



Maine and New Hampshire Area Committee

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Area Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2021
Time: 9:00am to 12:00 pm
Location: Via Zoom For Government

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Wyman Briggs, SNNE

Wyman welcomed all members to the meeting and began with limited introductions of new members including.

- LCDR Ryan Koroknay, USCG SNNE, Incident Management Division Chief
- LCDR Brittani Koroknay, USCG SNNE, Emergency Management and Force Readiness Chief
- Jason Weigle, ME Department of Environmental Protection
- Mike Popovich, Nuka Research

2. **On-Scene Coordinator Comments**

- Jeff Squires (SOSC, ME DEP): Noted that he looked forward to the diverse meeting agenda, welcomed new members aboard, highlighted current operations and noted that there has also been significant personnel turnover at ME DEP. He noted that he was appreciative of recent ICS training provided to his staff by the USCG during their annual training and for the Incident Management Team workshop that several of his staff attended in early August to further enhance their ICS training. He also noted that he thought the recent Penobscot Bay Exercise was very successful and provided a good training opportunity for his staff, other agencies and industry.
- Jason Domke (representing SOSC, NH DES): Jason noted that NH DES completed some on-water boom deployment training over the summer and that he and Gardner Warr also appreciated the recent Just-In-Time training provided prior to the Pen Bay exercise.
- CAPT Amy Florentino (FOOSC) noted that she was excited to be joining her first full ME/NH Area Committee Meeting and was impressed by the ambitious agenda and to see that almost 50 people were participating in the meeting via Zoom.

3. **Orange County, California Pipeline Spill Discussion,** Wyman Briggs, SNNE

Wyman reviewed the current status of the ongoing high-profile response to an underwater pipeline discharge of crude oil off Orange County, California and facilitated a discussion of the Best Practices and Lessons Learned that could potentially impact the ME/NH Area Committee and area responders.

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Highlights included:

- The value of completing overflights and providing on-scene photos to assess the scope of the spill and status of response operations.
- Reality that the amount spilled is often unclear. Officially released estimates of the amount of crude oil released during this spill have ranged from 26,000 gallons to 126,000 gallons to 144,000 gallons to the current estimate of @ 25,000 gallons.
- There is a need for qualified Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) Teams and training. Five or more multi-agency SCAT teams have been routinely deployed during this response.
- As anticipated for a marine spill along the Maine or New Hampshire coastline, shorebirds have been significantly impacted by the ongoing California spill.
- As also anticipated for a marine spill along the Maine or New Hampshire coastline, fishery closures have been implemented in California due to fears that oil may contaminate seafood and cause public health problems. Reopening closed fisheries requires significant sampling and study.
- Concurrent Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) is being conducted along extensive portions of the CA coastline and needs to be coordinated with other spill response activities, as would likely be the case following a major marine spill in ME/NH.
- There are of course a wide range of concerned stakeholders whose questions and concerns need to be addressed.
- The amount of pure oil product that has been removed from the water and shorelines is difficult to estimate and is small in comparison to the estimated amount of oil discharged.
- A large amount of oiled debris, including oil sorbent pads, has been generated during the cleanup and poses disposal challenges. It was noted, that available space in New England landfills that take oiled debris may be limited and that available trucks and drivers to move oiled debris is currently limited with ongoing supply chain disruptions.
- A large number of volunteers offered to assist in CA. Untrained Volunteers have been restricted from direct involvement with removing oil and cleaning wildlife. However, volunteers have been employed in a variety of lower-risk and supporting roles.

4. Coastal Response Research Center Update, Nancy Kinner, University of New Hampshire
Nancy provided an update on recent workshops and ongoing projects at CRRC. These range from Workshops on Oil Spill Modeling for Improved Response to Arctic Maritime Spills to Water Column Exposure Modeling and Hurricane Preparedness.

5. Penobscot Bay Full Scale Pollution Response Exercise Initial Lessons Learned, Wyman Briggs
Wyman provided an overview of the Penobscot Bay Full Scale Pollution Response Exercise that was conducted at the U Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast, ME on September 22nd, 2021.

a. The exercise provided the response community an opportunity to improve preparedness by:

- Practicing command and control within an ICS framework,
- Identifying strengths to highlight and
- Identifying areas for improvement to remedy

b. The exercise was preceded by a day of “Just In Time Training” on September 21st at the Hutchinson Center that focused on:

- ICS Refresher
- Risk Communications
- Environmental Resources in the Pen Bay area
- Pen Bay Waterway Activities

- Response Tools and Resources
- NOAA Capabilities and Tools
- Joint Information Center Procedures
- Breakouts by ICS Section

c. Best practices included:

- ICS Workshop to train Incident Management Team members 2 weeks prior to the exercise,
- Employing experienced ICS Coaches to support players filling key ICS roles
- Conducting a “Press Conference Pre-Huddle” to prepare spokespeople to address the media

d. Areas for improvement included:

- Develop standardized instructions for new cellular Wifi systems/PlumKits
- Develop standardized public affairs go-kits and outfit USCG Sectors
- Procure deployable printers, scanners and copiers or develop means to obtain them
- Enhance internal communications capabilities
- Assign Deputy Operations Section Chief for Current Operations
- Allow non-NOAA personnel to upload to ERMA or expand NOAA support
- Capture critical info on digital situation display or ICS 209 to supplement ERMA COP
- Develop and share media Job aids and answers to FAQs

7. USCG D1 Updates: Cornell Rosiu, D1

The Region 1 Regional Response Team meeting is scheduled via Microsoft Teams on December 8, 2021 from 0900-1300

8. Recent/Upcoming Events

Virtual SCAT Training, Nov 2-4 (half days)

Field portion of SCAT training, Wells National Estuary, Nov 8

9. Co-Chairs Closing Comments/Adjoin

Each of the co-chairs/acting co-chairs provided brief closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned
