



Maine and New Hampshire Area Committee

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Area Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 4, 2023

Time: 9:00am to 12:00 pm

Location: ME Air National Guard, 50 Western Ave., South Portland, ME (and virtual via
Microsoft Teams-hosted by SNNE)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Wyman Briggs, SNNE

Wyman welcomed all members to the meeting and began with introductions of members attending the meeting in person.

2. **On-Scene Coordinator Comments**

- Chris Hopper (SOSC, ME DEP): Welcomed members and noted he was looking forward to presentations.
- Gardiner Warr (SOSC, NH DES): Also welcomed members and highlighted that he was impressed with the agenda and all the recent good work by the Area Committee.
- CDR LuAnn Kehlenbach (Representing FOSC) noted that she was excited to be joining her first in-person full ME/NH Area Committee Meeting.

3. **Damaged Shipping Container Case Study, MST1 Scott Baumgartner (USCG-SNNE)**

MST1 Baumgartner provided a review of an incident involving a damaged shipping container aboard the M/V SKOGAFOSS that contained approximately 6,000 gallons of organic, high oleic, sunflower oil. The container was damaged and began leaking in transit from Reykjavik, Iceland to Portland, ME during heavy weather and presented pollution concerns aboard the vessel, especially during a potential offload to the Portland International Marine Terminal (IMT). Key issues discussed included;

- Environmental hazards and response concerns associated with a non-petroleum oil.
- Dangers associated with non-hazardous loads (not placarded for flammability or toxicity)
- Potential unknowns of shipping containers and their contents. How are materials stowed, what are the weak points and/or how are they safely assessed or accessed.
- Understanding the concerns with all available response strategies from doing nothing to restricting the movement and operations of foreign vessel and a regulated facility
- Power of partnerships (ME DEP, NOAA, Port Partners, OSRO) to develop and implement response strategies.

4. Oil Movement Under Ice, Nancy Kinner, UNH, Director, Coastal Response Research Center
Ms. Kinner presented on the challenges of tracking oil movement in arctic and other ice-impacted environments. The work of her organization supports NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration and NOAA's oil trajectory software, GNOME. Key takeaways from her presentation included:

- Ice is not flat on top or flat on bottom, presenting tremendous surface area where oil can adhere and/or pool.
- 80/20 rule for oil movement in ice.
- Challenges for recreating ice environments in the lab
- Importance of even slight variations (less than a tenth of a knot) in current speed below the ice surface can change oil movement trajectories.
- Need for more research to test behaviors of different oils in ice-impacted environments.

5. PFAS Concerns and Response Consideration, Chris Hopper, Maine DEP

Mr. Hopper provided an overview of the concerns with PFAS contamination, especially in aquatic environments, resulting from the use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) by industry and first responders mainly during firefighting/fire-prevention activities. Important takeaways from his presentation included:

- PFAS compounds include perfluorooctane acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)
- PFAS can accumulate and stay in the human body for long periods of time. Long-term exposure to PFAS/PFOA/PFOS, in high concentrations, causes a buildup in the body. This buildup may have negative health effects like a risk of thyroid disease and several types of cancer.
- What are safe levels of PFAS in the environment? Currently the only standard is the "drinking water" standard.
- How are impacts to aquaculture being tracked, monitored, resolved?
- To date, ME DEP has not sampled/tested any AFFF that didn't contain PFAS even if the products were described as having "no PFAS added."
- AFFF is not the only source of PFAS in the environment and there is no baseline from which to determine the impacts from prescribed uses or accidental releases.
- Fluorine-free foams are marketed as safer AFFF alternatives but the ecotoxicity and impacts on human health of most fluorine-free foams and their ingredients have not been characterized or assessed.
- New discharge prohibitions were implemented in Maine in 2022. A person may not discharge or cause to be discharged for testing or training purposes a firefighting or fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS have been intentionally added unless the foam is entirely collected by the person for proper disposal. While not prohibiting use in actual emergencies there has been growing concern from Fire Departments and those involved in mutual aid agreements from the potential liabilities for their use.

6. Piscataqua River Exercise Series (PRES) 2023, Jason Domke, NH DES

Mr. Domke provided an overview of the planning and scenario development for PRES 23 ICS exercise.

- Scheduled for 26-27 Sep 2023 and up to 100 participants in the Incident Command Post.
- Spill scenario will involve a larger spill from and be vessel based, currently searching for an industry partner.
- Expect to have greater focus on "in the field", real world activities.
- EPA may deploy VIPER air monitoring system.

7. Introduction to Maine Emergency Management Agency, Jonathan Ross, MEMA

Mr. Ross provided an overview of Maine's Emergency Management Agency and how they support Maine response agencies and external partners during a crisis.

- “Disasters start and end locally.” MEMA works as a conduit for information and resources to be shared between intra-state agencies within Maine, other U.S. states via mutual aid agreements, the federal response network through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and potentially with Canada via IEMAC.
- Major divisions of MEMA include, Mitigation, Planning, and Recovery Division, Operations & Response Division, Homeland Security Division, and Public Information Division

8. ME/NH Incident Management Team Workshop (IMAT) Wyman Briggs, USCG-SNNE

Mr. Briggs provided an overview of the February 8-9, 2023, IMAT workshop hosted at the Scarborough Public Safety Building in Scarborough, ME

- Exercise scenario involved an oil spill into the Fore River from the cargo of a tank ship.
- Tested the capability of the Microsoft Teams environment to create an electronic IAP and related documents for local, state, and federal partners.
- Excellent support for participants with coaches/facilitators from area CG units assigned to each ICS section.
- ICS 300 refresher for all participants on the training day, helped everyone prepare for the exercise day.
- Still need to improve connection to and information sharing within the digital/Teams environment for all participating agencies.

9. USCG D1 Updates: Cornell Rosiu, D1-DRAT

- RRT1 state representatives meeting scheduled for April 25, 2023, virtually via Microsoft Teams.
- JRT Meeting scheduled for June 13-14, 2023, with Canadian partners in-person in New Brunswick, CA
- RRT1 meeting planned for June 28-29, 2023, with participation details still TBD.

10. Agency Updates: Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR)

- Ben Wahle taking over as head of ME DMR Oil Spill Response.

11. Recent/Upcoming Events

- PRES 2023, NH DES, Portsmouth, NH, Sep 26-27, 2023
- Full ME/NH Area Committee Meeting at NH DES in Portsmouth on Oct 10, 2023

12. Co-Chairs Closing Comments/Adjoin

- Each of the co-chairs/acting co-chairs provided brief closing remarks.

Meeting adjourned
