



# EPA Region 8 Emergency Response

U.S. EPA Region 8 On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs), Providing Technical Assistance & Resources to Mitigate Local Emergencies



South Dakota – 2021 Chemical Industry Safety & Compliance Workshops



# Legislative Authorities

- The EPA Emergency Response (ER) Program addresses **urgent** threats to **human health, public welfare, or the environment**
- This can include but is not limited to:
  - Hazardous chemical releases anywhere
  - Oil or fuel spills into “navigable” water
  - “Pollutant or contaminant” discharges into the environment
  - Threatened/potential releases/discharges
    - Abandoned containers/facilities
    - Oil spills up gradient from water.



# Legislative Authorities

- Hazardous Substances or Pollutants and Contaminants
  - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (**CERCLA**)
- Oil Spills
  - Clean Water Act (**CWA**) as amended by the Oil Pollution Act (**OPA**)
- National Disasters
  - Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (**Stafford Act**)



# Implementing Regulation

- National Contingency Plan
  - 40 CFR Part 300
- Covers Our Response Role Under Each Statute
- Provides for State/Local Funding and Cost Recovery



# The Personnel of the ER Program

- The staff of the EPA ER Program are called On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs)
- OSCs have immediate access to technical and cleanup contractors if the responsible party or locals cannot adequately mitigate hazards
- OSCs also have immediate access to resources via the Superfund and the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund

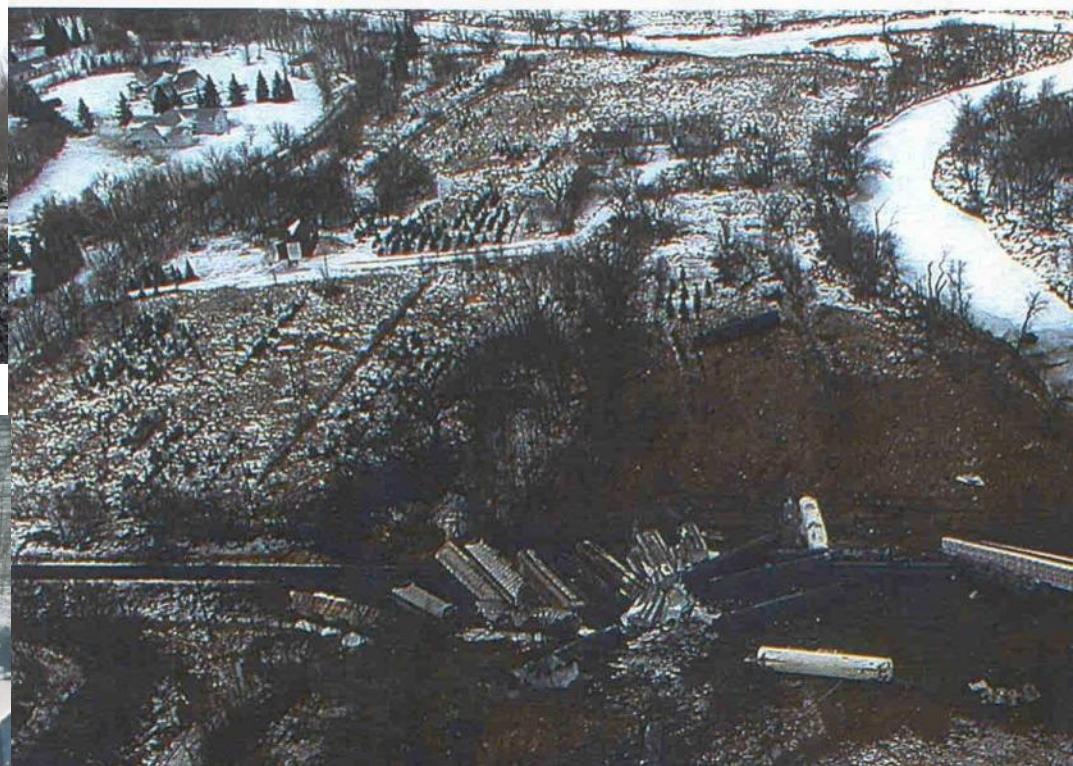


# On-Scene Coordinator Roles

- Ensure proper notification and evaluate hazards
- Assist or join in Unified Command
- May provide resources to or oversee a response by states, locals, or even responsible parties
- Have authority to direct on-scene environmental response efforts, if needed
- Maintain decision-making authority for protecting human health and the environment
- Ensure access to information for stakeholders



# Emergency Response - Derailments



# Emergency Response - Mercury





# Emergency Response - Containers

- Illegal Dumping
- Abandoned Facilities



# Oil Spills, Cache La Poudre River





# Natural Disasters – Hurricane Katrina





# Minot Floods 2011





# Colorado Floods 2013





# Emergency Response - Anthrax



# Removal Actions – Mining Sites





# Notification and Requesting EPA

- Contact EPA via the National Response Center: **1-800-424-8802**
  - One-stop call for assistance and spill reporting
  - Caller may request to speak directly to an OSC
  - EPA OSCs are available 24/7/365
- File an NRC report online: **[www.nrc.uscg.mil](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil)**
- Contact Region 8 Duty OSC: **303-293-1788**



# National Approach to Response

- Inter-Regional Resource Sharing
  - Back Up Regions
  - “Ten Region” Response Capability
- Quick Access to Special Teams
  - ERT
  - USCG Strike Teams
- Centralized Communication Capabilities
  - Regional/National RRC Facilities
  - NRC Communications Bridge
  - ERT Communications Bridge
- Consistent and Interchangeable Equipment Capabilities



# South Dakota OSC's

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