



Region 8 Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Volume VII No. 4 October 2017 Quarterly Newsletter

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Ash Coulee Spill Recovery

Belle Fourche Pipeline

During an oil spill response in a remote area of western North Dakota, wind chills dipping to -50 degrees F limited emergency response work crews to no more than 15 minutes of continuous exposure. Located 20 miles from the nearest small town of Bellfield, with a population of less than 1,000, the release occurred on a hillside above Ash Coulee, a small tributary to the Little Missouri River. The narrow coulee, with unstable and ruggedly steep cliffs, limited access to the spill.

“Site conditions were tough,” said On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Joyel Dhieux, who was dispatched December 6th to the Belle Fourche Pipeline Company spill. The pipeline break released more than 12,000 barrels of light, sweet crude oil. Through the coordinated efforts of the pipeline company, U.S. Forest Service, North Dakota Department of Health and the EPA under Unified Command, more than 80 percent of the spill was contained or recovered, based on aerial reconnaissance.

One of the unique approaches to this spill response was the decision to use in-situ burning. This crude oil typically releases a significant amount of its light fractions (an estimated 30 percent) relatively quickly after a spill occurs, possibly making it difficult to burn. However, approximately 1,200 burns took place routinely

over a three-month period without the use of an accelerant. “The key was being able to burn safely,” said Dhieux, explaining that crew safety and protection of the environment were priorities, but that the heavy snow cover made the in-situ burns easier to contain.

“A controlled burn was the appropriate response, given the site conditions. I don’t know how we could have recovered as much any other way, other than these in-situ burns. We were pleasantly surprised that the crude did not weather as fast as expected, presumably due to the freezing conditions,” added OSC Dhieux.

Using four underflow steel weirs to facilitate the collection of residual oil contributed to the unique nature of this remediation. “It was a critical strategy in our successful operation,” said the OSC. The weirs allowed for high water to pass during a (short-lived) spring thaw. The weather warmed significantly after the first week in February causing a six to eight foot wall of water and ice to bore through Ash Coulee. The flood breached all containment structures, but crews regained control within a 15-hour time period. More information is available at the Region 8 On-Scene Coordinator [page](#).



Clean Water Act (CWA)

Hazardous Substance Spill Prevention



On July, 21, 2015, several parties filed a lawsuit against EPA for unreasonable delay/failure to perform a nondiscretionary duty to establish regulations for hazardous substances under CWA section 311(j)(1)(C). According to a settlement agreement reached in that case and filed with the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, on February 16, 2016, EPA is to issue a proposed regulatory action no later than June 2018. This action date factors in a 10-month extension for the conduct of an Information Collection Request (ICR).

On September 21, 2017, the *Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Survey on Clean Water Act Hazardous Substances and Spill Impacts* Notice was published in the [Federal Register](#). The notice informs the public of EPA's intention to do a voluntary ICR and provides background information on the subject, the respondent universe, and the estimated burden to respond to the request.

The proposed ICR, "Survey on Clean Water Act (CWA) Hazardous Substance and Spill Impacts," is a voluntary survey to be sent to states, tribes, and territories of the United States. The proposed ICR will request information on:

- number and type of EPCRA Tier II facilities with CWA hazardous substances onsite,
- historical discharges of CWA hazardous substances,
- ecological and human health impacts of those discharges, and
- existing state and tribal programs that address spill prevention of hazardous substances.

The information collected will help determine the facilities that could be subject to spill prevention regulations for hazardous substances listed at 40 CFR Part 116. It will also help:

- inform the rulemaking process,
- identify affected entities,
- evaluate potential regulatory approaches, and
- estimate economic impacts.

The draft ICR questionnaire is provided in the docket as additional information to facilitate the comment process. Public comments will be considered and the ICR package will be modified, as appropriate, prior to submission to OMB for approval.

Comments on the proposed ICR must be submitted on or before November 20, 2017.



