

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 #9
R2 Hurricane Irene/TS Lee (NY) Response

Edison, NJ
Latitude: 40.5159553 Longitude: -74.3550459

To:
From: Eric Mosher, Regional Incident Coordinator
Date: 9/3/2011
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

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

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 up to 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 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

OPERATIONS

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 staging and coordinating the deployment of operational resources including EPA ERRS and RST contractor support.

- 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 and Response Activities

Beginning with the next PolRep / SitRep, EPA will address only the major spills/actions in detail. EPA will continue to address smaller incidents and response in a small, single summary narrative. Below is a list of current open actions and recently closed actions.

ACTIVE INVESTIGATIONS AND RESPONSES

NEW JERSEY

15 Hillary, West Paterson, NJ (Daly)

Requested: September 3, 2011

Report of 550 gallon tank impacted by storm events with an estimated 120 gallon discharged into the basement of residential home. Passaic County requested assistance in the recovery of oil from the home basement.

Presidential Blvd, Paterson, NJ (Daly / Ferriola)

Requested: September 3, 2011

EPA and NJDEP assessment of the area indicates several junk yards and auto repair shops leaking oil into the Passaic River. EPA ERRS crew addressing via boom deployment and sorbent / vac truck recovery.

Haroldson Place Pompton Lakes Pompton Lakes, NJ (Daly)

Requested: September 2, 2011

Calls into EPA and NJDEP on 09/2/2011 have indicated odor complaints in this area of Pompton Lakes, located south of the lake and west along the river. NJDEP and EPA responded to the area. OSC Daly responded to the incident, which has received political attention. A vacuum truck was sent to assist. Congressman Parcell's office has been in contact with EPA.

Lake Haiwatha Oil Spill, Lake Hiawatha, NJ (Rosoff/ Chong)

Requested: 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. OSC Rosoff responds to the incident on 09-01-2011 with an ERRS strike team. Most homes have outdoor home heating tanks impacted by wind and water. Recovery of free product from surface materials and recovery of product from home heating oil tanks commenced. OSC Lucarino coordinating with local and state officials, NJDEP, DOH, and OEM. Assessments continue of the amount of properties to be addressed in removal action. Approximately 400 homes impacted. Efforts coordinated through NJDEP Command Post. On 09/2/2011 it was determined that household hazardous waste collection needs are prevalent. Residents are combining household debris with potentially hazardous substances for normal trash disposal. Additional ERRS crews were deployed to assist in response efforts. Several homes in the area have been condemned due to high vapors. (Action on-going)

Mahwah River Oil Spill Mahwah, NJ (J. Bechtel)

Requested on August 30, 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. On September 1, 2011 OSCs Chong and Bechtel investigated the area and found debris with oil staining. ERRS crews are on-scene. On September 2, 2011 OSC Bechtel and ERRS crews collected oil debris, a total of 30 bags of oil debris from 4 residential properties along Breakshoe Road. Additional properties remain and the County showed OSC Bechtel an area of standing water with oil that needs to be recovered. Operations were limited

because ERRS crew was moved to Pompton Lakes due to priorities. OSC awaiting small john boats to access and recover oils in small water body.

59 Cedar Water Trail Southampton, NJ (Chong)

Requested: August 31, 2011

Site also known as Southampton Marsh Oil Spill. Assessment conducted by OSC Chong on 08/31/2011. 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. OSC Chong responded on 09/2/2011 with ERRS crews to apply sorbent material.

West Paterson Oil West Paterson, NJ (Daly, Banner, Maimone)

Requested: August 31, 2011

Listed as a high priority case by NJDEP. Sheening found on the water along Passaic River with impact to numerous homes. OSC Daly investigated the area on 09/01/2011 with NJDEP and local officials. The area of McBride Street remains under water. A majority of standing oil was removed by NJDEP, however, significant odors remain in the area. Officials inspected an auto body facility along Hillery Street located next to the Passaic River. Minor petroleum spills and residual oil was removed by NJDEP. OSC Daly returned to the area on 09/02/2011 and 9/3/2011 to meet with officials. When an ERRS crew becomes available, it will be deployed to the area.

Paterson Oil Paterson, NJ (Daly/Ferriola/Kluesner)

Request: September 1, 2011

On 09/1/2011 OSC Daly met with NJDEP Anthony Carl to discuss future operations in Paterson, NJ. Along Union Avenue and Emerson Avenue, there are approximately 25 residential properties that have flooding in the basements with oil/water mix. Oily material was also noted outside the homes upon further investigation. A priority has been placed on this area by NJDEP due to the waters starting to recede. On 09/02/2011 and 9/3/2011 OSC Daly returned to the area to meet with local officials. President Obama and Administrator Jackson are scheduled to be in the area on 09/04/2011. CIC Kluesner has been assigned to the area.

