EPA's Oil Spill Program

U.S. EPA

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

1-800-424-9346 **www.epa.gov/oilspill**

U.S. EPA Oil Spill Program

- **Prevention**
  - Aboveground Storage Tank Facilities-SPCC
- **Preparedness**
  - Facility Response Plans for AST Facilities
  - Area Contingency Plans in Inland Zone
- **Response** – Inland Zone
  - National Contingency Plan (NCP)
  - National Response System (NRS)
    - Federal, State, Local, Tribal

Clean Water Act (CWA): Overview

- Principal federal law protecting navigable waters and adjoining shorelines.
- Sec. 311 addresses oil pollution and hazardous releases.
- Provides EPA and the US Coast Guard with authority for preventing, preparing for and responding to oil spills.
- Implemented through the NCP and Oil Pollution Prevention regulations.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) Overview

- Addresses both oil spills and hazardous substances releases.
- The first NCP came out in 1968 (Torrey Canyon- England).
- The 1968 plan- first system on accident reporting:
  - spill containment and cleanup.
  - established a response headquarters.
  - national reaction team, and regional reaction teams.
- Amendments in 1972, 1973, 1980 and 1990 broadened the scope of the NCP

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) Overview

- NCP establishes National Response System
  - Responsible Party
  - Federal, State, Local, Tribal Agencies

- NCP requires that the Area Committees - federal, state and local government officials - develop Area Contingency Plans (ACPs).

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA)

- OPA was signed into law in August 1990
  - **In response to rising public concern after the Exxon Valdez and Ashland incidents**
  - **Improved the nation's ability to prevent and respond to oil spills**
  - **Provides money and resources necessary to respond to oil spills**
    - ✓ **Created the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund**
  - **Provides new requirements for contingency planning by both government and industry**

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA)

- Expanded Federal authority for:
  - Assessing penalties,
  - Directing responsible party actions
  - Cost recovery for federal monitoring, directing or clean-up actions by federal authorities
  - Conducting Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA)

Ashland Oil Facility, Floreffe, PA

Prevention of Oil Spills

40 CFR Part 112

- *Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC)* inspections ensure that oil storage facilities can control and prevent spills.
- EPA regulates about *420,000* facilities under *SPCC.*
- Requires secondary containment, Professional Engineer review, inspections, and other measures

Prevention and Preparedness

- Review Facility Response Plans (FRPs).
  - EPA reviews close to *5,000 high-risk facilities holding one million gallons or more of oil.*
  - Plan and resources to respond

Preparedness for Oil Spills

- **National *Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP).***
  - EPA works with industry, state and federal agencies.
  - *PREP* drills test government & industry spill response plans.

Preparedness for Oil Spills

- **EPA develops *Area Contingency Plans (ACPs):***
  - ACPs assign roles to federal government agencies and responsible parties during a cleanup action.
  - Develop *Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping.* These are a critical component to area planning and management of environmental data.

