

Attachment 5.0

Back Up Cross-Regional Support Training and Exercise Program

Background:

The EPA established a national baseline Core Emergency Response (Core ER) program to review critical program elements and set baseline standards for a nationally consistent Emergency Response Program. One of the key criteria of the Regional Backups Element of the Core ER program is to provide for cross-regional training on response procedures including drills and exercises. A Regional Backup Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by EPA Regions 8, 9, and 10 and resulted in the creation of a workgroup comprised of several Points of Contact (POC) for each region. The Workgroup is in the process of addressing each of the criteria outlined in the Regional Backups Element. The purpose of this guidance is to establish the objectives and framework leading to implementation of a cross-regional training and exercise program.

Objectives:

- Identify Cross-Regional Support Training Team
- Design and implement an annual cross-regional drill
- Identify, compile, and post ongoing training opportunities in each region
- Identify gaps and areas for improvement in Regional Backups support and propose training/exercise solutions
- Coordinate with Regional Backups POC Workgroup and other sub-workgroups to address gaps and areas for improvement
- Ensure fulfillment of requirements of Backup Regions Element criteria

Cross-Regional Support Training Team:

Each region will identify two personnel (min. 1 OSC) on an annual basis to:

- Participate on Cross-Regional Support Training Team
- Identify inter-regional differences and gaps in proficiencies and skills and propose training to address
- Design and implement an annual drill/exercise to address key gaps/areas for improvement
- Identify and recruit additional personnel and expertise necessary to implement an effective training event
- Coordinate participation for key response personnel (Removal Managers, OSCs, COs, POs, DPOs, etc.)

Annual Cross-Regional Training Event:

The Cross Regional Support Training Team will:

- Identify a training agenda/theme (e.g., response to dirty bomb)
- Design and implement an annual cross-regional training event including drill/exercise (tabletop and/or field)
- The training event may be rotated each year from region to region based on team's recommendation and resources/venue availability
- Conduct a post-training "Lessons Learned" session and document for the next training event and for Core ER program evaluation purposes .

On-going Training Opportunities:

The Cross Regional Support Training Team will:

- Identify region-specific training/exercise opportunities (e.g., region-specific expertise or capabilities) appropriate for Back-up Regions personnel to attend
- Compile the training/exercise opportunities into a compendium and post in a format (OSC web site) for easy access by all Back-up Regions' personnel
- Track and document cross-regional attendance of Backup Regions' personnel for Core ER program evaluations.