

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region II

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response  
  
Edison, NJ  
Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459

**To:**  
**From:** Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator  
**Date:** 8/31/2011  
**Reporting Period:**

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>Response Type:</b> Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b> 8/26/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**INCIDENT CATEGORY**

EPA Region 2 is currently responding to threats and actual spills/releases of oil and hazardous substances caused by the impacts of Hurricane Irene which moved through the NJ and NY area on Sunday, August 28, 2011. EPA Region 2 was also activated as part of the Stafford Act Response and is coordinating Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10). EPA is responding under its authorities provided by CERCLA and OPA as well as authorized Mission Assignments under the Stafford Act.

**INCIDENT LOCATIONS**

With the passing of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene, high winds and significant rainfalls have caused widespread infrastructure damage throughout the NJ and NY areas. EPA is currently coordinating and collecting data on the hardest hit impact areas with respect to environmental threats. Tropical storm force winds extended outward upto 320 miles from the storm center and record rainfalls have and are expected to cause significant flooding throughout the Region 2 area.

**DESCRIPTION OF THREAT**

Environmental threats at this point in time include possible point-source oil/chemical spills/releases from flooding events and failed infrastructure (power, transportation, etc.). Threats also include possible impacts to drinking water systems due to biological and/or oil/chemical hazards from flood waters.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

EPA Region 2 is currently manning the following coordination centers;

- FEMA R2 RRCC (NYC) – (1) OSC coordinating Mission Assignments and assisting with the Planning efforts in the overall Stafford Act Response.
- NY State EOC (Albany, NY) – (1) OSC coordinating and assisting with State “Requests for Assistance” (RFAs) and updating State elements on EPA Planning and Response Actions.
- NJ State EOC (Trenton, NJ) – (1) OSC coordinating and assisting with State “Requests for Assistance” (RFAs) and updating State elements on EPA Planning and Response Actions.
- EPA Region 2 REOC (Edison, NJ)
  - Coordinating efforts related to operations, planning, resources, and logistics from the

REOC.

- The REOC is manning the Regional Hotline phone and addressing follow-up and response actions to incidents both related and unrelated to the impacts of Hurricane Irene.
- The REOC is tracking situational information related to RFAs and changing conditions on the ground.

#### **EPA Site Assessment Activities**

- NPL sites continue to be evaluated and assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene. Region 2 Remedial Program is in the process of coordinating with all RPMs on assessment(s) of NPL sites.
- REOC continues coordinating with OSCs and active sites are being assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.
- RMP Facilities continue to be assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.
- FRP Facilities continue to be assessed for any significant impacts related to Hurricane Irene.

#### **Emergency Response Actions (On-going Investigations and Responses)**

Lake Haiwatha Oil Spill, Lake Hiawatha, NJ (K. Lucarino) (Being Assessed, Requested on August 31, 2011) – NJDEP notified EPA later in the day on 8/31/2011 regarding a possible oil spill in the Lake Hiawatha, NJ Area. The report indicated that flood waters beginning to recede showed significant amounts of oil impacting the area. NJDEP is deploying a contractor to stabilize the area but has requested assistance from EPA.

#### **Denville Oil Spill, Denville, NJ (K. Lucarino) - (Ongoing Response, Requested on August 30, 2011)**

OSC Lucarino deployed to the site on 8-30-2011. ERRS crews arrived on-site on 08-31-2011. Personnel are recovering product and collecting oil debris from residential properties impacted by flood waters. It is anticipated that work should finish by 9-1-2011.

#### **Mahwah River Oil Spill, Mahwah, NJ (J. Bechtel) – (Needs Response, Requested on August 30, 2011)**

May have ERRS available to respond on 09-01-2011. Oil coated houses. 8 homes and 1 abandoned garage structure that was acquired by the city under tax foreclosure. Homes and garage have been impacted by flood waters containing oil. Oil staining is evident both, inside and outside the 9 structures. Staining noted in driveways and yards.

