

Regional Response Team (RRT) Annual Report

Region:	Region 2	Calendar Year:	2024
EPA RRT Co-Chair:	Kelli Lucarino	Email:	Lucarino.kelli@epa.gov
USCG RRT Co-Chair:	Joseph Boudrow	Email:	joseph.a.boudrow@uscg.mil
EPA RRT Coordinator:	Carl Pellegrino	Email:	Pellegrino.carl@epa.gov
USCG RRT Coordinator:	Brian Attardo	Email:	brian.attardo@uscg.mil

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	Dates	Location	# of Attendees	Website for presentations
1.	September 4	Virtual	11	Teams
2.	December 18-19	Norrie Point Environmental Center, Poughkeepsie, NY	53	Teams
3.				

B. Activations / Notifications									
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1.	Dates:	1/5-6/2024	Event:	107 Trumbull Street Warehouse Fire, Elizabeth, NJ	ACT	X	NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	A four-alarm fire began around 0530 hours on 1/5/2024 at 107 Trumbull Street, at a large warehouse in an industrial complex (former Singer Sewing building) in Elizabeth, NJ. The flames spread quickly and resulted in a partial roof collapse of the building. The plume of smoke initially headed in the direction of Staten Island and Bayonne until 1100 hours on January 6th, 2024, when the wind shifted to the south/southeast. No injuries or evacuations had been reported. NJDEP requested EPA assistance with air monitoring. EPA deployed particulate monitors and coordinated with the Unified Command on observations.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, NJDEP, USCG Sector NY, Elizabeth FD, Union County OEM, Union County Hazmat, NJOEM, NYSDEC, NYFD, Newark FD, Jersey City FD, NYSOEM, Essex County FD, NJ State Fire Marshall						
	Decisions Made:	Air monitoring data was used to assist Unified Command in determining if significant risks to human health and safety existed.						
2.	Dates:	9/7-23/2024	Event:	Tanky's Mercury Release, Hillside NJ	ACT	X	NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	Elemental mercury release at a public bar and grill.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, NJDEP, NJDOH, Union County Office of Health Management						
	Decisions Made:	Impacted area cordoned off from public, removal of elemental mercury, decontamination/disposal of mercury contaminated items, decontamination of mercury impacted area in order to restore area to full use.						
3.	Dates:	8/14/2024	Event:	K and N Foods Anhydrous Ammonia Release, Fulton NY	ACT	X	NOT	
	Issue / Concern:	EPA received a NRC report regarding a 1000 lb. release of anhydrous ammonia from the facility. The report was made over 24-hours after the incident occurred. The facility has a history of releases due to lack of maintenance, including 3 in 2024. EPA investigated the release and determined no off-site impacts occurred from this release.						
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, NYSDEC, Fulton FD						
	Decisions Made:	EPA relayed the information to various programs within EPA for potential inspection and enforcement follow-up as well as coordinated with NYSDEC programs.						

4.	Dates:		Event:		ACT		NOT	
	Issue / Concern:							
	Agencies Involved:							
	Decisions Made:							

C. RRT Exercises – Although not formal RRT exercises, RRT Member Agencies participated in the following exercise within Region 2:

1.	Dates:	23-25 July	Event:	PREP Exercise
	Agencies Involved:	USCG D1, USCG Sector NY, CG Atlantic Strike Team, NYSDEC, NOAA, EPA, USF&W, DOI, Global Oil, Albany Fire Dept		
	Summary of exercise:	This exercise simulated an oil spill from a barge during a transfer to Global Oil's terminal in Albany, NY.		
2.	Dates:	16-17 July	Event:	PREP/Marine Transportation System Disruption
	Agencies Involved:	USCG District 9, USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes, NYSDEC, NOAA, DOI, USF&W, Jefferson County EMS, Akwasasne Mohawk Tribe,		
	Summary of exercise:	MTS disruption/oil spill on the St. Lawrence River; exercise focused on Environmental Group training.		
3.	Dates:	04JUN24	Event:	Mohawk River Exercise
	Agencies Involved:	EPA, NYSDEC, NYS DHSES OFPC, Alplaus FD, Schenectady FD, Hudson Riverkeeper, Union College, CPKC Rail, NYPA Canal Corporation		
	Summary of exercise:	The scenario simulated a train derailment on the rail bridge over the Mohawk River which creates an oil spill and a hazmat release. The exercise design includes four modules for discussion among participants, Notifications and Assessment, Public Protection, Risk Assessment, and Transition from emergency response to environmental cleanup/project management. Schenectady County is one of the smallest counties on the eastern seaboard, but also have every Class I railway that runs on the east coast as well as several short lines running through the county. The prevailing theme of the post-exercise hotwash is that the exercise provided a good springboard for further planning activities including manageable sized interagency field-oriented skill sessions in areas such as boom deployment, air monitoring and plume modelling.		

D. Changes in RRT Leadership

Agency	Outgoing Personnel	Incoming personnel
1) US EPA RRT2 Co-Chair	Doug Kodama	Kelli Lucarino
2) US EPA RRT2 Coordinator	Steve Touw	Carl Pellegrino
3)		

E. Best Practices and Lessons Learned by the RRT (which may help other RRTs)

Hybrid meetings have been employed to facilitate participation, however, in person exercises have been useful in rebuilding connections within the RRT.

F. Federal, State, and Local Planning and Coordination Efforts

NJ EPCRA Tabletop Exercises: In 2023, NJDEP and NJOEM approached the EPA to help them meet the goals outlined in a Governor's Executive Order, which calls for reorganizing over 400 Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) into 23 Emergency Planning Districts (EPDs), by assisting with exercising the newly organized EPDs Off-Site Emergency Response Plan. EPA supported the request by designing and facilitating three tabletop exercises (TTXs) in 2023 (Burlington, Gloucester and Middlesex counties), three TTXs in 2024 (Bergen, Mercer and Sussex counties) and will be conducting three in 2025 (Atlantic, Essex and Passaic counties). EPA will continue to support state and local requests for exercises, as requested.

Upper Delaware River Contingency Planning: EPA Regions 2 and 3 continue a series of planning and preparedness activities in coordination with NPS, state and county agencies which began in 2021. The portion of river encompassing the Delaware Water Gap National Park was completed in 2023. Additional areas upriver are scheduled for preparedness activities in 2025.

G. Challenges and Issues (and Operational Requirements Which May Require NRT Attention)

Suggest NRT address website configurations in the NRT.org website. RRT 3 has updated their site to a very useful format. RRT 2 is establishing a workgroup to address our website layout with the plan to make our site more user friendly.