Maine & New Hampshire Area Committee
Work Plan for 2020

The ME/NH Area Committee (AC) Executive Steering Committee met on January 21, 2020 to review and update the following list of initiatives, guidelines and priorities for 2020:

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 2020. The ESC membership is comprised of the CG FOSC, Captain Brian LeFebvre; ME SOSC, Jeff Squires; NH SOSC, Bob Bishop/Gardner Warr; NOAA SSC, Steve Lehmann; CG Sector Northern New England (SNNE) Response Department Head, CDR James McLay; Industry Representative, Bruce Yates; and CG SNNE Contingency Planning and Readiness Staff representative and Area Committee Coordinator, Wyman Briggs. The revised date for the next ESC is June 17, 2020 at SNNE.

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. 2020 meetings are scheduled for:
   - April 8th at the ANG in South Portland and
   - September 29th at the NH DES in Portsmouth, NH and
   - December 3rd at the ANG in South Portland, ME

It was decided that when possible a “featured speaker” will be invited to present a topic of interest or there will be a focused theme at each Area Committee Meeting. Potential speakers of interest for 2020 meetings include:

- April 8th Meeting: An overview of the recently updated ME/NH Area Contingency Plan (ACP) provides a potential meeting theme. This could include an overview of the ACP and what it offers for Response Tools and guidance to responders during a larger oil spill response. This could also include an overview of updated GRSs, the new ME/NH ACP Website and the Equipment and Services Resources Inventory. It may also include an update of the new ME Fisheries Closure and Opening Protocols. Plans for the June 3 Penobscot Bay TTX could also be addressed.
- September 29th Meeting: Featured speakers will be recruited from NH. The AC could also pursue a field trip to UNH/CRRC following the meeting. Additional topics include lessons learned from the Penobscot Bay TTX 2020 and PRES 2020 exercises scheduled for June and September 2020. An invitation will also be sent to Portsmouth Navy Shipyard to provide a presentation. NH DES will also look into potential presenters from UNH and ME DEP.
- December 3rd Meeting: Featured speakers and themes need to be developed for this meeting. The IOSC may provide some helpful insights on engaging presentation topics.

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. 2020 Exercises and Training

a. **Spill Responder Training, February 25 NH DES.** Potential topics include spill management and ICS, ERMA, Wildlife impacts and protection, Marine mammals, fisheries, on water response, oil fate and behavior, shoreline treatment, and alternative response technologies (including dispersants and in-situ burning).

b. **ICS 300 Training, March 31- April 3, SNNE, Portland.** This intermediate-level, hand-on ICS training is offered by USCG national trainers to train the SNNE Incident Management Team and other USCG Sectors. 2 representatives from ME and 2 representatives from NH are invited on a space available basis.

c. **Penobscot Bay Spill Response Table Top Exercise, June 3, Belfast.** Discuss and further develop plans and capabilities for a major spill response operation in the Penobscot Bay region. Engage local, state and regional stakeholders, including the Penobscot River Oil Pollution Abatement Committee (PROPAC) in discussions of how spill response would be conducted in this region to enhance local response capabilities.

d. **Science of Spills Course, June 9-12, USCG Academy, New London, CT.** NOAA to host a 4 day intensive course on spill response. Excellent opportunity for staff members to gain classroom and field knowledge of the technical-side of spill response.

e. **Piscataqua River Exercise Series, September (TBD) NH DES, Portsmouth, NH.** NH DES is in the early stages of developing plans for this Full Scale Exercise, hosted by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. NH DES plans to scale back the FSE scenario to a tanker rollover types scenario in 2020 or 2021 – possibly near the MA border.

f. **Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises.** SNNE will conduct 4 unannounced exercises at waterfront oil terminals as required. Agencies are invited to participate.

g. **PREP Notification Exercises.** SNNE will continue to conduct quarterly notification exercises involving key stakeholders using the Alert Warning System.

4. **Area Contingency Plan Re-write Workgroup:** CAPT Brian LeFebvre, USCG SNNE, Jeffrey Squires, ME DEP, and Gardner Warr, NH DES, signed the updated Jan 2020 ME/NH Area Contingency Plan (ACP) was completed in JAN 2020. The ACP rewrite workgroup included representatives from USCG, NOAA, EPA, DOI, ME DEP, NH DES, ME DMR, ME IF&W, and NH F&G. The rewrite incorporated lessons learned from the June 2017 Casco Bay Full Scale exercise, 2016 Casco Bay TTX, POSRWG 2016 FSE, POSRWG 2018 FSE, POSRWG 2019 FSE, CANUSLANT 2018 TTX and CANUSLANT 2019 FSE. The 6 recommendations in the Coast Guard National Review Panel’s Review of the ME/NH ACP and the USCG’s ACP Revitalization Overview were also addressed in the rewrite. The re-write also incorporated new rapid assessment team web-based reporting procedures, incident status displays, wildlife response plan, Emergency
Support Function (ESF 10) guidelines, public information plan template, dispersant use guidelines, waste management plan, staging areas, pre-designated ICPs, volunteer management plans, updated geographic response strategies and equipment/services inventory, fisheries closure/opening plans, and National Historic Preservation Act compliance guidelines.

5. Geographic Response Strategy Workgroup: ME DEP, in coordination with ME DMR, ME IFW, NH DES, USCG and NOAA is near completion of a full review and update of the 240+ Geographic Response Strategies (GRSs) that have been developed for coastal Maine and New Hampshire.

6. 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. A major focus of work efforts during 2020 will include planning for, executing and evaluating the September 2020 Full Scale Exercise.

7. Incident Command Post: U Maine’s Hutchinson Center in Belfast as well as Jeff’s Catering in Bangor have been identified as promising ICP locations in the mid-coast region of Maine.

8. Partnership with Maine Maritime Academy: ME DEP has initiated the cultivation of an expanded partnership and collaboration with the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) in Castine, ME. This includes support of MMA’s new course on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation and engagement at the tactical/operational level with assistance in training on equipment and boom deployments. The Penobscot Bay TTX provides another opportunity to build upon this partnership.

9. Media Outreach: Improving capabilities to reach out through conventional and social media is a priority of the ME/NH AC. This includes seeking out opportunities to proactively engage the media during exercises and deployments. This could include reaching out to the Bangor Daily news and other media outlets to invite them to the June 3rd TTX, inviting the media to future FSEs, reaching out to other stakeholders such as news agency meteorologists, science teachers and journalism schools. This also includes enhancing preparedness to work with the media using references such as the “Oil Spill Guide to the Media”.

10. Next Meeting: The proposed rescheduled date for the next ESC meeting is June 17, 2020. The original date of June 3rd needed to be pushed back to accommodate the rescheduled date for the Penobscot Bay TTX.