



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Oil Program

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## Key Provisions of the National Contingency Plan

**§300.110** Establishes the National Response Team and its roles and responsibilities in the National Response system, including planning and coordinating responses to major discharges of oil or hazardous waste, providing guidance to Regional Response Teams, coordinating a national program of preparedness planning and response, and facilitating research to improve response activities. EPA serves at the lead agency within the NRT.

**§300.115** Establishes the Regional Response Teams and their roles and responsibilities in the National Response System, including, coordinating preparedness, planning, and response at the regional level. The RRT consists of both a standing team made up of representatives of each federal agency that is a member of the NRT, as well as state and local government representatives; and an incident-specific team of members of the standing team that is activated for a response. The RRT also provides oversight and consistency review for area plans within a given region.

**§300.120** Establishes general responsibilities of Federal On-Scene Coordinators.

**§300.125(a)** Requires notification of any discharge or release to the National Response Center through a toll-free telephone number. The NRC acts as the central clearinghouse for all pollution incident reporting.

**§300.135(a)** Authorizes the predesignated On-Scene Coordinator to direct all Federal, state, and private response activities at the site of a discharge.

**§300.135(d)** Establishes the unified command structure for managing responses to discharges through coordinated personnel and resources of the federal government, the state government, and the responsible party.

**§300.165** Requires the On-Scene Coordinator to submit to the RRT or NRT a report on all removal actions taken at a site.

**§300.170** and Lists the Federal agencies that have duties associated with

responding to releases

**§300.175** and may provide assistance when requested by the On-scene Coordinator at the site of a discharge. These agencies may contribute information, personnel, equipment, policy guidance, or other resources in their area of expertise.

**§300.210** Defines the objectives, authority, and scope of Federal Contingency Plans, including the National Contingency Plan (NCP), Regional Contingency Plans (RCPs), and Area Contingency Plans (ACPs).

## **Oil Removals**

**§300.317** Establishes national priorities for responding to a release.

**§300.320** Establishes the general pattern of response to be executed by the OSC, including determination of threat, classification of the size and type of the release, notification of the RRT and the NRC, and supervision of thorough removal actions.

**§300.322** Authorizes the OSC to determine whether a release poses a substantial threat to the public health or welfare of the United States based on several factors, including the size and character of the discharge and its proximity to human populations and sensitive environments. In such cases, the OSC is authorized to direct all federal, state, or private response and recovery actions. The OSC may enlist the support of other federal agencies or special teams.

**§300.323** Provides special consideration to discharges which have been classified as a spill of national significance. In such cases, senior federal officials direct nationally-coordinated response efforts.

**§300.324** Requires the OSC to notify the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC) in the event of a worst case discharges, defined as the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions. The NSFCC coordinates the acquisition of needed response personnel and equipment. The OSC also must require implementation of the worst case portion of the tank vessel and Facility Response Plans and the Area Contingency Plan.

**§300.355** Provides funding for responses to oil releases under the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, provided certain criteria are met. The responsible party is liable for federal removal costs and damages as detailed in section 1002 of the OPA. Federal agencies assisting in a response action may be reimbursed. Several other Federal agencies may provide financial support for removal actions.

Subpart J Establishes the [NCP Product Schedule](#), which contains

dispersants and other chemical or biological products that may be used in carrying out the NCP. Authorization for the use of these products is conducted by Regional Response Teams and Area Committees, or by the OSC in consultation with EPA representatives.

### **Hazardous Substance Removals**

**§300.415(b)** Authorizes the lead agency to initiate appropriate removal action in the event of a hazardous substance release. Decisions of action will be based on threats to human or animal populations, contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems, high levels of hazardous substances in soils, weather conditions that may cause migration or release of hazardous substances, the threat of fire or explosion, or other significant factors effecting the health or welfare of the public or the environment.

**§300.415(c)** Authorizes the OSC to direct appropriate actions to mitigate or remove the release of hazardous substances.

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