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RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

EPA is currently responding to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. For the latest information, see EPA's Hurricane Response [page](#). EPA is working with local, state, tribal, commonwealth, territory, and federal partners to address the human health and environmental impacts in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

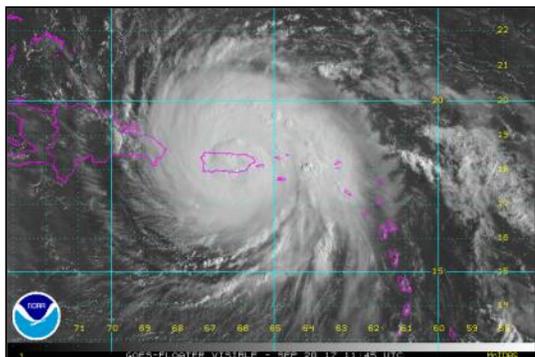
Hurricane Harvey

In advance of Hurricane Harvey, EPA activated emergency response centers in Washington D.C., Dallas, and Atlanta. Prior to the storm, EPA personnel were prepared and ready to deploy if requested by the states impacted by the Hurricane through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). EPA's Region 6 office in Dallas, TX took action to ensure that Superfund Sites were secured and developed a plan to assist the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in rapidly assessing public water systems.



More information can be obtained by visiting the EPA Region 6 Response [site](#) and at the Hurricane Harvey Story [Map](#).

Hurricanes Maria and Irma



EPA is focused on effects to the environment and people's health caused by Hurricanes Maria and Irma, as well as the safety of those in the affected areas. EPA On-Scene Coordinators in Puerto Rico and St. Croix are reporting island conditions and coordinating with federal partners on assessments and cleanup. More information can be obtained on Hurricane Maria at the On-Site Coordinator [web page](#). For information on Hurricane Irma, click this [link](#).

EPA has developed a number of [fact sheets](#) in English and Spanish that provide helpful information about EPA's role in hurricane response. In addition, the EPA has important information about how to safely begin [recovery](#) from a hurricane. EPA has informational pamphlets in English and Spanish about cleaning up after a flood. For general advice and tips and information about preparedness and recovery, visit [FEMA's Irma web page](#).

September Was Preparedness Month

This September has taught us that we all must be individually prepared for an emergency. [Ready.Gov](#) is an extensive website with instructions, links, and advice to families for many types of emergencies. FEMA, with the Red Cross, provides an extensive [Basic Preparedness](#) guide to follow. Last September, the EPA posted a blog on [Being Prepared](#) as well.

FEMA released a refreshed National Incident Management System (NIMS) document to ensure it reflects the collective expertise of the whole community. NIMS applies to all incidents, regardless of cause, size, location or complexity. To review the NIMS document and for additional webinar information, visit <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>.

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Preparedness Activities for Everyone

To highlight September's Preparedness Month, we have included a variety of preparedness activities to consider.

Recently, there have been over twenty wildfires burning in the United States. Each one can have tremendous health and environmental effects. EPA recently updated the [2016 Wildfire Smoke: Guide for Public Health Officials](#), an outline of whose health is most affected by wildfire smoke, how to reduce exposure to smoke, what public health actions are recommended, and how to communicate air quality to the public.

Protecting communities from wildfire smoke starts with figuring out who is at risk. EPA scientists created the [Community Health Vulnerability Index](#) to identify communities at risk from wildfire smoke. Health officials can use the tool, together with air quality models, to protect the health of people living in areas where air quality is impaired, either by wildfire smoke or other sources of pollution.

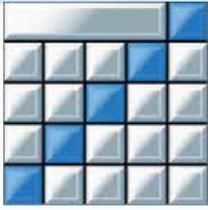
You can help EPA prepare for the impacts of wildfire smoke. Download the Smoke Sense [mobile](#) app to help EPA researchers learn more about the effects of wildfire smoke and develop communications strategies that protect the public during smoky days. You can also use the app to learn about wildfires and smoke health risks in your area.

Parts of the northeastern United States are still recovering from Hurricane Sandy. EPA is helping a community in Rhode Island [develop strategies to protect them from future extreme weather events](#). Part of this effort includes working with partners to build a "living shoreline" and improving marsh condition to better withstand flooding.

Our nation's drinking water systems can be vulnerable to industrial accidents, natural disasters, or intentional attacks. To better protect—and if necessary, decontaminate—these systems, EPA researchers have partnered with the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory to build the [Water Security Test Bed](#). It's the nation's first full-scale, above-ground drinking water distribution system.

Disasters can have devastating consequences for human health and the environment. While not all disasters can be prevented, the potential harms and risks they pose can be mitigated with the right tools and actions. EPA scientists put together an [inventory of tools](#) that can help communities become more resilient to disasters.

CAMEO MARPLOT 5 Released



Recently, the MARPLOT development team released a new version of NOAA and EPA's [MARPLOT](#) mapping software. MARPLOT is the mapping component of CAMEO (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations), which was jointly developed by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For 20 years, emergency planners and responders have used the software to respond to hazardous chemical spills. MARPLOT has also been used in many other ways, including dispatching air ambulances and helping to identify a serial arsonist.

