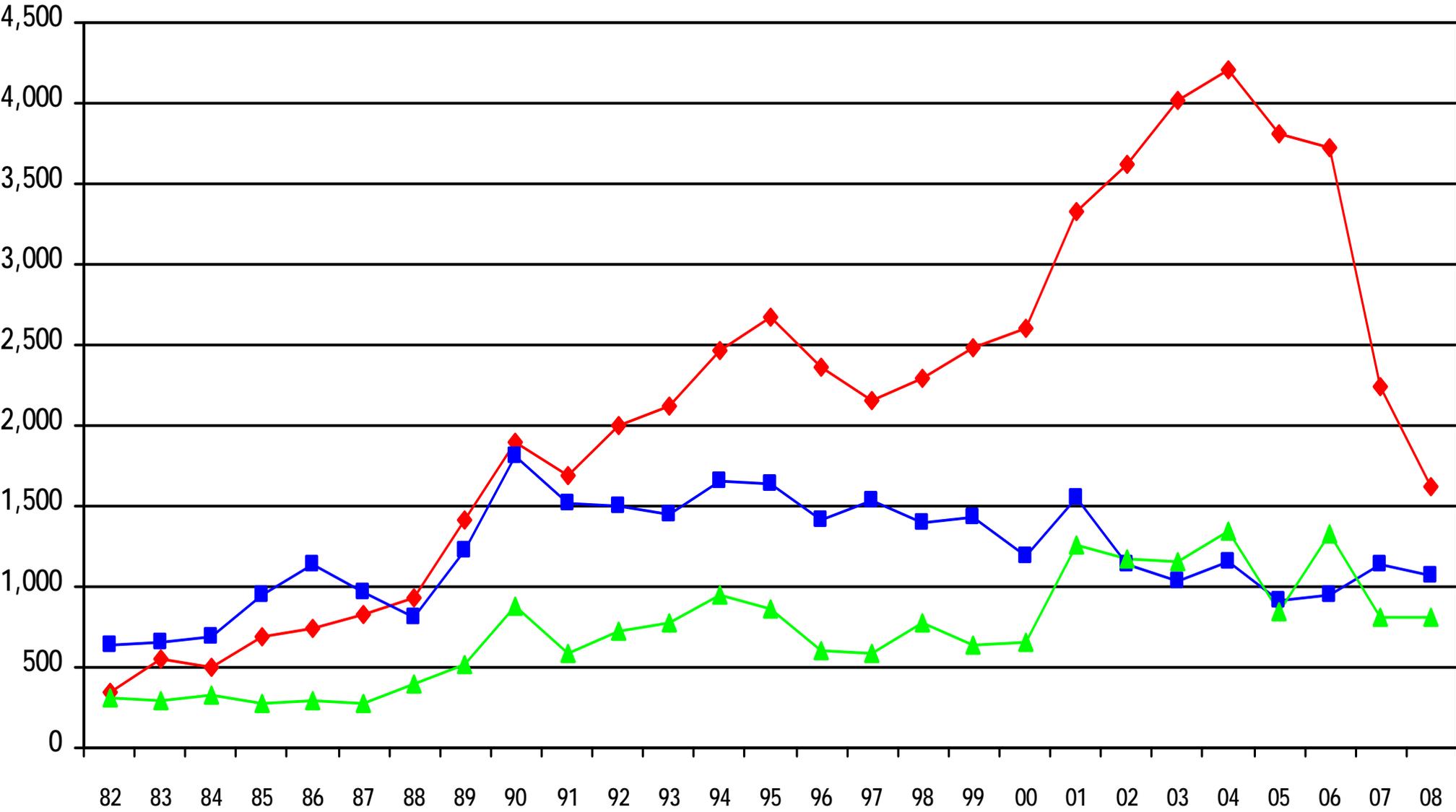
- The Federal mechanism to prepare for and respond to hazardous materials releases
- In existence for 30 years
- Multi-agency/multi-level system
- Designed to support state and local responses



NRC Notifications Nationally / EPA & USCG (1991 - 2008)

