



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT

FY2022



PREVENTION - PREPAREDNESS - RESPONSE

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WELCOME

It is with great excitement that we are able to share the Fiscal Year 2022 Emergency Management Accomplishments Report. EPA's emergency management responsibilities are the backbone of the federal government's efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to natural disasters and environmental emergencies. Our work supports other federal partners, as well as state, local, and tribal governments to respond to chemical and hazardous substance releases and oil spills. Much of our work occurs in communities that are underserved and overburdened, and the agency collaborates with these communities to move towards equity related to environmental and health protection.



This report details major response and removal actions from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022, and outlines our regulatory actions to protect community health through chemical accident and oil spill prevention and preparedness. It features science-based solutions that EPA utilizes during all phases of crisis and consequence management.

The agency continues to find solutions, even while navigating rapidly changing environmental impacts due to climate change. It is projected that climate change will continue to increase the prevalence and severity of natural disasters such as hurricanes and extreme flooding. For chemical and oil facilities, this presents risks and vulnerabilities. EPA has made efforts to enhance climate resiliency through its proposed regulations for chemical accident prevention and preparedness. These efforts include requiring regulated facilities to evaluate risks of climate change and plan for worst-case discharges of hazardous substances in adverse weather conditions.

Although there is much more to do, EPA is proud to share accomplishments that highlight the great work that has been done in the past year. By sharing the highlights of our prevention, preparedness, and response activities, we hope to expand our communication efforts to key stakeholders, partners, and the public.

Thank you to all the EPA staff who have contributed—and continue to contribute—to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BDR', written over a light blue background.

Brendan Roache
Deputy Director
Office of Emergency Management

PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS FOR CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS AND OIL SPILLS

EPA works with industry, community representatives, and state, local, and tribal governments to help prevent and prepare for accidental chemical releases and oil spills. In addition to imposing regulatory requirements on industrial facilities, the agency's emergency prevention and preparedness programs play an important role in increasing transparency and communication among facilities, governments, and communities. Our programs provide stakeholders with information about hazards to facilitate prevention and emergency planning and response efforts.

Over the last year, EPA has been actively working to enhance prevention and preparedness provisions in our regulations to protect nearby communities from accidental releases.

REGULATORY ACTIONS

Proposed Stronger Regulations to Protect Communities from Chemical Accidents

EPA proposed [revisions](#) to the Risk Management Program rule to further protect vulnerable communities from chemical accidents, especially communities located near facilities with high accident rates. The [Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention](#) proposed rule focuses on facilities with high accident rates to protect communities that are most at risk, requiring certain facilities to do more to prevent chemical accidents. The proposal also added new provisions that were not addressed in prior rules, including greater transparency for communities on safety decisions and enhanced employee participation in the accident prevention and planning process.

The agency solicited public comment on several topics to inform the final rule and to better target changes in future rulemakings. In addition to the public comment period, EPA held three virtual [public hearings](#). EPA is currently reviewing the comments received and is planning to publish a final rule by August 2023.



Proposed Facility Response Planning Regulations for Hazardous Substance Discharges

EPA proposed [new requirements](#) for certain facilities to plan for worst-case discharges of hazardous substances under the Clean Water Act. A worst-case discharge is the largest foreseeable discharge in adverse weather conditions, including those due to climate change. Facilities subject to the [Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Facility Response Plan](#) proposed rule would be required to prepare response plans for worst-case discharges, or threat of such discharges, and submit them to EPA. The agency is currently reviewing public comments and is planning to publish a final rule by September 2024.

EPA Developing Regulations for Dispersant Use in Response to Oil Spills

The agency continues to work on amending regulations for dispersant use in response to oil spills in coastal waters. The amendments, initially proposed in 2015, are a major component of EPA's effort to regulate the use of dispersants and other chemical or biological agents when responding to oil discharges.

