



Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation



U.S. EPA (Region X)
Alaska Operations Office

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

The Interior Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan is the guideline for establishing operation in the event of a major response effort to and oil spill or hazardous material release. This volume supplements the *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases (Unified Plan)*.

Information contained herein will be disseminated to agencies and personnel involved in various spill response and cleanup activities.

The Interior Alaska Subarea Contingency Plan is the result of a joint planning effort. Members of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Department of Interior, and numerous other federal, State, local, Native and industry participants contributed to this document.

We solicit comments and recommendation to improve this plan. Please forward your comments to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Prevention and Emergency Response Program (555 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK 99501; dec.areaplans@alaska.gov) or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region X Alaska Operations Office (227 W 7th Ave, #19, Anchorage, AK 99513; knowles.nicholas@epa.gov).

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INTERIOR ALASKA SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF PROMULGATION	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	II
UNIFIED PLAN & SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS.....	VI
UNIFIED PLAN SYNOPSIS.....	VIII
SUBAREA PLAN SYNOPSIS.....	IX
RECORD OF CHANGES	IX

RESPONSE SECTION

RESPONSE: PART ONE – EMERGENCY RESPONSE NOTIFICATION	A-1
A. EMERGENCY RESPONSE NOTIFICATION.....	A-1
B. FEDERAL AGENCY CONTACTS	A-1
C. ALASKA STATE AGENCY CONTACTS.....	A-2
D. LOCAL CONTACTS	A-3
E. OTHER POINTS OF CONTACT.....	A-8
RESPONSE: PART TWO – EMERGENCY RESPONSE	A-10
A. UNIFIED COMMAND STRUCTURE AND ICS	A-10
B. RSC ROLES OF THE OSCs, RP, PRAC/OSRO, AND RSC	A-10
RESPONSE: PART THREE – RESPONSE PROCEDURES	A-13
A. RESPONSE OBJECTIVES	A-13
B. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES	A-13
C. RAMP UP PROCEDURES	A-14
D. ADDITIONAL RESPONSE POLICIES	A-17

RESOURCES SECTION

RESOURCES: PART ONE – COMMUNITY PROFILES.....	B-1
A. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	B-1
B. COMMUNITY PROFILES	B-3
RESOURCES: PART TWO – EQUIPMENT.....	B-115
A. COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT	B-117
B. NON-COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT	B-119
C. INDUSTRY/SPILL COOPERATIVE EQUIPMENT	B-121
RESOURCES: PART THREE – INFORMATION DIRECTORY.....	B-122
A. AIRPORT AND AIR SERVICES	B-122
B. OILED OR POTENTIALLY OILED WILDLIFE.....	B-125
C. CONTRACTORS: BOA AND TERM	B-126
D. HISTORIC PROPERTIES PROTECTION	B-126
E. EMERGENCY SERVICES/MANAGERS.....	B-127
F. FISHING FLEETS AND ORGANIZATIONS	B-127
G. GOVERNMENT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION.....	B-127
H. HOSPITALS.....	B-128

I.	INTAKE WATER USE FACILITIES.....	B-128
J.	NOT USED	B-128
K.	NOT USED	B-128
L.	LABORATORIES.....	B-128
M.	MEDIA	B-129
N.	NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES.....	B-130
O.	ORGANIZATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, AND VOLUNTEER.....	B-132
P.	PORT AUTHORITIES, HARBOR MASTERS, AND MARINE PILOTS.....	B-133
Q.	NOT USED	B-133
R.	RESPONSE AGREEMENTS	B-133
S.	SALVAGE AND TOWING COMPANIES (<i>MARINE & RIVER OPERATIONS</i>)	B-134
T.	FEDERAL & STATE NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE EMERGENCY CONTACTS.....	B-134
U.	NOT USED	B-135
V.	VEHICLES	B-135
W.	WEATHER SERVICE	B-136
X.	USEFUL WEBSITES	B-137
RESOURCES: PART FOUR – LOGISTICS		B-139
A.	EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS.....	B-139
B.	PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS	B-141
C.	COMMUNICATIONS	B-142
D.	COMMAND POSTS.....	B-144
E.	STORAGE/DISPOSAL.....	B-145