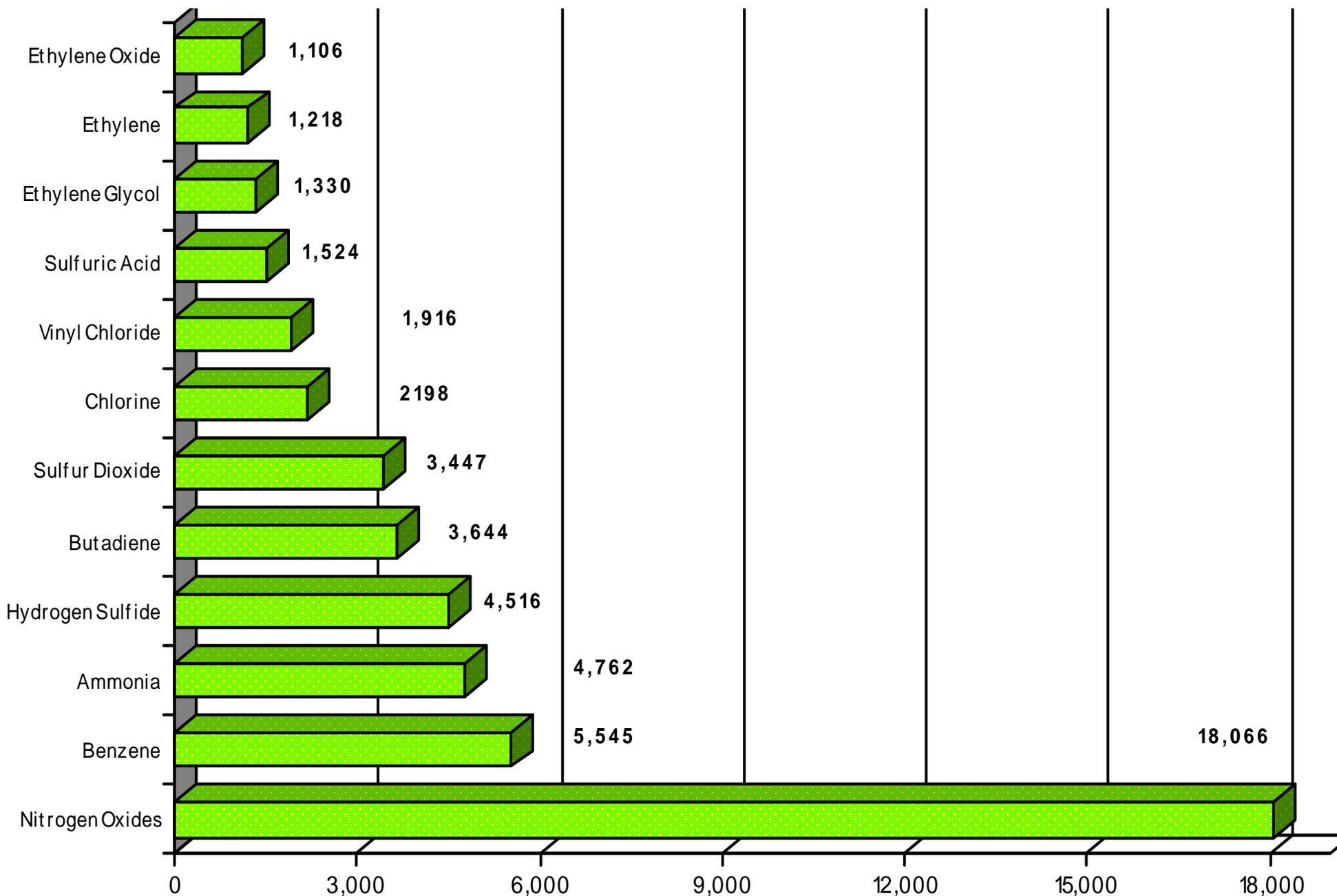


NRC Notifications to EPA Region 6 -- by Material Type (1982 - 2008)



◆ Hazardous Materials ■ Oil / Oil Products ▲ Other / Unknown

NRC Notifications to EPA Region 6 -- Top 12 Hazardous Materials Released (1982 - 2008)



The 12 materials listed above account for 87 % of all hazardous material releases within Region 6 since 1982

Since 1982, approximately 4 % of all release reports have led to a significant event (death, injury, community evacuation, shelter-in-place)

Deaths, injuries, and evacuations may not be directly due to exposure, but as a consequence of the accident resulting in the release