#### **Saddle River Oil Spill, South Hackensack, NJ (N. Norrell) - (Needs Response, Requested on August 29, 2011)**

May have ERRS available on 09-01-2011. OSC investigated and determined spill was an unknown type of oil released into the Saddle River. The Saddle River connects directly to the Passaic River west of Garfield. Spill impacted a roadway bridge that passes over the Saddle River where River Road intersects with South Main Street and small tributary to Saddle River. The oil appeared to have been released to the river and impacted the roadway when flood waters crested over the bridge. Local PD have closed the road due to slippery conditions created by the oil. NJDEP contractor conducted cleanup of the roadway and deployed boom along the stream. NJDEP has verbally requested EPA assistance to address visible product on the river banks up-stream and down-stream of the bridge. OSC Norrell revisited the site on 8/30/11 and 8/31/11 to further assess the need and scope for a response.

#### **Stage 1 Auto Spill, Pompton Lakes, NJ (Bechtel / Rosoff) – (Needs Response, Requested on August 30, 2011)**

NJDEP requested EPA assistance. Spill at 422 State Rte 23, Stage 1 Auto. OSC Bechtel met NJDEP on site August 30, 2011. The OSC observed a diesel fuel spill into the Lake. Sorbent pads have been placed by NJDEP. Oiled vegetation and spill into lake need to be addressed.

#### **Tuxedo Oil Spill, Tuxedo Park, NY (Needs Assessment, Requested on August 29, 2011)**

SOS fuel oil spill – Needs to be assessed by EPA. NYSDEC has contractors on site. Oil is being removed from containment and from trucks. Contractor is also addressing issues downstream. A 1,500-gallon fuel additive truck was washed by flood waters ¼ mile into wooded area. That is being pumped out by contractors. The community adjacent to the spill across the Mahwah River are complaining of odors. NYSDEC walked through the community and noted odors, but did not observe any sheening or staining.

Late 8-30-2011, NYSDEC was able to stick the 250K tank. Findings indicate approximately 20K gallons of product with 8 inches of water underneath. Inventory states a little over 35K gallons, so NYSDEC is confirming a minimum loss of 15K gallons of heating oil in initial flood prior to the dispenser valve shut off. Inspections show the tank shifted and rotated approximately 6 feet. On 8-31-2011, NYSDEC contractors will draw down the remaining 20K gallons of product since the integrity of the tank is unknown.

Parsippany Odor Complaint (Glenn) - (Assessment underway, Requested on August 30, 2011)  
Call into NRC regarding an oil odor complaint at residential property. On August 31, 2011 OSC Glenn contacted the property owner and left a message. REOC and OSC Glenn will monitor the situation.

Pompton Lakes Property Owner Odor Complaint (Staiger) – (Assessment underway, Requested on August 30, 2011)  
Property owner called the REOC and stated that there was an oil spill on the lake near the house. OSC Staiger called the property owner on 8-30-2011 and left several messages. REOC and OSC Staiger will monitor.

South Hampton Marsh Oil Spill (Chong) – (Needs Response, Requested on August 31, 2011)  
NJDEP requested EPA assistance to investigate and remediate a marsh area associated with the Rancocas Creek. Home heating oil has been deposited throughout the marsh. Area is approximately 1000 feet of oil material in standing water, requiring only sorbents.

Rt. 130 Residential Pump-Out (Chong) – (Assessment Underway, Requested on August 31, 2011)  
NJDEP requested OSC assistance to investigate a hardship case where water may need to be pumped out of a basement.

#### Emergency Response Actions (Closed / Completed Investigations and Responses)

224 South Burnett, East Orange, NJ (Chong) - (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 closed on August 31, 2011) - Incident has been referred to the county for cleanup. Area of concern was small.

11 Sale Road, Moonachie, NJ (Ferriola) - (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 closed on August 31, 2011) -A small fuel oil leak located under trailer homes. Incident has been referred to the municipality for cleanup.

South River Oil Leak, South River, NJ (Ferriola) – (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 closed on August 31, 2011) - Underground tank leak at residential property owner. Property owner has contracted with environmental services.

131 Purchase Street, Rye NY (Staiger) (Completed, Requested on August 30, 2011 closed on August 30, 2011) - Oil located in a residential complex. Westchester County and NYSDEC are addressing the incident.

Mamaroneck Oil Spill, Mamaroneck, NY (Chong) - (Requested on August 30, 2011 and completed on August 31, 2011) - Minor oil staining located on lawn of residential property.

#### Water and Waste Water Facility Assessment

The Army Corp of Engineers, under ESF-3, will be conducting damage assessments of water and waste-water facilities. EPA anticipates a Mission Assignment for water sampling events at and/or downstream of these facilities.

#### Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) Cleanup

Discussions are occurring between EPA and the NYDEC regarding EPA assistance with the set up and possible collection and disposal of HHW. At this point in time these discussion include the following counties in New York; Delaware, Green, and Schoharie.

- REOC is currently working on resource plans to include EPA personnel and contractor resources.
- REOC is coordinating / contacting additional Region 2 Programs for support related assessment of other program facilities (drinking water, waste water, RCRA TSDs, etc.)
- REOC is drafting SOWs and TDDs for ERRS and RST Contractor Support
- REOC began implementing cost tracking measures for incident response actions.
- REOC working on a data management planning in anticipation of large data collection needs arising later in the week.

### 2.3 Logistics Section

Major impacts to property and infrastructure throughout the region may cause impacts to response actions and or response personnel availability.

The REOC in Edison, NJ is fully operational and at this point in time, no forward command posts have been established.

FEMA has not yet established a Joint Field Operations (JFO) Office in NJ and/or NY

### 2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

### 2.5 Other Command Staff

#### 2.5.1 Safety Officer

An Incident Safety Officer has not yet been established however all response actions will address safety in its planning and initial phases. Safety will currently be handled by Response OSCs and support contractors. Depending on resource needs, an Incident Safety Officer could be designated in the future.

#### 2.6 Liaison Officer

A Liaison Officer has not yet been assigned however coordination activities are being done at several locations and with multiple Federal and State Agencies.

#### 2.7 Information Officer

Response operations and planning information are being provided to the EPA Public Affairs Division. Patricia (Pat) Seppi has been identified as the Incident Information Officer. Pat Seppi can be reached at **646-369-0068**. Discussions are occurring related the establishment of hotlines / call center if/when the need arises.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Unified Command

### 3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA currently coordinating with FEMA, NYS DEC, NYC DEP, NJ DEP, NYSEMO, NJOEM

## 4. Personnel On Site

No.	Resource	Function	Location
5	OSCs	Field Response	Various NY/NJ
1	OSC	Coordination	FEMA RRCC, NYC
1	OSC	Coordination	NYS EOC, Albany, NY
1	OSC	Coordination	NJ EOC, Trenton, NJ
4	Response/Removal Managers	Coordination and Planning	REOC, Edison, NJ
6	OSCs	Coordination, Planning, and Response	REOC, Edison, NJ
3	RST II Contractors	Coordination and Assessment	REOC, Edison, NJ
1	EPA CIC / PA	Information Officer	REOC, Edison, NJ
2	ATSDR	Coordination and Assessment	REOC, Edison, NJ
2	REOC Contractors	Planning and Hotline Ops	REOC, Edison, NJ

## 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

## 6. Additional sources of information

### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

WEBSITE: <http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR EPAOSC.NET:

If you do not have a password or have never used the EPAOSC.net website before, you will need to click the login button on the top right of the web page. Once on the login page, you will need to click on REGISTER HERE, provide the information requested and submit. This submits your request to ERT, and they will generate a user ID and password for you to enter the private side of the Website. In less than 10 minutes after registering, you should receive an e-mail from ERT SUPPORT providing the information (login and password). At this point you can then enter the website: [www.epaosc.net](http://www.epaosc.net), click on log in, then enter your information. Once logged in, click on websites, then click on Region 2. The Hurricane Irene website should be one of the first ten websites that pop up, if not, you can scroll down to find the site. Click on R2 Hurricane Irene. Once on the site, you can navigate to the documents that will be stored there.

If you find that you are having trouble viewing the website, please give the EPA duty officer a call at (732) 906-6850

EPA Edison REOC:	732-906-6850
Afterhours Notifications, National Response Center (NRC):	800-424-8802
Regional Incident Commander (RIC), James Daloia	908-420-4505
NYC EOC (Albany), Michael Solecki, OSC	908-420-4501
NJ EOC (Trenton), Carl Pellegrino, OSC	908- 420-4491
FEMA District 1 RRCC (NYC), Steve Touw, OSC	908-420-4458
NYC EOC - EPA not requested at this time	

### 6.2 Reporting Schedule

Situation Reports are planned for release at 1630 on a daily basis.

## 7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.