The latest version, MARPLOT 5, offers new and improved capabilities, which translate to more mapping options, greater flexibility, and even more powerful data searching capabilities.

What's changed in MARPLOT 5.1?

- Added ability to move objects to a different layer (if the data fields match)
- Added geodatabase files to the list of supported import file types
- Enhanced import to provide the option to import layers into folders
- Created a new MARPLOT file type (DBZ) allowing folders to be included in an export file
- Modified the new layer function allowing cloning of an existing layer
- Added ability to include links to local files on the computer in popup notes and info boxes
- Switched to SQLite as the internal database structure (rather than DBF)
- Support for Date and Date-Time fields
- Improved time zone options in the Date and Time map extra (as well as the Date/Time data fields)
- Revised base map options, including new ESRI base maps and NOAA nautical charts
- Added enhanced support for U.S. National Grid coordinates in export and import
- Switched to a new offline base map tile provider
- Enhanced search to allow object popup notes to be included as an option
- Ability to show object popup notes and coordinates in the search results (
- Updated U.S. Boundaries layers to 2016 data
- Improvements to the installers and the data upgrade process for existing users
- Added enhancements for program stability and improvements for program speed
- Improvements to the program interface and fixed bugs

Version Levels for the CAMEO Suite

The latest versions of the CAMEO software suite desktop programs are ALOHA 5.4.7, CAMEO Chemicals 2.7, CAMEO*fm* 3.3, and MARPLOT 5.1. CAMEO Chemicals is also available in an app (version 2.7.01) for mobile phones and tablets, which you can get on Google Play and in the App Store.

More information is available on the [NOAA website Office of Restoration and Response](#).



Colorado LEPC Conference

Colorado held their annual Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conference in Breckenridge, Colorado, September 6th—8th. Topics included 'LEPC 101/201', Chemical Safety Board Case studies, Oil & Gas hazards planning, Legislative updates, and much more. The conference held "Ignite" sessions which were short 20-minute round-robin discussions on a variety of topics. Ignite sessions this year were The Emergency Response Application (TERA), Railroad Updates, Grants, Tier II reporting, and Chemical Safety Workshops.



Utah LEPC Conference

The Utah State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) hosted Utah's LEPC Annual Conference on September 13th. The conference provided presentations by the SERC, EPA Region 8, local LEPCs, and private sector representatives. Updates to the HMEP Grants, Tier II Reporting, and LEPC/SERC Guidance were discussed. View the agenda on the [UTAH SERC website](#).

SERC Meetings

State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) meet several times a year. Region 8 personnel attend those meetings to meet representatives, learn of state issues and provide updates on EPA activities. Fall is a busy SERC season with in-person meetings in all Region 8 states. Region 8 recently attended Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota meetings

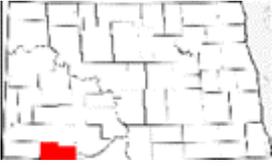
RRT Meeting

The Fall 2017 Regional Response Team meeting was held October 17th and 18th at the Fish and Wildlife Service Building in Lakewood, Colorado. Rich Boes, of the United States Coast, Guard spoke on the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. Catherine Smith, EPA, spoke about Parked Rail Cars. An update on the Colorado River and Missouri River Drainages was provided by EPA OSCs. In addition, the Ash Coulee Oil Spill was also reviewed. Pueblo's Fire Chief presented on Marijuana Issues and Regulations, and a review of Flint, Michigan was shared with attendees.

The Spring meeting will be April 17-18, 2018 in Denver, Colorado.

An LEPC Profile

Adams County North Dakota



Adams County, an agricultural county covering almost 1000 square miles in southwest North Dakota, provides scenic lakes, streams and wildlife management areas. A railroad runs through all communities and several highways cross the county. Along with farming, there are 43 wind turbines and 22 Tier II reporting sites.



Michele Gaylord

As is typical in many rural counties, the LEPC members wear many hats in the community. The LEPC Chair is a County Commissioner, rancher and sits on several boards in the community. Michele Gaylord, the Adams County Emergency Manager for the last seven years, is also the LEPC secretary and the Department of Emergency Services (DES) coordinator. Other LEPC members include the volunteer Fire Chiefs from two fire districts, the Adams County Sheriff and 911 coordinator, the Chief Nursing Officer, and the EMS department manager from the local hospital, and the County Highway Superintendent. Facility managers are members of the core LEPC also. Other community partners, regional or state representatives and facilities are invited to meetings to discuss issues affecting the county and its residents.

The county faced a challenge many other rural LEPCs face – maintaining an active membership and reaching a quorum at meetings. To overcome this, the LEPC reduced its roster to a core group of members. This allowed them to be able to successfully schedule meetings that worked for the volunteer force. Also characteristic of rural counties, the LEPC meets in the evenings to accommodate the members with other job responsibilities.

Some of their recent LEPC activities include:

- using HMEP grants for training and exercises,
- working with BNSF Railroad to conduct a HazMat full-scale ethanol release exercise,
- developing the Adams County Hazardous Materials Response Plan,
- HazMat training for emergency responders and the hospitals decontamination team, as well as
- working closely with the neighboring counties in response, training and exercises.



Training Offered

Region 8 Training

Region 8 EPA may arrange training for a 40-hour HAZWOPER course in your area. Please contact Mark Wullstein at Wullstein.Mark@epa.gov for more information or to arrange the class.

EPA also offers CAMEO software training within the six states of EPA Region 8. Classes can be set up for a half day, a full day, or a two-day class. Please contact Rebecca Broussard at Broussard.Rebecca@epa.gov to set up CAMEO training.

Risk Management Training On-Line

Region 7 of the EPA has developed modules discussing the requirements of CAA 112(r)(7), common compliance pitfalls, preparing for inspections and the Region 7 inspection process, and case studies. Though the modules are geared for regulated facilities anyone who wants to learn more about the Risk Management Program would benefit, including emergency planners. The training is posted at www.epa.gov/rmp/region-7-risk-management-program-webinars. Note: this webinar reflects Region 7 inspection processes which may differ from Region 8.

LEPC Meetings Around the Region



Adams County, CO LEPC
Richard Adkins, Coordinator



Stillwater County, MT
Cliff Brophy, Chair



Glacier County, MT LEPC
Charlie Farmer, Chair

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We will increase EPA Region 8 preparedness through:

- Planning, training, and developing outreach relations with federal agencies, states, tribes, local organizations, and the regulated community.
- Assisting in the development of EPA Region 8 preparedness planning and response capabilities through the RSC, IMT, RRT, OPA, and RMP.
- Working with facilities to reduce accidents and spills through education, inspections, and enforcement.



To contact a member of our Region 8 EPA Preparedness Unit team, review our programs or view our organization chart, click this [link](#).

Region 8 SERC Contact Information

Colorado

Mr. Greg Stasinios, Chair
Phone: 303-692-3023
greg.stasinios@state.co.us

North Dakota

Mr. Greg M. Wilz, Chair
Phone: 701-328-8100
nddes@nd.gov

Montana

Ms. Delila Bruno, Co-Chair
Phone: 406-324-4777
dbruno@mt.gov

Mr. Bob Habeck, Co-Chair
Phone: 406-444-7305
Email: bhabeck@mt.gov

South Dakota

Mr. Bob McGrath, Chair
Phone: 800-433-2288
Trish.Kindt@state.sd.us

Utah

Mr. Alan Matheson, Co-Chair
Phone: 801-536-4400
amatheson@utah.gov

Mr. Keith Squires, Co-Chair
Phone: 801-965-4461
ksquires@utah.gov

Wyoming

Mr. Rick Lopez
Phone: 307-777-4663
ricklopez@wyo.gov

RMP Hotline: (303) 312-6345

RMP Reporting Center: The Reporting Center can answer questions about software or installation problems. The RMP Reporting Center is available from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday: (703) 227-7650 or RMPRC@epacdx.net.

RMP: <https://www.epa.gov/rmp>

EPCRA: <https://www.epa.gov/epcra>

Emergency Response: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response>

[Lists of Lists](#)

Questions? Call the Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 (Monday-Thursday).

To report an oil or chemical spill, call the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802.

U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop Street (8EPR-ER)
Denver, CO 80202-1129
800-227-8917



This newsletter provides information on the EPA Risk Management Program, EPCRA, SPCC/FRP (Facility Response Plan) and other issues relating to Accidental Release Prevention Requirements. The information should be used as a reference tool, not as a definitive source of compliance information. Compliance regulations are published in 40 CFR Part 68 for CAA section 112(r) Risk Management Program, 40 CFR Part 355/370 for EPCRA, and 40 CFR Part 112.2 for SPCC/FRP.

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