

Maine & New Hampshire Area Committee Work Plan for 2014

The Area Committee (AC) Executive Steering Committee met on February 18, 2014 and identified the following list of issues as guidelines and priorities for 2014.

1. Continuation of Area Committee Executive Steering Committee (ESC): The ESC is responsible for maintaining the strategic view for the AC and developing and publishing an annual work plan for calendar year 2014. The ESC membership is comprised of the CG FOSC, Captain Brian Gilda; ME SOSC, Peter Blanchard; NH SOSC, Rick Berry; NOAA SSC, Steve Lehmann; CG Sector Northern New England (SNNE) Response Department Head, CDR Troy Vest; Industry representative, Bruce Yates; and CG SNNE Contingency Planning and Readiness Staff representative, Wyman Briggs. The ESC plans to meet twice in 2014 on February 18th and June 11th at Sector Northern New England in South Portland, ME.

2. Area Committee Membership and Meeting Schedule: The AC will strive to maintain or increase membership through various outreach efforts. Three AC meetings will be held each year (two in ME and one in NH) during the following months: April, September and December. 2014 Meetings are scheduled for:

- ❖ April 16th at the ANG in South Portland, ME
- ❖ September 24th at NH DES in Portsmouth, NH and
- ❖ December 4th at the ANG in South Portland, ME

It was decided that when possible ½ of each Area Committee Meeting will be focused on a specific theme. The April 16th AC Meeting will focus on the theme of Marine Fire Fighting. This will include highlighting the Marine Fire Fighting Plan section of the ACP, local Fire Depts' role, Vessel Operators' role and a table-top discussion based on 2-3 brief fire fighting scenarios. Fire Departments, Fire Boat reps, State EMA, County EMA, Pilots, Vessel Agents, Terminal Managers and others will be encouraged to attend.

The Great Bay Estuary was identified as a promising theme for the September 24th Area Committee Meeting at NH DES. Dispersants, Insitu Burning, Shoreline Washing Agents and Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan was identified as an appropriate theme for the December 4th AC meeting in South Portland.

The Response subcommittee or other subcommittees will meet following AC Meetings, as needed. Various workgroups will establish their own schedules and meet as necessary.

3. Area Contingency Plan Re-write Workgroup: The ME/NH Area Contingency Plan (ACP) is due for a full review and revision in 2014. An ACP rewrite workgroup was formed in August 2013 to review and update the ME/NH ACP by December 2014. Priorities for the re-write include consolidating the chapters into a single searchable Microsoft Word document with clear subtitles and full table of contents. The ACP will also be brought into compliance with the "Best ACP Review Checklist" and any remaining edits from D1's 2010 review of the ACP will be addressed. Significant progress had been made by February 2014 with monthly meetings of the ACP update workgroup scheduled through July.

a. Dispersant Use: The current Region 1 dispersant preauthorization plan and Unified Command Dispersant worksheet were developed in 1997. The preauthorization plan and worksheet have been updated in draft. The workgroup hopes to adopt an updated plan as part of this ACP update. A workgroup has been formed to update the dispersant Preauthorization Plans and Decision Worksheets.

b. Insitu Burning (ISB): The current Region 1 Insitu Burning pre-authorization agreement and Unified Command Decision Verification Checklist were developed in 1998 and are due for an update. The workgroup hopes to adopt an updated ISB plan and Decision Worksheet as part of this ACP update.

4. Geographic Response Plan Workgroup: Continue efforts to review, test, update, and distribute accurate, user-friendly Geographic Response Strategies. Goals for 2014 include completing revisions of recently tested Geographic Response Strategies in Damariscotta, Bucksport, Scarborough, Wells, and several sites on the Pascataqua River system. Also this group is continuing an ongoing effort to prioritize critical natural resources along the Maine coast and identify and begin to prioritize sensitive economic and historically valuable coastal resources. Also, if funding comes through via NOAA, an effort is eminent to update the EVI maps along the entire Maine coastline.

5. CANUSLANT 2013: CANUSLANT 2013 was held during the week of June 17th 2013 at the Washington County Community College in Calais, Maine and the Hilton Hotel in St. John, New Brunswick. Over 300 players participated in the exercise. The final After Action Report (AAR) was released by USCG D1/Canadian CG Maritimes in February 2014 and the ME/NH AC update will address key Lessons Learned and Improvement Plan Action Items. The vast majority of recommended action items are focused at the joint/regional level and will be a focus of discussion at the Joint Response Team (JRT) Meeting scheduled for July 9-10 at SNNE.