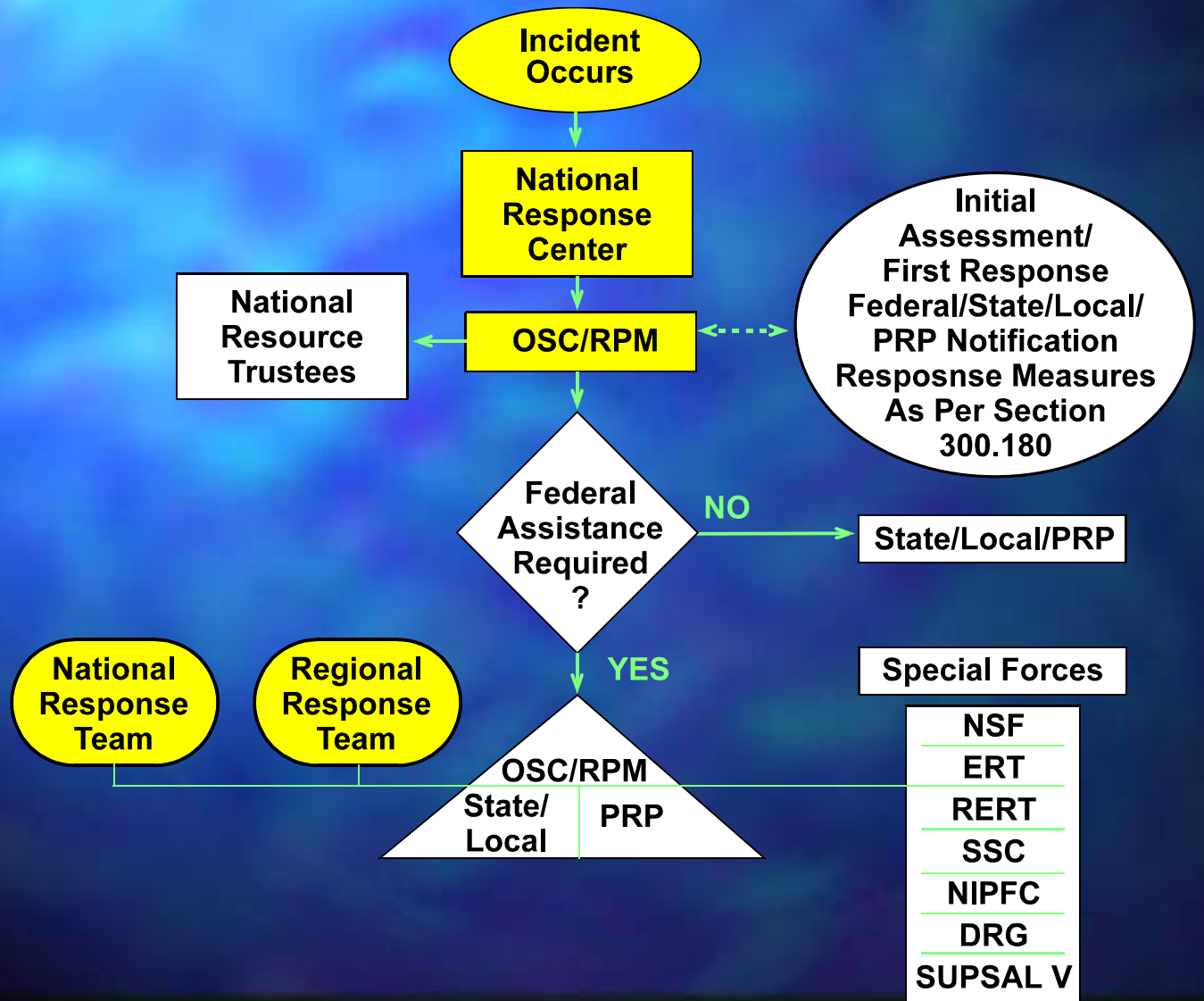
Responses to Oil Spills

- EPA responds to spills that threaten or directly impact inland waters of the United States.
- EPA supports U.S. Coast Guard during spills to the marine environment.
- EPA provides specialized support through the *Environmental Response Team (ERT).*

National Response System

- NCP establishes National Response System
  - Responsible Party (RP) cleans up spill
  - When RP does not properly respond, then State, Local, and Tribal agencies will
  - If spill is beyond their capabilities, or is significant, then Federal government will respond or direct response

Snapshot of the National Response System



Four Phases of Response

- Discovery and notification (NRC-USCG).
- Preliminary assessment and initial action (RP, local, state or FOSC).
- Containment, countermeasures, clean-up and disposal (RP, state and/or federal).
- Documentation and cost recovery (NRC- USCG).