Saddle River Oil Spill South Hackensack, NJ (N. Norrell)

Requested: August 29, 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. On 09/2/2011 OSC Norrell met with OEM and local officials on determining additional assessments and cleanup operations. On 9/3/2011 OSC Norrell deployed (1) ERRS crew to recover oiled materials and debris. New sorbent boom placed, oil soaked vegetation and debris is releasing oil pockets into stream. ERRS conducted vegetation removed to get to product along stream edge. Vegetation is oiled and will be disposed of. Cleaning of stream edge is expected to begin tomorrow.

769 Columbus Rd. Residential Pump-Out/

Rt. 130 Residential Pump-Out Burlington, NJ (Chong)

Requested: August 31, 2011

NJDEP requested OSC assistance to investigate a hardship case where water may need to be pumped out of a basement. OSC Chong investigated on 08-31-2011. Oil/water mixture in basement and oil remaining in tank need to be removed.

NEW YORK

Prattsville Response Prattsville, NY (Hoppe)

Requested: September 2, 2011

Town of Prattsville has been impacted heavily by the Hurricane Irene. On 9/2/2011, OSC Hoppe was sent to Prattsville to investigate. RST and ERRS personnel are investigating with the OSC. On 9/3/2011 the REOC deployed OSC Graham to assist in recovery operations in this area. Operations will consist of orphan container recovery, oil spill response, and the

segregation and hazardous debris from non-hazardous debris.

CLOSED AND ADDRESSED INVESTIGATIONS AND RESPONSES

NEW JERSEY

Totowa Oil Spills, Totowa, NJ (Daly)

Requested: September 1, 2011

Closed: September 3, 2011

On 09/1/2011 OSC Daly met with OEM officials from Totowa and NJDEP to investigate a flooded area. Residential properties along Sandra Place and Lincoln Avenue were investigated and found to have impacts due to home heating oil tank discharges. NJDEP has requested that EPA remove contaminated soils from various properties. Investigations at a gas station along Union Avenue showed little contamination that was addressed by the facility operator. OSC Daly returned to the area on 09/02/2011. EPA addressed these properties and this action considered closed by EPA and NJDEP.

Manville Response Manville, NJ

Requested: September 2, 2011

Closed: September 3, 2011

On 9/2/2011 flood waters have retreated from the area which was hard hit by Hurricane Irene. Numerous homes in the area have been impacted by home heating oil releases inside the home as well as outside residential properties. Strong odors of petroleum can be smelled throughout the town. Several people with respiratory conditions have been complaining about issues. The insurance company of a woman's property hired a cleanup crew and has taken care of the immediate threat. On 9/3/2011, Somerset County Hazmat inspected the property and found the homeowner hired contractor to recover oil from home basement. County Hazmat investigation indicated not further homes impacted in this area.

Blackwell Street Oil Dover, NJ (Chong/Lucarino)

Requested: September 1, 2011

Closed: September 3, 2011

NJDEP responded to an oil spill along Blackwell and Salem Streets in Dover, NJ. A tributary of the Rockaway River was found to have oil in it. Booms and sorbents were placed to contain the ~30 gallons of product, however, resources to recover the material are currently not available. NJDEP had requested EPA to remove the remaining material. On 9/3/2011 OSC Chong and Lucarino investigated this report and found all oil recovery materials removed and no major signs of oil impacts.

Little Falls Oil Little Falls, NJ (Daly)

Requested on September 1, 2011

Closed on September 3, 2011

On 09/1/2011 OSC Daly met with NJDEP and local officials. A home heating oil tank lost its contents due to Hurricane Irene Floodwaters. The capacity of the tank is 275 gallons. The basement floor is made of an Earthen Material. Due to the basement floor being permeable to the oily water, NJDEP informed EPA that they would deploy their vacuum truck operator to collect this material. OSC Daly returned to the area on 09/2/2011. OSC Daly confirmed completion of this Action.

Reich Ave, Mahwah, NJ (Bechtel)

Requested: September 3, 2011

Closed: September 3, 2011

Oil impacted homes on Reich ave (#'s 123, 125, 126, 128). 30 bags of oily debris were recovered and removed by EPA ERRS.

NEW YORK

Tuxedo Oil Spill Tuxedo Park, NY

Requested: August 29, 2011

Closed: September 3, 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 is complaining of odors. NYSDEC walked through the community and noted odors, but did not observe any sheening or staining. The NYSDEC informed EPA that this operation was completed on 9/2/2011.

Schoharie Oil Spill, Village of Schoharie, NY

Requested: September 3, 2011

Closed: September 3, 2011

REOC received a report and request for assistance from the NYS IMT who reported a possible oil spill from (2) 50,000 gallons. The REOC is working on mobilizing resources to investigate and address this report. OSC Kahn conducted follow up with NYSDEC who reported they previously inspected this report and found that only 1,000 gallons was released but was unrecoverable due it being washed downstream. NYSDEC considered this action closed.