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTION

HAZMAT: PART ONE – HAZMAT RESPONSE		C-1
A.	INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSE AGENCIES	C-1
B.	RECOGNITION	C-1
C.	EVALUATION.....	C-3
D.	EVACUATION	C-5
E.	DIRECTION AND SITE/ENTRY CONTROL	C-5
F.	COMMAND AND CONTROL.....	C-6
G.	COMMUNITICATIONS.....	C-6
H.	WARNING SYSTEMS & EMERGENCY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.....	C-6
I.	HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES.....	C-6
HAZMAT: PART TWO – RESPONSIBLE PARTY HAZMAT ACTION		C-7
A.	DISCOVERY AND NOTIFICATION	C-7
B.	REMOVAL ACTION	C-7
HAZMAT: PART THREE – STATE HAZMAT ACTION		C-8
A.	AUTHORITY.....	C-8
B.	RESPONSE POLICY.....	C-8
C.	STATE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES	C-8
D.	RESPONSIBILITIES	C-8
HAZMAT: PART FOUR – FEDERAL HAZMAT ACTION		C-10
A.	AUTHORITY.....	C-10
B.	JURISDICTION	C-10
C.	RESPONSE POLICY.....	C-10
HAZMAT: PART FIVE – SUBAREA HAZMAT RISK ASSESSMENT		C-12
A.	GENERAL.....	C-12
B.	FACILITIES	C-14

C.	TRANSPORTATION	C-14
D.	REFERENCES	C-22
HAZMAT: PART SIX – RADIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ISSUES		C-23

SENSITIVE AREAS SECTION

SENSITIVE AREAS: INTRODUCTION		D-1
SENSITIVE AREAS: PART ONE – INFORMATION SOURCES.....		D-3
SENSITIVE AREAS: PART TWO – AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN.....		D-7
A.	BACKGROUND/CRITERIA	D-7
B.	AREAS OF MAJOR CONCERN	D-7
C.	AREAS OF MODERATE CONCERN	D-8
D.	AREAS OF LESSER CONCERN	D-8
E.	AREAS OF LOCAL CONCERN	D-8
SENSITIVE AREAS: PART THREE – RESOURCE SENSITIVITY		D-10
SENSITIVE AREAS: PART FOUR – BIOLOGICAL AND HUMAN USE RESOURCES		D-13
A.	INTRODUCTION	D-13
B.	HABITAT TYPES	D-13
C.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	D-18
1.	<i>Threatened and Endangered Species</i>	D-18
2.	<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>	D-18
3.	<i>Vegetation</i>	D-28
D.	HUMAN USE RESOURCES	D-30
1.	<i>Fish Hatcheries and Associated Ocean Net Pens</i>	D-30
2.	<i>Aquaculture Sites</i>	D-31
3.	<i>Subsistence and Personal Use Harvests</i>	D-31
4.	<i>Cultural Resources</i>	D-33
5.	<i>Commercial Fishing</i>	D-33
6.	<i>Sport Fishing and Hunting</i>	D-34
7.	<i>Recreational Sites and Facilities</i>	D-36
8.	<i>Commercial Tourism</i>	D-37
9.	<i>Marinas and Ports</i>	D-38
10.	<i>Fish Processing</i>	D-38
11.	<i>Logging Facilities</i>	D-38
12.	<i>Water Intake and Use</i>	D-38
SENSITIVE AREAS: PART FIVE – LAND MANAGEMENT		D-51
A.	LAND MANGEMENT DESIGNATIONS	D-51
B.	LAND MANAGEMENT MAPS	D-56
SENSITIVE AREAS: ATTACHMENT ONE		D-69

BACKGROUND SECTION

BACKGROUND: PART ONE – SUPPORT INFORMATION.....		E-1
A.	SUBAREA PLAN	E-1
B.	SUBAREA DESCRIPTION	E-1
C.	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	E-2
D.	REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE	E-6
E.	REGIONAL CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL.....	E-7
F.	SUBAREA COMMITTEE.....	E-7

BACKGROUND: PART TWO – RESPONSE POLICY & STRATEGIES	E-9
A. FEDERAL RESPONSE ACTION PRIORITIES/STRATEGIES	E-9
B. STATE OF ALASKA RESPONSE PRIORITIES.....	E-10
BACKGROUND: PART THREE – AREA SPILL HISTORY & OIL FATE	E-12
A. NAVIGABLE WATER SPILL HISTORY	E-12
B. INLAND SPILL HISTORY.....	E-12
C. HAZMAT RELEASE HISTORY	E-14
D. OIL FATE AND GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT	E-29
BACKGROUND: PART FOUR – ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	E-31

SCENARIOS SECTION

SCENARIOS: PART ONE – OIL & PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	F-1
A. WORST CASE SCENARIO.....	F-1
B. MAXIMUM MOST PROBABLE SCENARIO	F-6
C. AVERAGE MOST PROBABLE SCENARIO	F-7
SCENARIOS: PART TWO – HAZMAT	F-9

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES SECTION

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES: PART ONE – INTRODUCTION.....	G-1
A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE	G-1
B. HOW TO USE THESE GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES.....	G-1
C. WHO TO CONTACT FOR INPUT.....	G-2
D. HOW THE DOCUMENT WAS DEVELOPED.....	G-2
GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES: PART TWO – GENERAL PROTECTION/RECOVERY TACTICS.....	G-4
GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES: PART THREE – SITE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE STRATEGIES.....	G-5