EPA will finalize the 2015 proposed action in two parts. On July 6, 2021, the agency finalized new [monitoring requirements](#) for dispersant use in response to major oil discharges and certain dispersant use situations. EPA continues to work on a final action for the remaining authorization of use and product testing and listing provisions, which will be published by May 31, 2023. The amendments will incorporate lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response.

New Reporting Requirements for 1-Bromopropane Releases

EPA added the chemical 1-bromopropane to the List of Hazardous Substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This rulemaking triggers reporting for a 1-bromopropane release, providing improved data to protect public health and encourage better chemical handling. The list of CERCLA hazardous substances can be found at [40 CFR part 302.4](#) in Table 302.4 ("List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities"). This chemical was previously added to the Clean Air Act List of Hazardous Air Pollutants in December 2021.





GUIDANCE & FACT SHEETS

National Handbook for Local and Tribal Emergency Planning Committees

EPA developed a [national handbook](#) as a resource for local and tribal emergency planning committees to strengthen community preparedness for accidental chemical releases. It compiles and expounds upon existing guidance materials for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and its amendments under the America's Water Infrastructure Act. The handbook is particularly helpful for new members of tribal and local organizations responsible for implementing EPCRA and for communities that may deal with chemical accidents. Furthermore, the handbook includes guidance on how to include consideration of community needs in emergency planning and tools and resources for planning and response.

Joint Safety Advisory on Chemical Warehouse Safety

EPA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a [joint safety advisory](#) on the risks of improper storage of hazardous chemicals at chemical warehouses and distribution facilities. This safety advisory informs the industry of the federal requirements that they must comply with to help prevent chemical accidents and security incidents.

In recent years, federal agencies have found that many warehouse facilities do not manage chemicals in a safe or secure manner. Complying with applicable regulations discussed in the joint safety advisory may help avoid catastrophic chemical accidents.

Fact Sheet on EPCRA Reporting Requirements for Fertilizer Retailers

EPA developed a [fact sheet](#) to help fertilizer retailers comply with EPCRA reporting requirements. Fertilizer retailers are required to report their chemicals stored on site unless their chemicals meet the retail fertilizer exemption. The fact sheet explains the retail fertilizer exemption under EPCRA section 311(e)(5) and provides an overview of all EPCRA reporting requirements.



OUTREACH & FIELD WORK

Tribal Outreach for Chemical Accident and Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness Programs

Environmental emergencies may occur on tribal lands, so it is important for tribal communities to be prepared and implement necessary prevention measures. Throughout the year, EPA has enhanced outreach, training, inspection targeting, and coordination with tribes to improve implementation of these programs in Indian Country. The agency provided free [webinars](#) and inspector training to educate tribes on their responsibilities to prevent and prepare for oil discharges and chemical emergencies. EPA also engaged with tribes to help identify and target inspections at high-risk facilities on Indian lands. Furthermore, EPA improved coordination with tribes by tracking participation in Tribal Emergency Planning Committee activities.

Inspections at Chemical and Oil Facilities

To ensure compliance with EPA prevention and preparedness regulations, the agency trains and provides inspection resources to regional inspectors for oversight of chemical and oil facilities. Inspections and government-initiated unannounced exercises can result in enforcement actions to ensure facilities comply with regulatory requirements and to protect human health and the environment.



PREPARING EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

EPA's on-scene coordinators (OSCs) are the first-line workforce responsible for implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and for overseeing on-site emergency response and removal actions at hazardous waste sites. They are environmental engineers or scientists who apply their professional knowledge to response and removal actions that are consistent with the requirements of CERCLA and the National Contingency Plan. OSCs are required to coordinate, review, monitor, and direct the work at sites—from site discovery to completion of the time-critical removal action or emergency response activities to cost recovery activity. They provide coordination and support to local, state, and federal partners during responses via assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and response assistance. In addition, [EPA Special Teams](#) work to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear emergencies by providing scientific support, technical expertise, and around-the-clock assistance. EPA responders participate in training to maintain their technical skills to effectively and efficiently respond to environmental emergencies and natural disasters.



