

Association of State and Territorial
ASTSWMO
Solid Waste Management Officials

ASTSWMO's mission is to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs for waste and materials management, to encourage environmentally sustainable practices and to affect relevant national waste and materials management policies.



FINAL SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

Removal Action Symposium

Natural Disasters and Their Impacts on State Emergency Response Agencies

December 3-4, 2009

San Francisco, CA

ASTSWMO REMOVAL ACTION SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, December 3, 2009

WELCOME SESSION

Moderated by: David Sweeney (NJ)

The 2009 ASTSWMO Removal Action Symposium showcased the impacts of natural disasters on State emergency response programs and agencies. An emphasis was placed upon the topic of debris management, and several State and Federal perspectives were presented. This session kicked off ASTSWMO's 2009 Removal Action Symposium with welcoming remarks from the State of California, ASTSWMO, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ASTSWMO: David Sweeney (NJ), ASTSWMO Removal Action Focus Group Chair

State of California: Barbara Cook, CA DTSC

EPA: Deborah Dietrich, Director, EPA OEM

PLENARY SESSION: Debris Management

Moderated by: Bruce Everetts, IL

Speaker: James Michael, EPA HQ

Each year, natural disasters, such as wildfires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados, and winter storms challenge American communities. These disasters can create large amounts of debris, which can include building rubble, sediments, vegetative debris, wood waste, personal property, and other materials. Cleaning up this debris is often the longest and costliest element of disaster recovery. To help communities prepare to clean up after one of these events, EPA has developed the *Planning for Natural Disaster Debris* guide.

The guide, based on experiences of other communities and States, provides helpful planning suggestions and steps that local officials can take to prepare for dealing with the waste that is created by natural disasters. One of the main recommendations is that local communities develop disaster debris management plans. These plans help determine how disaster debris will be managed before a natural disaster happens. In addition, the guide includes information on:

- Management options for various debris streams that might be found after a natural disaster.
- A collection of case studies that highlights how several communities prepared for and managed debris generated by recent natural disasters.
- A list of federal, State, and local resources to consult in planning for natural disasters.

The document was developed as an update to the Planning for Disaster Debris guide that EPA published in 1995. This updated version provides local communities with current disaster debris-

related information, consistent with information provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and individual States, and emphasizes the importance of managing disaster debris in an environmentally protective manner.

Speaker: Nicole Bealle, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Overview of the TCEQs efforts to effectively manage excessive debris (mixed and vegetative) from the Hurricane Ike impacted counties along the Texas Gulf Coast and into East Texas.

Speaker: Melinda Stehr, California Emergency Management Agency (CA EMA)

An overview of wildfire debris management procedures used by the CA EMA.

Speaker: Katy Miley, US EPA Region 7

Severe flooding in southeast Kansas caused the Verdigris River to overtop the levee surrounding Coffeyville, Kansas, on July 1, 2007. Approximately 90,000 gallons of crude oil were released from Coffeyville Resources Refining and Marketing (CRRM) and carried through the town of Coffeyville and southward into Oklahoma. Region 7 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) were deployed to Coffeyville on July 1, 2007. CRRM signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with EPA on July 9, 2007, and subsequently submitted a work plan to EPA. Given that the release originated in Kansas, Region 7 was the lead EPA region, and coordinated with the State of Kansas and other regional stakeholders; EPA Region 6 had on-site personnel and provided oversight support and coordination with the state of Oklahoma. EPA regions, States and local stakeholders managed the incident response under unified command.

Remediation activities were conducted in accordance with the work plan and included oil removal in waterways, oiled debris and soil removal, and structure washing. CRRM offered property buy-outs for over 300 properties located within the impacted area. Communication and coordination between two EPA regions, two States, local representatives, and CRRM were major response challenges. Response complications included the lack of local utilities and infrastructure during the initial phases of the response. The final steps in this response involved the demolition of over 300 oiled structures that were bought by CRRM. The demolition of these structures required consideration of NESHAPS. EPA Region 7 coordinated the oversight of Kansas demolition activities with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

BREAKOUT SESSION: ICS 402 TRAINING

Presenter: David Sweeney, NJ Department of Environmental Protection

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) is utilized throughout the United States during disasters and in response to emergency situations. This session is intended to give attendees an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) component of NIMS. Emphasis will be given on how Environmental Agency personnel outside of the traditional emergency

response functions can integrate into an ICS structure for their agency activities. Attendees received certification for the completion of ICS 402, Incident Command for Executives.