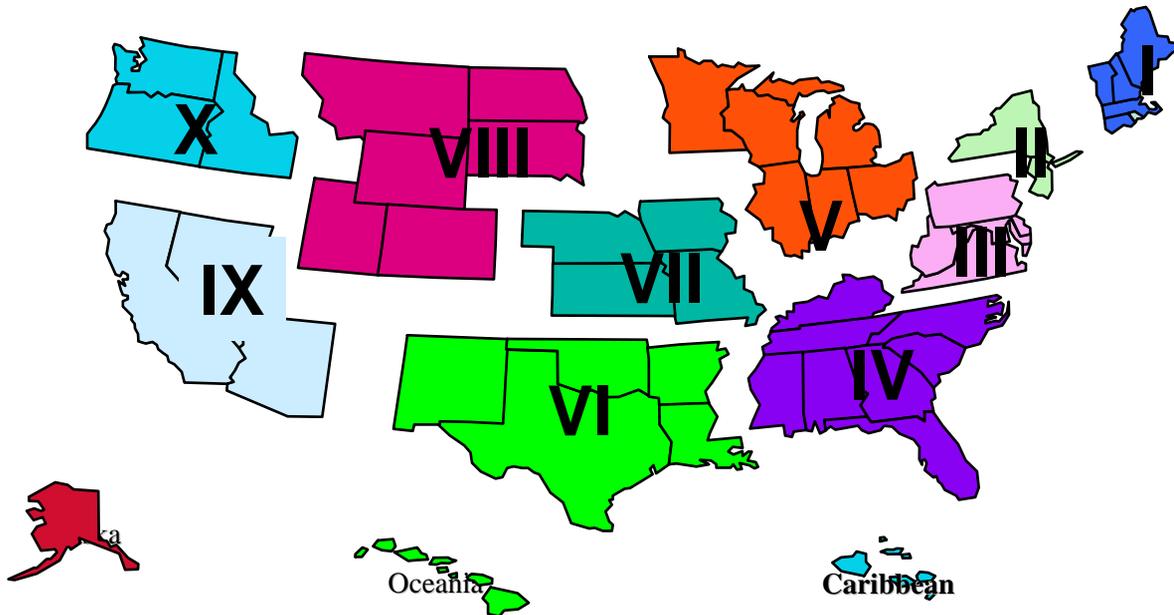
Since 1982, statistically there is a shelter-in-place or evacuation of a community (whole or part) due to a hazardous materials / oil incident somewhere in Region 6, on a weekly basis



The National Contingency Plan



- Requires three fundamental activities be performed:
 - preparedness, planning and coordination for response
 - notification and communication
 - response operations at the scene





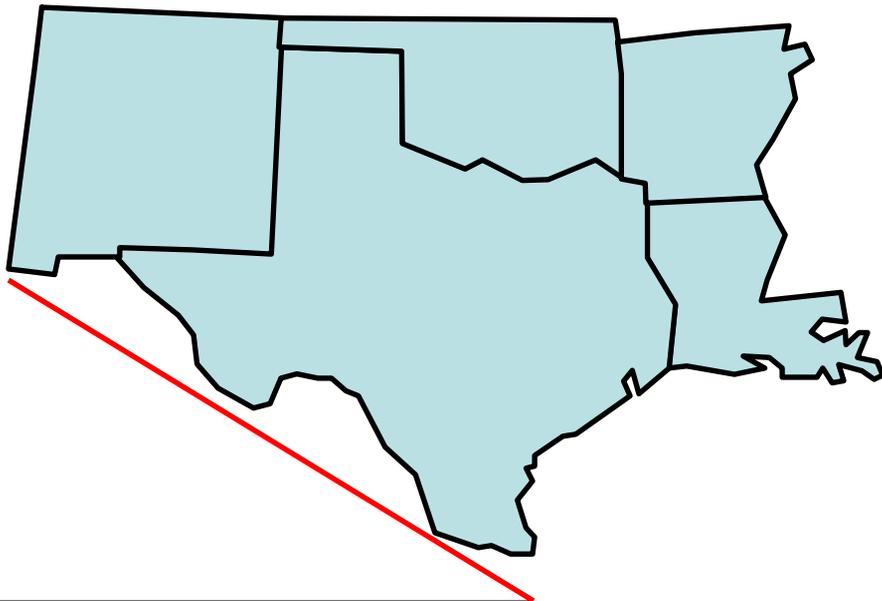
National Response Team



- Consists of 16 Federal agencies: EPA, USCG, FEMA, HHS, GSA, DOD, DOE, DOI, DOT, USDA, DOJ, DOS, NRC, DOT, DOA, NOAA
- EPA chaired, USCG vice-chaired
- Primary responsibilities are planning and preparedness
- May participate in large, multi-region responses