UNIFIED PLAN & SUBAREA CONTINGENCY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, which occurred in March of 1989. The law requires oil storage facilities and vessels to submit to the federal government spill prevention and response plans detailing how they will respond to product discharges and take responsibility to clean up any spill that may occur. OPA streamlined and strengthened the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic oil spills. OPA amended the Clean Water Act and, in conjunction with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), it mandates a "National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)" to provide the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and released of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants. OPA called for the establishment of Regional Response Teams to oversee spill response planning and protocols and Regional Citizens Advisory Councils to monitor the oil industry. OPA requires USCG and EPA to prepare oil spill response plans for the State of Alaska, which is designated as an entire planning "region" under the federal guidelines.

Alaska statutes, also passed as a result of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, requires the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to prepare a state-wide master plan addressing oil and hazardous substance discharges. In late 1993, the State Emergency Response Commission and the federally-led Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) approved the concept of combining state and federal planning requirements and developing joint plans. The *Alaska Federal/State Preparedness Plan for Response to Oil and Hazardous Substance Discharges/Releases*, more commonly known as the *Unified Plan*, meets these federal (NCP and OPA) requirements for regional and area planning, as well as state planning requirements. The *Unified Plan* along with the supplementary Subarea Contingency Plans, represents a coordinated and cooperative effort by government agencies and was written jointly by USCG, EPA and ADEC.

Alaska statute divides the state into ten regions for oil and hazardous substance spill planning and preparedness. USCG and EPA joined with ADEC to use these ten regions for area planning instead of the federal planning divisions since this would facilitate unified planning for the State of Alaska and prove more practical. Because the State of Alaska is designated as a planning "region" under federal planning guidelines and to avoid confusion with the other federal term, "area contingency plans," these ten subordinate planning regions of the state are called "subareas" in the context of the *Unified Plan*.

The *Unified Plan* contains information applicable to pollution response within the entire State of Alaska and meets the pollution response contingency planning requirements applicable to the federal and state governments. The plan provides broad policy guidance and describes the strategy for a coordinated federal, state, and local response to a discharge, or substantial threat of discharge, of oil and/or a release of a hazardous substance within the boundaries of Alaska and its surrounding waters.

Under both federal and state law, the responsible party of an oil or hazardous substance incident is required to report the incident and mount a response effort to contain and cleanup the release. The federal and state governments mandate response plans for oil tank vessels and facilities that have stringent spill requirements. If the responsible party fails to respond adequately or if no responsible party can be identified, then the federal and state governments will mount a response and will rely upon the *Unified Plan* and the appropriate Subarea Contingency Plan (SCP) for response protocols and guidance.

Whereas the Unified Plan contains general information for response efforts taking place anywhere in the State of Alaska, the SCP concentrates on issues and provisions specific to its particular subarea. The SCP provides information precise to the area, including emergency response contact information, available response equipment and other resources, specific response guidelines and information on sensitive areas protected and hazardous substance presence.

Alaska state statute mandates a public review of all new plans, an annual ADEC review of these plans, and another public review whenever the plans are significantly revised. The federal government does not require public review for its plans, though USCG and EPA, as part of the Alaska unified planning process, do cooperate with the State of Alaska and participate in the public review process.

The *Unified Plan* and the SCPs are presented to the Alaska State Emergency Response Commission and the ARRT for review and comment. The *Unified Plan* approval process can be found in Annex D of the plan. For SCPs, the plan approval occurs with the signing of the plan's letter of promulgation by the plan holders.

Brief synopses of the Unified Plan and the Subarea Contingency Plans follow:

