



IncidentNews.gov Internet Site

Spill operations seriously strain the normal abilities of organizations to gather, process, and distribute information. In addition to the time-critical support requirements of local multi-agency decisions within the Unified Command, there are often information needs from groups not directly involved in response operations and the public for rapid access to information about the spill.

Spill Operations and the Internet

A Unified Command can provide command post staff, official personnel not on-scene, and the public with specifically tailored information by using the Internet. The Emergency Response Division (ERD) (formerly Hazardous Materials Response Division [HAZMAT]) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) worked with the U.S. Coast Guard to establish IncidentNews.gov as an Internet portal for incident operations.

Spill information on the Internet keeps the local populace informed and provides a direct route for public feedback on the response. It is also a valuable tool for informing those outside the command post, such as RRT members, about the spill situation. These supporting organizations can more quickly respond to Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) calls for assistance when they have up-to-date incident information.

Communicating incident information on IncidentNews.gov has three objectives:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of response operations through better information sharing;
- Allowing remote government and private sector groups to monitor operations with a minimum of intrusion; and
- Maintaining direct communications with the public to build confidence in response operations.

Incident-specific Internet sites rapidly disseminate information about the response to target audiences inside and outside the command post. Topics on the site can include press releases, pollution reports, photographs, oil spill trajectories, and maps depicting the status of cleanup operations.

How to get on the IncidentNews.Gov site

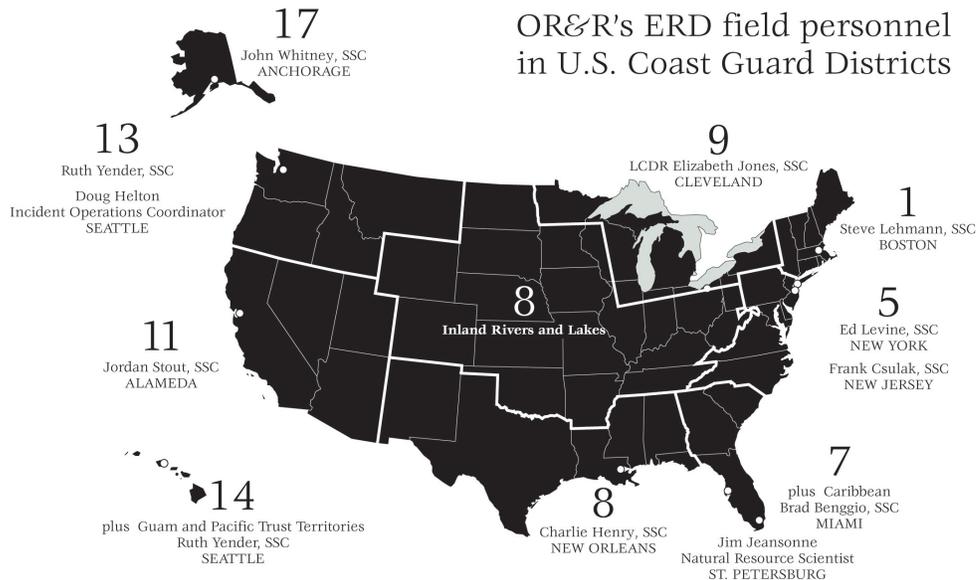
When the Unified Command determines that IncidentNews.gov will be a component of the Incident Command System, the FOSC or Information Officer can request that the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator activate IncidentNews.gov for a spill or drill. At that time the following decisions will need to be made:

- Information topics to be included in each area of the site;
- Delegating clearance authority for each information topic; and
- Posting frequency for each information topic.

The site design for IncidentNews.gov is preestablished to provide consistent user access, rapid updating, and appropriate security. Alteration of the site for a specific spill need only focus on the information content and not the site structure or appearance. Adding a new incident to the site takes about 1 hour from the time of request.

At the conclusion of response activities, information on IncidentNews.gov can be archived to CD or DVD and made available for public distribution. On-line information is archived on IncidentNews.gov for long term access. Contact your local SSC or email us at orr.incidentnews@noaa.gov to establish a spill or drill on <http://www.incidentnews.gov>.

OR&R's ERD field personnel in U.S. Coast Guard Districts



District 1

Steve Lehmann
NOAA SSC
CDR 1st Coast Guard District (MEP)
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02110
Office: 617-223-8016
Cell: 617-877-2806
E-mail: Steve.Lehmann@noaa.gov

District 5

Ed Levine
NOAA SSC
USCG Battery Park Building
1 South Street Room 321
New York, New York 10004
Office: 212-668-6428
Cell: 206-849-9941
E-mail: Ed.Levine@noaa.gov

Frank Csulak
NOAA SSC
74 MacGruder Road
Highlands, New Jersey 07732
Office: 732-872-3005
Cell: 732-371-1005
E-mail: Frank.Csulak@noaa.gov

District 7

Brad Benggio
NOAA SSC
909 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 714
Brickell Plaza Federal Building
Miami, Florida 33131
Office: 305-530-7931
Cell: 206-849-9923
E-mail: Brad.Benggio@noaa.gov

Jim Jeansonne
NOAA Natural Resource Scientist
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702
Office: 727-551-5714
Cell: 206-276-5308
E-mail: Jim.Jeansonne@noaa.gov

District 8

Charlie Henry
NOAA SSC
CDR Eighth Coast District (M-SSC)
Hale Boggs Federal Building
500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
Office: 504-589-4414
Cell: 206-849-9928
E-mail: Charlie.Henry@noaa.gov

District 9

LCDR Elizabeth Jones
NOAA SSC
U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office
AJC Federal Building
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44199
Office: 216.522.7760
Cell: 206-849-9918
E-mail: Elizabeth.Jones@noaa.gov

District 11

Jordan Stout
NOAA SSC
Coast Guard Island, Building 50-7
Alameda, California 94501
Office: 510-437-5344
Cell: 206-321-3320
E-mail: Jordan.Stout@noaa.gov

Districts 13 and 14

Ruth Yender
NOAA SSC
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115
Office: 206-526-6081
Cell: 206-849-9926
E-mail: Ruth.Yender@noaa.gov

Doug Helton
NOAA Incident Operations Coordinator
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115
Office: 206-526-4563
Cell: 206-890-7760
E-mail: Doug.Helton@noaa.gov

District 17

John Whitney
NOAA SSC
Peterson Towers Building, Suite 100
510 L Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Office: 907-271-3593
Cell: 907-440-8109
E-mail: John.Whitney@noaa.gov

In the event an SSC cannot be reached,
or for 24/7 emergency support, contact
the ERD Duty Officer at 206-526-4911.

NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
please visit our Web site at

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov> or call (301) 713-2989.