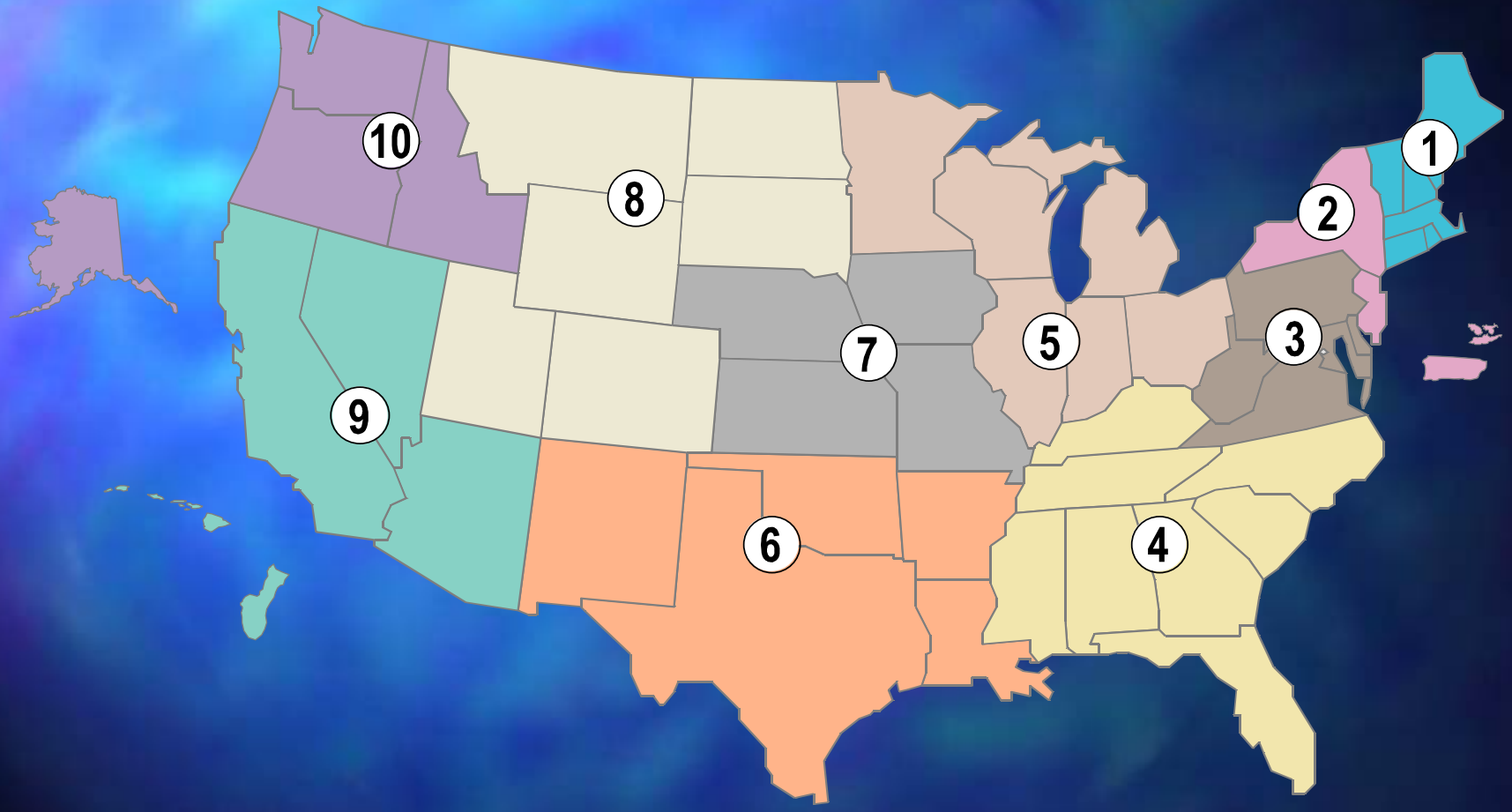
Important Aspects of Oil Spill Response

- Securing the source of the release
- Protecting sensitive resources
- Traditional / mechanical activities
- Alternative technologies
  - NCP Product Schedule
- Coordination between agencies
- Project management (ICS)
- Inland / fresh water considerations

Environmental Response Team (ERT/ EPA)

- ERT scientists and engineers are available 24 hrs a day to provide technical expertise to oil spill responders in the U.S. and around the world.
- Edison NJ, Cincinnati OH, Las Vegas NV

EPA's 10 Regions



NRT

THE U.S. NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

NRT

Ensuring Effective National Oil and Hazardous Substances Preparedness and Response

http://www.nrt.org/

The National Response Center (NRC)

- **What is the NRC?**
  - The federal government's national communications center
  - Staffed 24 hours by the U.S. Coast Guard
  - Receives reports of hazardous and oil releases
  - Triggers the federal notification requirements under several laws.
  - Activates the National Contingency Plan and the federal government's response capabilities.

  - **http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/index.html**

Oil Release Notifications to the NRC:

- Close to 20,000 releases notified annually to the NRC are oil-related
- Over 80% are in or close to freshwater
- Majority of “significant incidents” are oil spills and many are very large (over 100,00 gallons).

Examples of Petroleum and Non-Petroleum Oil Substances:

Petroleum:

- Crude Oil
- Heating Oil
- Jet Fuel
- Kerosene
- Automotive Gasoline
- Diesel

Non-Petroleum:

- Sunflower Oil
- Soybean Oil
- Fish Oil
- Camphor Oil
- Creosote
- Rapeseed Oil

When in doubt call the NRC! 1-800-424-8802

EPA Information and Hotlines

- National Response Center (NRC): 800-424-8802
- NCP Product Schedule Information: 202-260-2342
- For SPCC, FRP, & OPA Information: 800-424-9346

www.epa.gov/oilspill

oilinfo@epamail.epa.gov

Oil Program Outreach Efforts

- EPA Oil Program Update (on website).
- EPA Oil DROP (on website).
- USEPA Homepage *www.epa.gov/oilspill*
- SPCC Requirements & Oil Pollution Prevention Practices outreach guides.
- Oil Information Hotline - 1-800-424-9346.
- Freshwater Spills Symposium.
- International Oil Spill Conference.

Contacts

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THE END

OIL SPILL PROGRAM

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency