



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7**, 11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS 66219  
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

## **Eric Nold, EPA Region 7 On-Scene Coordinator**

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“So I was working out in western Nebraska on something, and Janice Kroone, who was at the time the most senior OSC, and I were on our way back, and our boss called and said ‘Hey, we need to send two.’ And we were both like, yeah, we both volunteered. So, we were the first two out of Region 7. She and I left that night, or it might have been the next morning, and flew in. It was the first day that they had re-opened up the air flights into New York. And neither one of us were sure what our role was going to be. They just needed OSCs. She ended up being in charge of a crew that were power washing the skyscrapers and collecting all the runoff. I don’t know if you’ve seen the pictures of how much ash was all over the sides of the buildings and on the patios. So that was her job. A ‘super-sucker’ is what they were referred to it as. It basically power washed all the buildings and sucked up all the debris and the rinse water that came down.

I ended up, because of how many, you know there were 10,000 firemen on the pile, and everything was shut down, not functioning. The city brought in 450, I think it was, port-a-johns. And during shift changes, it was obvious that the firemen were walking out, not deconning. Taking all this, they looked like they’d been through hell obviously, and jumping in their trucks, and jumping on buses, and leaving to go back to their home districts and taking all that material with them. So we immediately set up as many wash – they wouldn’t let us call it ‘decon’ stations, because that would insinuate contamination – so we set up ‘wash’ stations so everybody coming off the pile had to go through a wash station before they could go home.”

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