Regional Response Teams (RRT)/Joint Response Teams



US/Mexico Border
(JRT)

- **Consist of State and 15 Federal agencies of the National Response Team**
- **Co-Chaired by United States Coast Guard (USCG) and EPA**
- **Primary responsibilities are planning and preparedness**
- **During responses provide assistance and support as requested by On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)**

Federal On-Scene Coordinators

- **Only EPA, USCG, DOD, or DOE provide Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) for responses.**
- **EPA has 185 OSCs at 17 locations nation-wide;**
- **USCG has 46 Marine Safety Offices, spread among 9 USCG Districts, each of which is headed by a Captain of the Port (COTP), who acts as a FOSC**

Why Poison Control Centers?

- Poison Center tied in with 911 (National)
- 24/7 Hot Line (National)
- Rolling Phone Bank (National)
- Medical Advise
- Toxicsurveillance Program (CDC)
- Public, LEPC, Hospitals, Agency Access
- Statements to the Press/Fact Sheets
- PCC Health Educators (LEPC)

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Issue: Poison Centers not Integrated with Hazmat Response Community

- Poison Control Centers/Networks managed by individual states
- Minimal state-to-state interaction between PCC's
- Minimal bi-national interaction (US/Mexico Border)
- Environmental/HAZMAT Agencies unaware of Poison Centers Role in Disasters and Preparedness (EPA/DEQ/LEPC)
- Need Inter-State connectivity to improve effectiveness and integration within the emergency response communities



