



Federal Region 5



Federal Region 5 RRT Vision / Mission Statement

Introduction

The Regional Response Team 5 (RRT 5) is a team of federal and state agencies formed under the National Response System. Our purpose is to regionally prepare for and support emergency response actions for spills of oil and hazardous substances on land and water within the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The RRT 5 is comprised of designated representatives from sixteen federal departments and each of the six states, and is co-chaired by a representative from the USCG Ninth District and U.S. EPA Region 5. The RRT 5 Standing Team carries out its preparedness activities by meeting at least twice a year; reviewing and discussing response activities; conducting training and exercises; developing new response tools, guidance and policy; assisting Area Committees with their preparedness activities; coordinating regional emergency preparedness with federally designated tribes and industry; and updating and enhancing the Region 5 Oil and Hazardous Substances Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP). The RRT 5 Incident Specific Team renders emergency response support for actual incidents pursuant to the ICP and National Contingency Plan, as requested by the RRT 5 membership and Federal On-Scene Coordinators.

Vision

To provide effective planning and coordination of preparedness and response activities through designated representatives from Local, State, Federal, and Tribal government within RRT 5's area of responsibility while keeping the protection of public health, safety and the environment first and foremost. This includes coordinating and integrating Local, State, Federal and Tribal efforts and resources to ensure appropriate guidance and support is provided to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) and Remedial Project Manager (RPM) during response actions and ensuring consistency between Area Contingency Plans (ACP), Regional Contingency Plans (RCP), the national Contingency Plan (NCP), and the National Response Framework (NRF), especially where response efforts cross inter-area boundaries.

Mission

Serve as the regional mechanism for development and coordination of preparedness activities before a response action is taken, and for coordination of assistance and advice to the FOSC / RPM during such response actions. – 40 CFR 300.115

1. **Think Regionally:** Provide information to Local, State, Federal, Tribal, and Canadian partner agencies regarding RRT 5's role in planning, preparedness, and response actions.
2. **Act Locally:** Provide effective support and guidance to the FOSC during response actions and to area committees in the local planning process. The RRT and FOSC are mechanisms for the local authorities to access Federal resources and expertise.
3. **Work Together to Build Trust and Cooperation:** Encourage federal, state, local, tribal, private, and international partnerships to develop solutions to regional preparedness and response challenges.

Strategic Goals

- I. **Provide Technical Support:** Maximize the protection of fresh water natural resources through planning and technical support during response actions.
- II. **Conduct Effective Outreach:** Make the response community aware of the value of the RRT 5 and the services it provides.
- III. **Nurture International Relations:** Support international policies and activities and bi-national requisites to create response guidance beneficial to both Canada and the U.S.
- IV. **Promote Technological Innovation:** Promote research to enhance the response community's ability to respond to petroleum and chemical spills. Provide the response community with accurate, timely guidance in the use of alternative technologies.
- V. **Support Training and Exercises:** Identify needs and provide training opportunities, exercise support, and information on training and exercises.
- VI. **Facilitate Communications and Information Technology:** Ensure lines of communications remain open prior to and during response to support effective decision making and implementation of response actions.
- VII. **Ensure Plan Integration:** Integrate RRT 5 operational plans with the plans of other federal agencies.