The Partnership Between Tribes and EPA’s Emergency Response Program

Case Studies from Region 9
Presentation Overview

• What does the EPA Emergency Response Program do?
• What training/capacity building do we offer to tribal responders?
• How can tribes partner with us to address acute and legacy contamination?
• Case studies from Region 9, including the Navajo Contaminated Structures Program
What do we do?
EPA Emergency Response

- EPA’s mission: to protect human health and to safeguard the environment
- Types of Response Actions:
  - Emergencies
  - Time-critical Removal Action
  - Non time-critical Removal Action
  - Disaster Response
EPA Emergency Response Personnel

**Federal On-Scene Coordinator:**
- Directs efforts at the scene of a discharge or potential discharge of oil or hazardous substances.
- Point of contact for coordination of clean up efforts with other local, state, tribal and federal agencies, and with private companies.

**EPA Response Contractors:**
- Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START)
- Emergency Rapid Response Services (ERRS)
- Equipment Operation & Maintenance
EPA Emergency Response Personnel

- **Special Teams**
  - EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT)
  - USCG Strike Teams
  - EPA Radiological Emergency Response Team
  - Regional and National Laboratories (EMSL-LV)
  - National Enforcement Investigation Center (NEIC)
  - NOAA Scientific Support Coordinators
  - Navy SupSalv

- **Regional Response Team**

- **Incident Management Team (IMT)**
Oil Spills

Pyramid Lake Oil Spill
Gorman, CA

Enduring Resources Spill
Near Navajo Nation
HazMat Cleanups

Pressurized gas cylinders LCT site
Huntington park, CA

Fresno Drum Site,
Fresno, CA
Radiation Sites

Preservation Aviation Site, N. Hollywood, CA
“Mad Chemist” Sites
Lead Cleanups

Removal of Lead-contaminated soils
Federally Declared Disasters
Federally Declared Disasters
Response Authorities

- Oil Pollution Act of 1990
- CERCLA aka Superfund
- National Oil & Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

ESF 1: Transportation
ESF 2: Communications
ESF 3: Public Works & Engineering
ESF 4: Firefighting
ESF 5: Emergency Management
ESF 6: Mass Care, Housing & Human Services
ESF 7: Resource Support
ESF 8: Public Health and Medical Services

ESF 9: Urban Search & Rescue
ESF 10: Oil & Hazardous Materials
ESF 11: Agriculture & Natural Resources
ESF 12: Energy
ESF 13: Public Safety & Security
ESF 14: Long-term Community Recovery and Mitigation
ESF 15: External Communications
What training do we offer?

(At least in Region 9!)
Training EPA Provides:

- Tabletop Exercises (Chlorine, Anhydrous Ammonia, Propane)
- First Responder Awareness*
- First Responder Operations
- Incident Command System*
- Specialty Classes (e.g., Oil Spill, Mercury)
- HazMat Tech Refresher
- Hazard ID and Categorization
- Others by Request?
FRA, FRO and ICS Courses

First Responder Awareness
Basic understanding of what hazardous materials are, how they can be identified and what to do if you are the first on the scene of a hazardous materials incident.

First Responder Operations
Operations level training, such as recognizing and managing HAZMAT incidents; first responder actions; hazardous materials identifications and markings; ERG content; PPE overview; entry operations; decontamination and mitigation.

Incident Command System
Provides training on standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective.
Oil Spill Response and Booming
Explosives, Fireworks and Other Things that Go Boom
Mercury Response and Cleanup
Mad Chemists, Collectors and Other Eccentrics
HazMat Tech Refresher
Hazard ID and Categorization
How can tribes partner with us?
National Response Center
1-800-424-8802

- Report an oil or chemical spill
- Request assistance from appropriate EPA Regional Duty Officer
OSC Role at Tribal-, State-, Local-, and PRP-led Responses

Roles include:

- First responders - lead response initially
- First response capabilities vary depending on situation
- Technical support vs... Technical direction
  - Become part of the existing ICS/UC
  - Monitor the incident and provide support or technical assistance
  - Mobilize federal resources, if needed
Tribal Case Studies from Region 9
Refugio Oil Spill
Santa Barbara, CA - 2015

• Pipeline rupture causing a release into the Pacific Ocean
• Affected areas important to several Bands of the Chumash People
• Integrated Cultural, Historic, and Archeological Tribal consultants into the Unified Command Response
• USEPA and CA DFW Tribal Liaisons worked with Tribal Govts to coordinate response efforts
Refugio Oil Spill
Santa Barbara, CA – 2015
(cont.)
Yurok Residential Hg Spill - 2007

• Residential Hg Spill
• Yurok Government Environment requested EPA assistance
• EPA conducted a residential cleanup
Yurok Residential Hg Spill – 2007 (cont.)
Indian Island – Wiyot Tribe – Humboldt Bay, CA - 2013

• Historically significant site on a 1.5 acre portion of a six acre shell mound (midden). The midden is the historic location of the Tuluwat Village and the Center of Wiyot Universe. Located on the northeastern portion of Indian Island in Humboldt Bay, Eureka, CA.

• Area was used as a boat repair and maintenance facility through the 1970s under various owners. A variety of chemical wood preservatives and paints contaminants

• EPA conducted a removal of contaminated soils.
Silvertip Pipeline Spill – Billings, MT 2011

• EPA R9 assisted EPA R8 on this Exxon Mobil Pipeline Spill into the Yellowstone River
• Spill affected areas utilized by the Crow People and Cheyenne Tribe
• Integrated Cultural, Historic, and Archeological Tribal consultants into the Unified Command Response
San Carlos Herbicide Investigation – 2018 to present

- San Carlos Apache Tribe requested that EPA assess barrels used throughout reservation
- Thought to be associated with herbicides used in Agent Orange
- EPA collected barrels from over 100 homes and analyzed soil for herbicides
San Carlos Herbicide Investigation (cont.)
Questions for EPA?
Who are we?

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Partnership Between Tribes and EPA’s Emergency Response

Vivian Craig, Sr. Environmental Specialist
NNEPA Superfund Program
Navajo Nation
– Dine’ Cultural Sensitivity is very vital for Contaminated Structures Project on Risk and Health to our Dine’ People. Navajo Nation Superfund Program achieves this goal by working in Partnership with US EPA Federal On Scene Coordinators. In Partnership we respect Cultural beliefs and values during our Field work on Navajo.

– When with an OSC’s explanation to Community members may be slower due to translation and interpretation.

– Also, non-verbal communication such as body language plays an important role when conducting field work with our Dine’ People.
– Issues:
  – Home Site Lease process with Navajo Nation.
    – Cove, AZ
  – Residential Lease (Allotments in Eastern New Mexico) if allotment is in Probate.
    – BIA supporting by accelerating the process
  – Customary Use is allowed if one qualifies for a home.
  – 77 structures scanned in Western, Central, Eastern and Northern agencies in June 2016 and 2017. No assessments were done in 2018.
– Completed CSP homes in 2018:
  – 3 Oljato, Utah
  – Indian Wells, AZ
  – Teec Nos Pos, AZ
– Ongoing rebuilding of structures in:
  – 3 on list for Oljato, Utah for FY 2019
  – 1 compensation
Ahéhee’
Equipment Warehouses

- Stage Primary Response Equipment & Vehicles
- Contractor maintains equipment readiness
Equipment Capabilities

Chemical Agent and Radiological Detection Equipment
Equipment Warehouse

- Mobile Command Post
- Response Vehicles