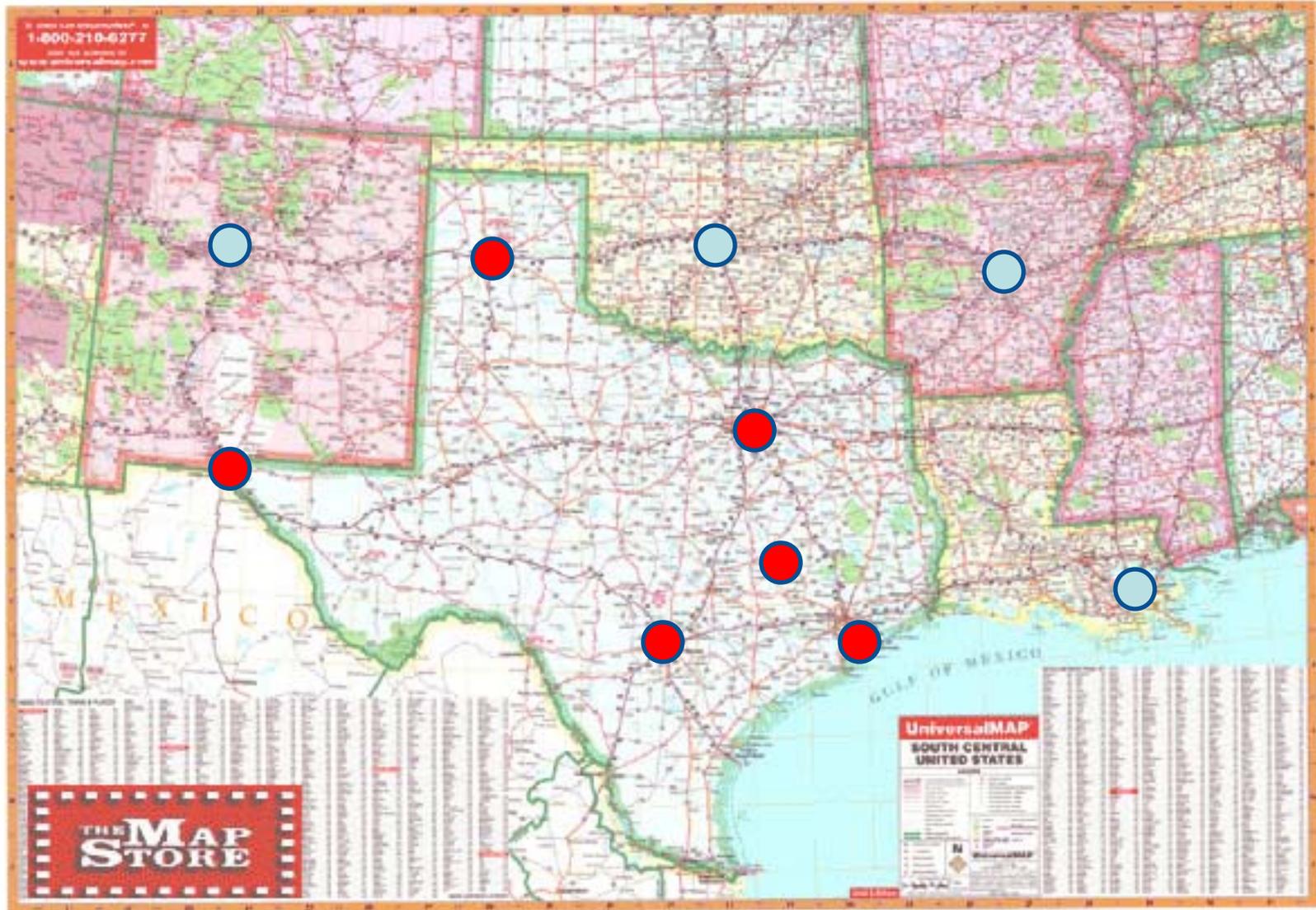
Vision

- Create Regional “Connected” Network of PCCs
- Build Relationships between PCC’s and Environmental Hazmat Response (EPA/State – On-Scene Coordinator’s)
- Integrate PCC with Local Emergency Planning Committees and State Emergency Managers
- Develop written protocols to outline role of PCC in disaster preparedness and response with RRT.

Potential Benefits of PCC participation with the NRS

- 130,000 accidental releases of hazardous substances / yr with potential threat to HHE.
- 4 % of these result in evacuations, injuries, or fatalities
- PCC's can provide public contact point in support of EPA OSC and the National Response System

PCC's in Region 6 Working Together



(DRAFT v10)

Region 6

Regional Response Team (RRT)/Joint Response Team (JRT)