6. Portsmouth Oil Spill Response Working Group Exercise Lessons Learned: Another major focus of work efforts during 2014 will be to enhance preparedness by implementing lessons learned from the successful POSRWG exercise that was held on October 22nd, 2013. Areas for Improvement include:

- ❖ Test ability to stand up an Incident Command System for a large oil spill
 - Ensure Situation Briefings provide the Unified Command a full picture of what is going on at the scene of the scripted incident
 - Use an Open Action Tracker to ensure all ICs taskings are recorded and acted on.
 - Ensure Liaison is adequately staffed and resourced.
- ❖ Establish Clear Expectations Between ICP and NH EOC
 - Clarify roles between local EOC/ICP and pollution response ICP
 - Take precautions to identify and limit safety hazards related to toxic air pollution
- ❖ Test internal and external communications
 - Develop plans for increasing bandwidth for USCG comms and provide more laptops and phone handsets.
 - WebEOC worked well for communicating with the state EOC.

- ❖ Test ability to respond to a large oil spill
 - Capabilities to test and understand potential toxic air hazards is limited

7. Portsmouth Workgroup: The Portsmouth Oil Spill Response Workgroup (POSRW) was officially established as a workgroup under the Maine-New Hampshire Area committee on January 5, 2012 to improve response capabilities, maximize preparedness and emphasize safe work practices for oil spill response in the New Hampshire and Southern Maine coastal areas. The POSRW currently includes the following subcommittees to address specific issues in the NH and Southern ME region: Geographic Response Plan, Exercise, Communications, Outreach/Education, and Equipment.

8. Annual Command Post Functional Exercise: The ME/NH Area Committee is scheduled to hold the annual spill management team exercise at the NH DES ICP in OCT 2014. A specific date and exercise objectives will be address at the Exercise Concept and Objectives Meeting scheduled for February 26th. Sprague Oil has offered to serve as the Responsible Party for the Exercise.

9. Portland Workgroup: The Portland Workgroup has been discontinued. Planning will begin soon for a 2016 Area Exercise in Casco Bay.

10. Penobscot Bay Workgroup: The Industry-led Penobscot River Oil Pollution Abatement Committee (PROPAC) made up of ten businesses and agencies in mid-coast Maine including Webber Energy, Verso Paper, Cianbro, Maine DEP and the Coast Guard will continue to improve spill response preparedness in the Penobscot Bay area.

11. Annual Seminar Workgroup: The 17th Annual ME/NH AC Seminar focused on “Responding to Sinking Oil Spills” is on track for March 4th, 2014 at NH DES’s facility in Portsmouth, NH.

12. Command Post Workgroup: The workgroup successfully tested and evaluated the small ICP at the Washington County Community College, Calais, ME during CANUSLANT 2013. Larger ICPs have been identified in Bangor, Augusta and elsewhere if needed for a Type 1 or Type 2 incident. Information on these prospective ICPs has been included in the draft update to the ME/NH ACP.

13. Training: A Coast Guard sponsored ICS 320 course is scheduled for May 6-8 in Maine or New Hampshire. A Coast Guard sponsored ICS 300a course is scheduled for May 20-23 in Maine or New Hampshire. Quarterly pollution responder training is being pursued.

14. Railroad Transport of Crude Oil: The emergence of railroad transport of crude oil through New Hampshire and Maine to refineries in New Brunswick raises concerns. The volumes of crude oil transported by rail through ME increased from 14K Bbls in Jan 2012 to 100K Bbls in April to 750K Bbls in Septembere 2012. The deadly oil-train derailment in Lac-Megantic Quebec on July 6, 2013, 10 miles from the Maine border refocused the discussions on needs for improved measures to prevent and mitigate potential incidents. Closure of the rail line due to the Lac-Megantic incident appears to have stymied rail transport of crude oil through Maine for the time being.

15. Alberta Tar Sands Crude Oil: Oil Sands Products from Alberta, Canada are not currently transported through Maine or New Hampshire. Members of the ME/NH AC participated in a two-day workshop in December, 2012 to learn more about the characteristics and response considerations involved with this product and the AC desires to continue to track developments in this area that may impact Maine and New Hampshire.

16. Offshore Drilling: Proposed expanded oil and gas drilling off the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was discussed during Joint Response Team Meetings in October 2013. It appears that prospective impacts/risks to New England are limited at this time.