OSC Readiness Training Conference

The OSC Readiness Training Program is an annual conference that serves as the primary source of continuing education for EPA's OSCs. Attendance includes OSCs, the agency's special teams, and support staff.



The training provided at the program helps EPA fulfill its statutory responsibility for technology transfer and training related to OSCs, which is mandatory under the National Contingency Plan, and to meet certain certification requirements.

The objectives of the training program include:

- Ensure consistent training that supports a national approach to cleaning up complex hazardous waste sites
- Enhance knowledge and skills essential to successful job performance
- Increase effectiveness and efficiency through intra-agency networking and communication
- Showcase agency case studies, current tools, technologies, and available resources



Preparing for Petroleum Products Discharges

On August 10, 2022, EPA participated in the National Level Exercise 2022 Spill of National Significance (SONS) National Coordination Workshop in Washington, D.C. hosted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The exercise scenario involved a 20 million gallon spill of petroleum products discharging to the Columbia and Willamette Rivers following a catastrophic 9.0 magnitude earthquake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. This event examined the differences in authorities and coordination required for responding under the Stafford Act and National Contingency Plan. Lead federal agencies and their roles and responsibilities across the federal interagency were also reviewed. The workshop identified ways of improving coordination and communication for future preparedness activities, especially as they relate to SONS events. The interagency exercise was held in-person and virtually.

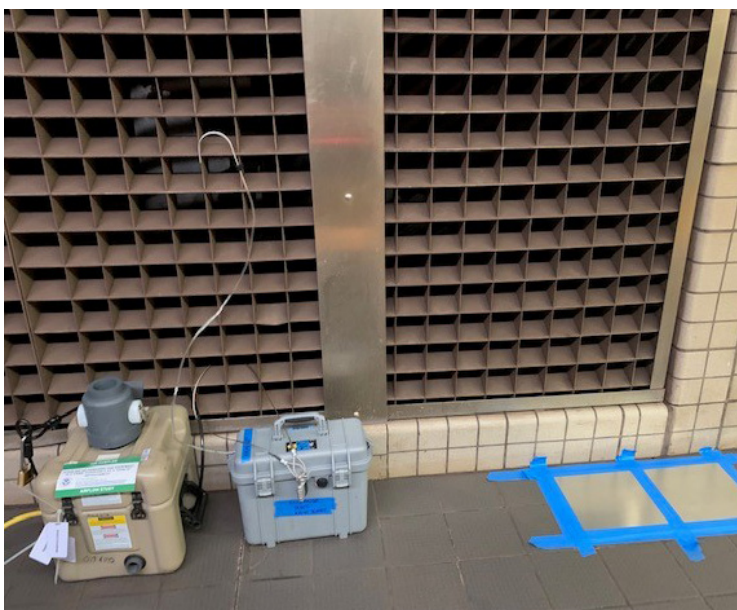
PREPARING FOR TERRORISM & SECURITY INCIDENTS

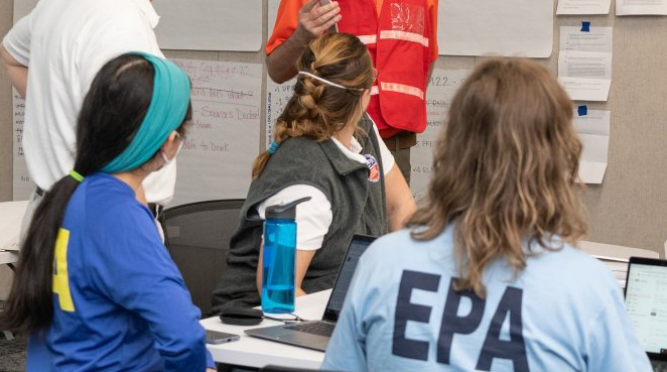
Environmental emergencies can arise from a variety of factors, including from the effects of a terrorist attack or any other security-related incident. EPA develops guidance and participates in exercises to ensure the nation is prepared should these incidents occur.