Interim Activation Guidance

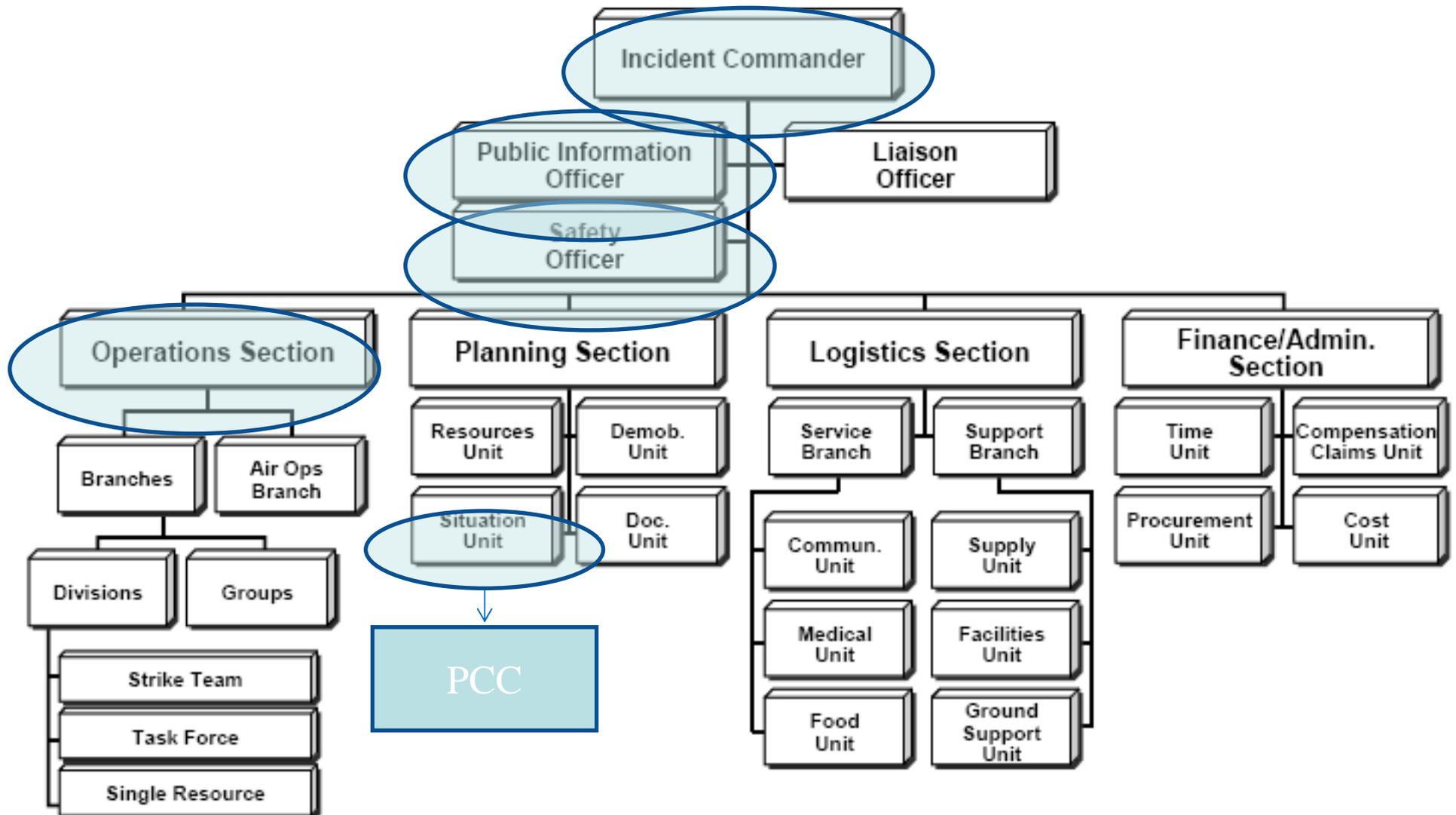
For

Poison Control Centers (Region 6)