Harbor House Restaurant Piermont, NY –

Requested: 08-29-2011

Closed: 9/3/2011

Original report indicated 800 gallons of cooking grease has spilled and impacted various residential properties, along with the restaurant. The property owner has refused to perform a cleanup. On 9/3/2011 OSC Bechtel met with facility owner and reported that the PRP hired Castle Environmental to conduct cleanup of 30 gallons of cooking grease. County DOH signed off on remediation 9/3/2011

Below are two summary tables (NY and NJ) of Incident Reports as of 1600 on 9/3/2011. The table includes their status and materials involved;

New Jersey Incidents	Incident Status			
	Closed	Managed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	26	3	16	45
Other		1	2	3
Grand Total	26	4	18	48

New York Incidents	Incident Status		
	Closed	Open	Grand Total
Oil	2	2	4
Other		11	11
Grand Total	2	13	15

Water and Waste Water Facility Assessment

EPA has identified resources to begin the coordination, with NYSDOH, and setting up of logistics of assessing WWTP in Orange County, NY. EPA received a request to for (3) facilities in Orange Co. No other requests have been received as of this report. EPA WWTP Assessment Team planned for deployment on Saturday, 9/3/2011. The EPA team attempted to visit (3) WWTP facilities in Orange County but found the facilities secured/locked. All attempts to contact Plant POCs were unsuccessful. EPA will continue to reach out to the provided contacts, as well as state contacts, to gain access to inspect the county requested facilities.

Drinking Water Facility Assessments

EPA has not received any requests or Mission Assignments for the assessment of drinking water facilities in either NJ or NY.

Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) Cleanup

EPA is working with State, County and Local officials to establish HHW collection and staging areas in the following locations;

NEW JERSEY

Morris County HHW Lake Hiawatha, NJ (Lucarino/Chong)

Associated with Lake Hiawatha Oil Spill. A HHW staging area has been established at River Rd. and Lake Shore. It is currently manned by County, NJDEP, and EPA personnel. This collection is fully operational.

Morris County HHW, Dover, NJ (Lucarion/Chong)

EPA Coordinated with Local OEM Officials and identified a second HHW site in Dover, NJ.
The location of this site will be an old recycling facility at 22 Richboynton Road in Dover, NJ.

NEW YORK

Green County Hunter HHW Hunter, NY

Facility is located on Hylan Road

Green County Windham HHW Windham, NY

Facility is located on Mitchell Hollow Road

Green County Windham HHW Catskill, NY

Facility is located on Route 385 by Hamburg Road

Delaware County Arkvill HHW Arkville, NY

Facility is located on County Route 38, 0.3 mi south of Route 30 and 0.7 miles north of Route 28.

Delaware County Fleischmanns HHW Fleischmanns, NY

Facility is located on Main Street at Route 28

Montgomery County

Staging areas are currently being identified.

Albany County

Staging areas are currently being identified.

Schenectady County

Staging areas are currently being identified.

Rensselaer County

Staging areas are currently being identified.

Columbia County

Staging areas are currently being identified.

Schoharie County Howe Cave HHW Howe Cave, NY

Facility is located at the Cobleskill/Howe Cave transfer facility at 2805 Route 7.

2.2 Planning Section

- 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 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.

EPA ERRS crews have been deployed to priority field operations. The REOC continues to plan and order ERRS resources as the funding is available and the need arises.

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

FEMA has identified (2) locations for Joint Field Offices. The NJ JFO is to be located in Neptune, NJ and the NY JFO is to be located Albany, 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 been assigned and is currently working ERRS field safety officers and OSCs. An initial Health and Safety Plan has been developed and reviewed and approved. A copy of the HASP will be posted to the regional incident website;

<http://www.epaosc.org/R2HurricaneIreneResponse>. A safety message is distributed daily and can also be found the Incident website.

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**. The Information Officer has been working on the following items and issues;

- CIC met with residents and distributed flyers at the Pompton Lakes flood zone.
- CIC working on developing flyers dedicated to flooding and air quality.

3. Participating Entities

3.1 Unified Command

3.2 Cooperating Agencies

EPA is currently coordinating with FEMA, NYS DEC, NYS DOH, NJ DEP, NYSEMO, NJ OEM

4. Personnel On Site

Region/State	Current EPA Personnel In Field (All Venues other than EPA Offices)	Current EPA Contractor Personnel In Field	EPA Personnel in REOC	Contractor Personnel in REOC	Total
Region 2			12	11	23
New York	9	22			31
New Jersey	10	26			36
Total	19	48	12	11	90

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, 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 the 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

Afterhours Notifications, National Response Center (NRC):	800-424-8802
Regional Incident Commander (RIC), James Daloia	908-420-4505
FEMA IMAT (Albany), Dwayne Harrington, OSC	908-420-4492
NJ EOC (Trenton), Ellen Banner, OSC	908- 420-4462
FEMA 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.