Improving Resiliency of Public Transit Systems from Urban Threats

In October 2021, EPA joined the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and other New York City stakeholders, in testing to improve the resiliency of urban areas and transportation systems against chemical and biological agents, including threats from potential terrorist attacks. The testing was part of the [Urban Threat and Dispersion](#) project and will help the government characterize the dispersion of a biological simulant in a subway system into buildings and certain critical infrastructure in the metro area.

EPA led sampling efforts that generated data sets to validate and refine subway and outdoor dispersion models. This information will help transit officials and emergency management professionals strategize response activities following a biological terrorist attack. Additionally, the data collected will assist EPA in preparing for post-incident responsibilities and inform research prioritization to build applicable capabilities. This effort was a follow-up to EPA and DHS's previous collaboration on the [Underground Transport and Restoration](#) project.





Coordinating Aerial Assets During a Radiological Response

In May 2022, EPA participated in the [Cobalt Magnet](#) exercise, a full-scale activity simulating a dirty bomb event and response. The five-day exercise activated state, local and private organizations as well as federal partners, simulating their responses to the release of radiological material. EPA deployed the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology ([ASPECT](#)) during the exercise to gain experience in coordinating this asset with the Department of Energy's fixed-wing aerial assets, the [Aerial Measuring System](#). EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy jointly supported a [Nuclear Incident Response Team](#) project involving these assets, and the exercise was the capstone event for the project. Early in the exercise, ASPECT measured environmental levels of radiation and provided data to the Federal Radiological

Measurement and Assessment Center. As the exercise progressed, ASPECT staff integrated into the on-site Incident Management Team, flew multiple missions as requested, and provided descriptions of the technology and data to the team and press during the event.

What is ASPECT?

The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology ([ASPECT](#)) is EPA's real-time chemical and radiological detection, infrared, and photographic imagery platform. ASPECT is available 24/7/365 to assist local, national, and international agencies.

Enhancing Decontamination Practices for Chemical Warfare Agents

In September 2022, EPA participated in an exercise to improve decontamination practices for chemical warfare agents. The goal of the exercise was to test and refine the setup, execution, and break down procedures of all stations that comprise the decontamination line. The process was refined to effectively decontaminate personnel, hand-held equipment, and samples to minimize cross contamination and to protect the overall health & safety of personnel. Several refinements to the procedures were identified that took advantage of the latest technology and commercially available products. This updated procedure will be used in future exercises and events.



Updated Quick Reference Guides for Responders

EPA works with the [National Response Team](#) to prepare and update quick reference guides as tools for the response community on various hazards. These updates help ensure that responders have current information to effectively respond to a wide range of incidents. In 2022, quick reference guide updates were provided for:

- **Biological agents:** [Bacillus anthracis](#) (anthrax) and [Yersinia pestis](#) (plague)
- **Chemical warfare nerve agents:** [Sarin](#), [Tabun](#), [Soman](#), [Cyclosarin](#), and [VX](#)

Wide Area Demonstration to Prepare for a Biological Agent Release

In May 2022, EPA performed a [wide area demonstration](#) that simulated a response to an intentional *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax) release which examined and evaluated lab-tested response procedures that could help the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and EPA actively respond to future biohazard incidents. This was the culminating event after years of testing and field studies to ground-truth technologies and methodologies intended for use by responders. The team followed steps that embodied an actual biological response, including testing and evaluating options for decontamination, sampling, data management, and waste management of used and contaminated materials.

This demonstration was part of the [Analysis for Coast Operational Resiliency](#) (AnCOR) project, a partnership between EPA, USCG, and DHS. The goal of AnCOR is to develop and demonstrate capabilities and strategic guidelines to prepare the nation for a wide area release of a biological agent. EPA and AnCOR partner agencies are preparing a procedure manual and maintenance cards that USCG can use to quickly return to operational capacity should a real outdoor, urban-area biohazard incident occur.