BREAKOUT SESSION: NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Moderated by: Leo Henning, KS Department of Health and Environment

Speaker: Chris Hase, KS Department of Health and Environment

An anhydrous ammonia release occurred in Kingman County, Kansas, in 2004. The release affected natural resources, especially by ammonia entering surface water. Kansas natural resource trustees used information recorded during and after the response to build a case for a natural resource damages claim. The Kansas trustees settled an NRD claim with the responsible party. A five-year biological monitoring program was implemented shortly after the release to gauge the recovery of the affected resources. Property acquired as part of the settlement was donated to Wichita State University to serve as a natural area for research, teaching, and outreach.

BREAKOUT SESSION: DATA MANAGEMENT

Moderated by: Leo Henning, KS Department of Health and Environment

Speaker: Joe Shaefer, US EPA Region 2

This session described the SCRIBE data management program. This newly developed data management system provides first responders a tool to organize data during an emergency situation. The SCRIBE system organizes the environmental monitoring results and tracks sampling locations and provides information that responders can use to make decisions concerning future actions.

BREAKOUT SESSION: EPA SPECIAL TEAM RESOURCES/CAPABILITIES

Moderated by: John Regan, NH Department of Environmental Services

Speaker: Kevin S. Guarino, US EPA HQ

This session presented on the capabilities of the EPA Special Team's including their decontamination, radiation, and field sampling operations.

BREAKOUT SESSION: PRE-EVENT PLANNING

Moderated by: Ellen Melenfant, DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Speaker: Jamie Bethard, DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

The State of Delaware has had the privilege of six formal Presidential or Vice Presidential visits since 2009. Proper pre-event planning and coordination among Federal, State, and local agencies is the key to a successful and hopefully uneventful visit. Delaware presented their unique perspective on how the State prepares and responds to big events in a small State.

Speaker: Pete Stevenson, US EPA Region 8

The multi-year planning effort to pre-deploy resources to the DNC in Denver Colorado by the EPA will be discussed. Deployed resources and activities of those resources will be reviewed via documentary photographs. EPA Regional and Special Teams and other ancillary resources were described, and a discussion of the interaction of EPA with State and local resources followed.

Friday, December 4, 2009

PLENARY SESSION: DISASTER DECLARATION AND FUNDING

Moderated by: Barbara Cook, CA Department of Toxic Substances Control

Speaker: Rebecca Wagoner, CA EMA Recovery Division Chief

As the most populated State in the nation located in an area of geologic and geographic extremes, California is vulnerable to a multitude of natural and man-made hazards including earthquakes, floods, fires, volcanic eruption, landslide, dam and levee failure, severe weather, tsunami, hazard material emergencies, civil unrest, and terrorist attack. Any of these events could severely affect communities, State, and local governments. Communities are responsible for the protection of their residents and local emergency response forces will always be the first line of defense when a disaster strikes. A local governing body or designee may proclaim a Local Emergency, if there is extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within jurisdictional boundaries of a county, city, or county to expand emergency police powers and authorities. It is also a pre-requisite for requesting State assistance under the *California Disaster Assistance Act*. When it is clear that State capabilities will be exceeded, the governor can request Federal assistance under the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*. This act authorizes the President to provide financial and direct federal assistance to State and local governments, certain private nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following a Presidential emergency or major disaster declarations. An overview of this process, and related requirements, was presented as it related to State and federal assistance for debris removal and other disaster recovery activities.

Speakers: Daniel Meer and Christopher Weden, US EPA Region 9

USEPA and the USCG have responsibility for oil and hazardous material response under emergency support function 10 of the National Response Framework. In the early hours and days of a natural disaster, the focus is often necessarily on lifesaving, mass care, evacuations, urban search and rescue, and public safety. However, the need to respond to oil and hazmat

releases that threaten human health or the environment often occur simultaneously and can overwhelm local and state capacity. The presentation will outline the process for requesting federal assistance and some practical steps that local and state response personnel can take to ensure that federal support for oil and hazmat response will be available, when and if it is needed.

PLENARY SESSION: NATIONAL APPROACH TO RESPONSE OF MULTIPLE INCIDENTS

Moderated by: Brad Johnson, UT Department of Environmental Quality

Speaker: Kathy Jones, US EPA HQ

Following the events of September 11, 2009, EPA realized that response to nationally significant events requires the participation of all offices across the Agency, not just the emergency response staff. Work began to implement a consistent agency-wide National Approach to Response (NAR), which defined roles and responsibilities for staff and management at all levels. Additionally, EPA developed a NAR Preparedness Plan which addresses the question: What does EPA need to prepare for the possibility of multiple, simultaneous, nationally significant events? The plan is based on detailed analyses of the requirements for EPA to carry out our responsibilities under Emergency Support Function #10 in 5 different scenarios. This presentation included a discussion of the process used, planning assumptions, and key components of the plan, which is consistent with the government-wide National Response Framework and the National Incident Management System.