February 2009

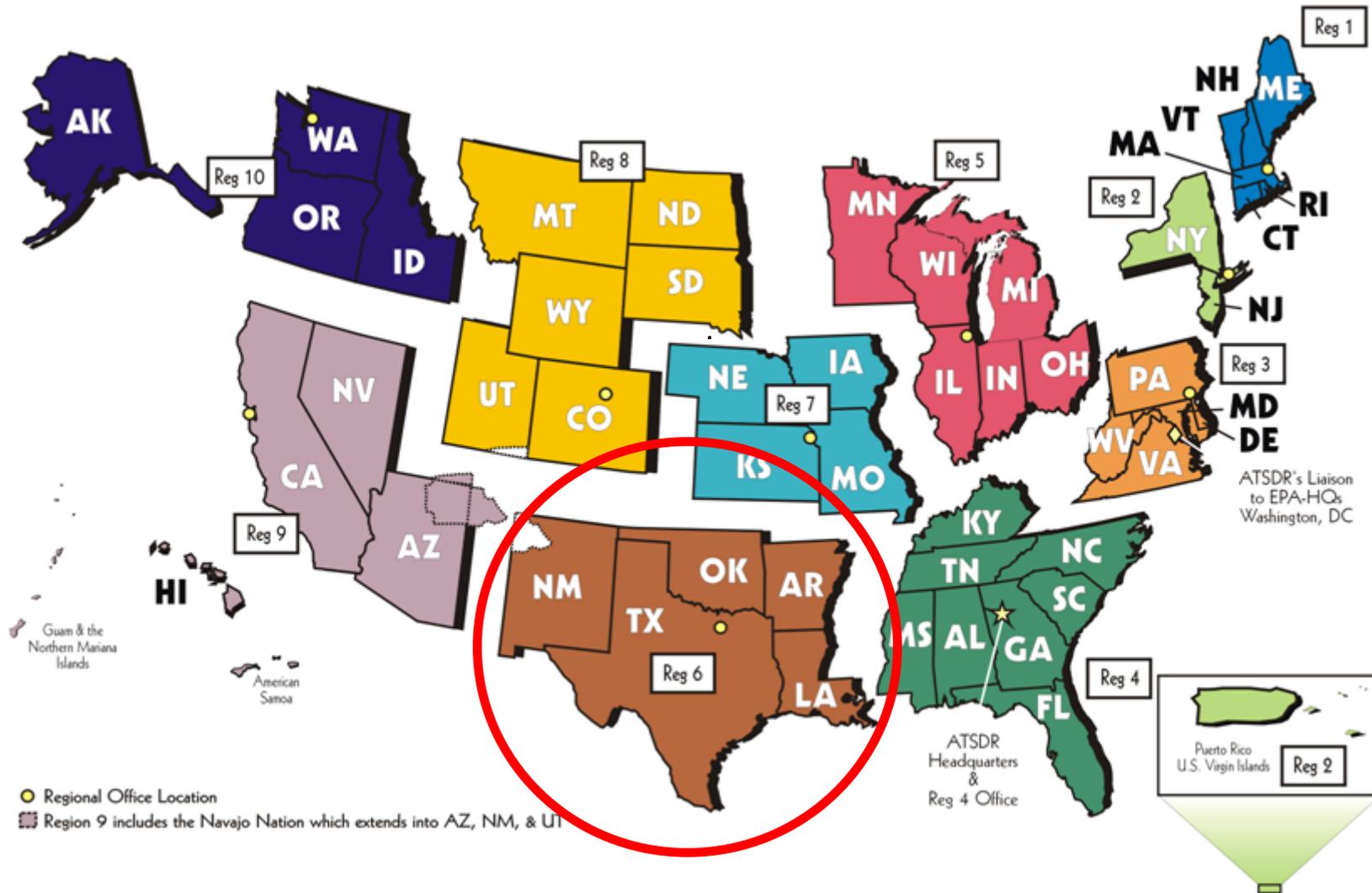
Basic ICS Structure



Response is local and depends on local preparedness

- 911 is a local call (created 1968)
- Initial response to public health/HAZMAT emergencies is carried out by local response agencies/teams
- Plans/protocols must be developed with local response agency participation
- They must be tested and refined locally (drills/exercises)
- National policy must be translated into local action.

The future.... PCC Support to Regional Response Teams Nationwide???



NRC BACKGROUND :: Primary function of the NRC is to serve as the sole national point of contact for reporting all oil, chemical, radiological, biological, and etiological discharges into the environment.

In addition to gathering and distributing spill data for OSCs and serving as the communications and operations center for the NRT, the NRC maintains agreements with a variety of entities to make notifications regarding incidents meeting established trigger criteria.

The NRC also takes Terrorist/Suspicious Activity Reports and Maritime Security Breach Reports.

On behalf of DHS and the USCG, the NRC:

- Briefs the White House, Office of Homeland Security, Secretary of Transportation, and Chiefs of Modal Administrations regarding all significant transportation emergencies;
- Provides information the Coast Guard's Office of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection as needed;
- Receives and relays reports of incidents reportable under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act;
- Provides incident reports to various DOT agencies;
- and provides notification to DOT and NTSB offices of transportation incidents that meet certain criteria.

On behalf of other Agencies, the NRC provides services to enhance the Federal Response System:



- For the EPA, the NRC receives incident reports under the FRS which is supported under CERCLA, CWA, CAA, EPCRA, and OPA. The NRC disseminates reports of oil discharges and chemical releases to the FOSC;
- For FEMA, the NRC acts as a 24 hour contact point to receive earthquake, flood, hurricane, and evacuation reports;
- For the NucRC, and DOE, the NRC makes notification of all incidents involving radioactive material releases;
- For DOI, the NRC receives reports of incidents involving Trans-Alaskan Pipeline Oil;
- For DOD, incidents involving transportation emergencies with DOD munitions or explosives are referred to the Army Operations Center. Any incident involving hypergolic rocket fuels and oxidizers are passed to the Air Force Operations Center.
- The NRC takes reports on potential or actual domestic terrorism and coordinates notifications and response with the FBI;
- For the DHHS, releases of etiological and biological agents are referred to the CDC;
- For the FRA, the NRC takes reports of railroad incidents involving hazardous materials, grade crossing fatalities, and accidents resulting in injury or death of railroad employees.
- The NRC is contact point for activation of the NRT and provides facilities for the NRT to use in coordinating a national response action when required.