UNIFIED PLAN SYNOPSIS

- Annex A** Provides the purpose and objectives; existing government contingency planning requirements; federal and state authorities; geographic planning and response boundaries; and the response systems and policies.
- Annex B** Explains the unified response organization and gives information on the Incident Command System, the federal and State roles during oversight of an incident or when the government leads the response; and emergency declarations and spills of national significance.
- Annex C** Outlines the operational administration of federal and State laws and statutes, including permits required for oil spill response.
- Annex D** Gives plan review/update-procedures and schedule and addresses drills and exercises.
- Annex E** Offers a summary of area resources, including response equipment; tribal governments and Native organizations; environmental and volunteer groups; state term contracts; laboratories; communications; and waste management and disposal information.
- Annex F** Presents chemical countermeasures, dispersants, and other spill mitigating substances, devices and technology. Specific guidelines for dispersant use and *in situ* burning are included.
- Annex G** Contains the Wildlife Protection Guidelines for Alaska.
- Annex H** Provides a standard site safety plan and training guidelines.
- Annex I** Deals with public affairs and has general rules for community relations and media interaction, contacts and checklists.
- Annex J** Addresses radiological response procedures.
- Annex K** Contains the applicable Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement that have been entered into by federal, state and local agencies.
- Annex L** Addresses hazardous materials by providing an overview of chemical hazards, a chemical profile of Alaska, the extremely hazardous substances at facilities, the chemical risks, and the response capability within Alaska.
- Annex M** Provides the historical properties protection guidelines for the federal on-scene coordinator.
- Annex N** Gives a listing of available shoreline cleanup and assessment guidelines.
- Annex O** Presents the ARRT-approval for Potential Places of Refuge Guidelines. Several of the SCPs that address coastal areas now include a Potential Places of Refuge Section.
- Annex P** Offers guidelines for marine firefighting, salvage and lightering.
- Annex Z** Provides definitions and a listing of the abbreviations and acronyms that appear in the plan.
- Annex Q, R, S, T, U, W, X, & Y** Are reserved for future use.

The Unified Plan is available on the State of Alaska ADEC website at:
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/plan.htm

SUBAREA PLAN SYNOPSIS

Response Section	Lists the essential and most immediate federal and state emergency contact numbers on the first page. Emergency contact numbers for other federal and state agencies, and those for communities within the subarea, follow. Additionally, information on the spill response command structure, procedures and protocols is included.
Resources Section	Provides profiles on each of the communities in the subarea; a listing of commercially and non-commercially available equipment; an information directory, offering contact numbers to a variety of resources and companies; and an explanation of logistical considerations, assets, and other supplemental logistics information.
Hazardous Material Section	Lists response protocols and the state and federal authorities, policies, responsibilities, and response capabilities. The section also provides a general risk assessment of hazardous substances found within the subarea.
Sensitive Areas Section	Gives profiles on the biological resources and human use resources that could be adversely affected by a spill. The section includes: graphs depicting the sensitivity of resources; priority ratings from “lesser” to “major” for areas of environmental concern; land management designations and maps; most environmentally sensitive areas maps; and areas of local concern.
Background Section	Explains legal requirements and boundaries and provides a description of the plan, area of responsibility, the development process and players, and the physical attributes of the subarea, including maps and tidal current flow charts, when available. This section lists the state and federal response priorities, significant historical spills, and abbreviations contained in the plan.
Scenarios Section	Depending upon the subarea, will usually offer scenarios for the worst case, maximum most probable case, and average most probable case for spills in coastal and inland habitats. These scenarios depict how a response to an incident might unfold. When appropriate, inland and vessel hazmat scenarios may also be presented.
GRS Section	Provides recommended site-specific spill response plans to protect priority sensitive areas identified for specific geographic locations within the subarea. <i>(Note: not developed for all subareas)</i>

All subarea plans are available on the State of Alaska ADEC website at:
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/perp/plan.htm

RECORD OF CHANGES

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**National
Response
Center**

Report Spills to the NRC at:

1-800-424-8802

The National Response Center is the SOLE national point of contact for reporting Oil, Chemical, Radiological, Biological, and Etiological discharges into the environment anywhere in the United States and its territories.

IT'S THE LAW!

AS 46.03.755 and 18 AAC 75.300

REPORT OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SPILLS

During Normal Business Hours

call the nearest response team office:

Central Alaska: (907) 269-3063
Anchorage Fax: (907) 269-7648

Northern Alaska: (907) 451-2121
Fairbanks Fax: (907) 451-2362

Southeast Alaska: (907) 465-5340
Juneau Fax: (907) 465-2237

Outside Normal Business Hours

Toll Free 1-800-478-9300

International 1-907-428-7200



Alaska Department of
Environmental Conservation
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
www.dec.alaska.gov/spar/spillreport.htm

Hazardous Substance

Any hazardous substance spill, other than oil, must be reported immediately.

Oil – Petroleum Products

To Water

Any amount spilled to water must be reported immediately.

To Land

- Spills in excess of 55 gallons must be reported immediately.
- Spills in excess of 10 gallons, but 55 gallons or less, must be reported within 48 hours after the person has knowledge of the spill.
- Spills of 1 to 10 gallons must be recorded in a spill reporting log submitted to ADEC each month.

To Impermeable Secondary Containment Areas

- Any spills in excess of 55 gallons must be reported within 48 hours.

Additional Requirements for Regulated Underground Storage Tank Facilities

Regulated Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities are defined at 18 AAC 78.005 and do not include heating oil tanks.

If your release detection system indicates a possible discharge, or if you notice unusual operating conditions that might indicate a release, you must notify the ADEC UST Program within 7 days.

UST Program: (907) 269-3055 or 269-7679

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