

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training

MISSION Vigorously enforce our nation's environmental laws by investigating and assisting in the prosecution of criminal conduct that threatens human health and the environment.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME An environmental crime is a knowing or negligent violation of an environmental law.

HOW WE FIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME We provide federal, state, tribal, and local prosecutors with evidence, forensic analyses, and legal guidance.

WHY WE FIGHT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME Successful investigations and prosecutions of environmental crimes deter others from violating the law, protects public health and levels the playing field for those who follow the law.



SEVEN SIGNS OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

- Strong, offensive, or unusual chemical odors
- Large numbers of dead birds, fish or other animals
- Pipes or valves that bypass waste treatment systems
- Tank trucks discharging into drains, manholes or surface waters
- Oily slicks on bodies of water
- Corroded, leaking waste containers
- Drums or containers dumped at odd hours in out-of-the-way places

WHO INVESTIGATES ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN OCEFT?

More than 350 specially trained investigators, chemists, engineers, technicians, lawyers, analysts, including:

- 180 federal law enforcement agents - with full federal authority to conduct investigations, interview witnesses, carry firearms, make arrests, and execute search warrants
- 70 forensic scientists and technicians
- 45 environmental crime attorneys



INVESTIGATIONS & FORENSICS EPA uses cutting-edge technology and investigation techniques to prove cases beyond a reasonable doubt.

CID (Criminal Investigation Division) – EPA special agents have full law enforcement authority. They talk to witnesses and suspects, conduct surveillance, seize and analyze records, gather information, analyze evidence and data, work with forensics experts, prosecutors and other police involved, and testify in court. They also apply training in environmental sciences, toxicology, safety, and environmental law.

NEIC (National Enforcement Investigations Center) – EPA's accredited environmental forensics facility in Denver, Colorado. Field personnel support criminal investigations by providing sampling and field measurement expertise. Laboratory personnel conduct examinations using a wide variety of analytical chemistry techniques. NEIC staff work with special agents to gather data, provide engineering evaluations, analyze forensic evidence, and serve as expert witnesses in the courtroom.

NCFL-TEC (National Computer Forensics Laboratory and Technical Investigative Equipment Support Center) – Rarely does an environmental crime not leave a digital trail, so at this Jacksonville, Florida, facility, a team of high-technology criminal investigators plan the search, seizure, and analysis of digital evidence from the Internet, computers, servers, smart phones, and other digital or electronic devices.

FOP (Field Operations Program) – OCEFT's highly-trained team uses specialized equipment to conduct environmental sampling and evidence collection at environmental crime scenes while ensuring onsite health and safety. FOP also manages the National Criminal Enforcement Response Team (NCERT) which provides evidence collection and sampling for large-scale operations and searches conducted by OCEFT special agents.

RCECs (Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsel) and **OCEFT's LCD** (Legal Counsel Division): Experienced EPA attorneys provide guidance on expert witness preparation, evidentiary issues, the interrelationship of environmental and general criminal laws, personnel and worker safety law, and the enforceability of proposed regulations and legislation.

LEGAL (Statutory) AUTHORITIES – OCEFT investigates violations of environmental laws and related violations of U.S. Federal Criminal Codes (Title 18 - fraud, conspiracy, and obstruction of justice, aiding and abetting, false statements, smuggling).

Environmental Laws include: Clean Air Act (CAA); Clean Water Act (CWA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA, hazardous and solid waste); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, commonly called Superfund); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA); and Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & INFORMATION:

EPA'S Fugitive Website: <http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/epa-fugitives>



BAGGETT



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WAINWRIGHT



Report Environmental Violations:

<http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/report-environmental-violations>

OCEFT on EPA's Website:

<http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/criminal-enforcement>



CRIMINAL CASE RESULTS

FY 2011 to 2013 Criminal Cases by Pollution Type				
	Fiscal Year			3 -year
(Acronyms below)	2011	2012	2013	Average
Cases Opened				
Air (CAA)	75	101	72	83
Water (CWA, SDWA, etc.)	141	117	113	124
Waste (RCRA, CERCLA)	76	45	52	58
Chemicals (TSCA, FIFRA)	21	17	24	21
Title 18 + Other	48	40	36	41
	361	320	297	327
Defendants Charged				
Air (CAA)	76	56	105	79
Water (CWA, SDWA, etc.)	80	105	100	95
Waste (RCRA, CERCLA)	44	28	33	35
Chemicals (TSCA, FIFRA)	28	15	12	18
Title 18 + Other	21	30	28	26
	249	234	278	253
Fines & Restitutions (In Millions)				
Air (CAA)	\$5	\$15	\$101	\$40
Water (CWA, SDWA, etc.)	\$14	\$18	\$1376	\$469
Waste (RCRA, CERCLA)	\$14	\$5	\$31	\$17
Chemicals (TSCA, FIFRA)	\$2	\$5	\$11	\$6
Title 18 + Other	\$2	\$1	\$7	\$3
	\$96	\$44	\$1526	\$535
Incarceration (In Months)				
Air (CAA)	324	482	1000	602
Water (CWA, SDWA, etc.)	173	174	203	183
Waste (RCRA, CERCLA)	121	95	440	219
Chemicals (TSCA, FIFRA)	105	18	167	97
Title 18 + Other	374	1224	211	603
	1097	1993	2021	1704

Note - Due to rounding, averages may not add exactly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. EPA - OCEFT

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, William Jefferson Clinton Building
Room 1211

Mail Code: 2231A, Washington, DC 20004

Main Number: 202-564-2480

Fax: 202-501-0599

Director Henry Barnet 202-564-2480

CID Director Doug Parker 202-564-2490

NEIC Director Carol Rushin 303-462-9000

LCD Director Michael Fisher 202-564-1063

CID Offices	Special Agents in Charge (SAC) Email	Phone
Boston, MA	Gauthier.John@epa.gov (Acting)	617-918-2300
New Haven, CT		203-773-7992
New York, NY	Jones-Allen.Vernesa@epa.gov (Acting)	212-637-3610
Syracuse, NY		315-423-3719
Edison, NJ		732-321-4480
San Juan, PR		787-977-5893
Philadelphia, PA	McLeod.David@epa.gov	215-814-2360
Arlington, VA		703-347-8410
Baltimore, MD		410-305-3041
Charleston, WV		304-345-2200
Atlanta, GA	OMara.Maureen@epa.gov	404-562-9795
Nashville, TN		615-736-2230
Louisville, KY		502-582-5833
Charlotte, NC		704-366-3098
Knoxville, TN		865-693-4724
Gulf Breeze, FL		850-934-9200
Miami, FL		305-536-6700
Tampa, FL		813-348-1646
Chicago, IL	Ashe.Randall@epa.gov	312-886-9872
Minneapolis, MN		612-335-4030
Indianapolis, IN		317-226-1000
Cleveland, OH		440-202-4440
Detroit, MI		734-692-7650
Dallas, TX	Vikin.Ivan@epa.gov	214-665-6600
Baton Rouge, LA		225-925-8490
Houston, TX		713-209-4900
Kansas City, KS	Burnett.Michael@epa.gov	913-551-7999
St. Louis, MO		314-539-3422
Denver, CO	Martinez.Jeffrey@epa.gov	303-312-6134
Helena, MT		406-457-5080
Salt Lake City, UT		801-524-5177
San Francisco, CA	Green.Jay-M@epa.gov	415-947-8713
Sacramento, CA		916-930-2280
Honolulu, HI		808-541-2720
Los Angeles, CA		213-244-1900
Phoenix, AZ		602-364-7970
San Diego, CA		619-557-2920
Seattle, WA	Amon.Tyler@epa.gov	206-553-8306
Anchorage, AK		907-271-6489
Portland, OR		503-326-3545
Boise, ID		208-387-6518