PREPARING RESPONDERS FOR EMERGING BIOLOGICAL THREATS

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

EPA works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) and other organizations to prevent avian influenza from becoming established in the nation's poultry population. [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#) (HPAI) is a serious disease and requires a rapid response because it is highly contagious and often fatal to domestic fowl. During an HPAI incident, EPA can provide technical assistance and support for facility and/or environmental decontamination, including the interpretation of waste management requirements. In September 2022, EPA published the HPAI Emerging BioThreat Brief to prepare EPA responders during a future response. This resource serves as a quick reference document that summarizes currently known facts and provides references to key resources. The document will be updated as more information relevant to HPAI becomes available.

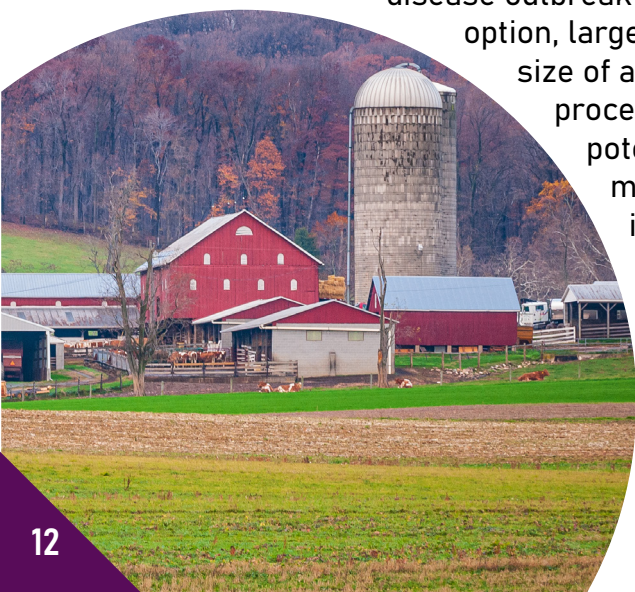


African Swine Fever Virus

While the [African Swine Fever](#) outbreak in other countries has not yet reached the United States, it is important for responders to be prepared, as an outbreak would have a significant impact on the nation's livestock and economy. In March 2022, EPA updated the African Swine Fever Virus Emerging BioThreat Brief, initially released in November 2021. The document provides EPA responders with updated information and references, if needed, to support a future response. The March 2022 update included expanded sections concerning virus transmission routes and vectors as well as waste management considerations. It is meant to be a living document that can be quickly updated to incorporate lessons learned following an incident. EPA partnered with USDA/APHIS, DHS, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop, review, and update the document.

Animal Mortality Disposal Project

To further support preparedness for the African Swine Fever virus, EPA and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture examined disposal options for animal mortality from a foreign animal disease outbreak in January 2022. While composting is a viable disposal option, large animals take a very long time to compost. Reducing the size of animals through grinding greatly accelerates the composting process, but it also produces aerosol emissions which could potentially spread the virus. These tests were conducted to measure grinder-generated aerosols as well as study the impact of cold-weather conditions on grinder operations and composting. This project supported preparedness activities by USDA/APHIS to minimize the impact of an African Swine Fever virus outbreak to human health and the environment as well as to minimize the economic impact of such an outbreak to the \$40 billion pork industry.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

EPA is the lead federal agency for conducting assessment and cleanup in response to releases of oil and hazardous substances, working in close coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Through its [on-scene coordinators](#) (OSCs) and [special teams](#), the agency responds to oil spills, chemical, biological, radiological releases, and large-scale national emergencies that occur inland. EPA provides supplemental response assistance when state and local first responder capabilities have been exhausted or when additional support is requested. The agency conducts [removal actions](#) conducted by funding emergency response actions directly or providing oversight and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties. These response activities are taken when contamination poses an immediate threat to human health and the environment. Many of these actions and incidents occur in diverse communities of color that are underserved, and the agency works diligently to provide the same amount of protection from environmental threats and hazards as other communities.

Every year, EPA receives around 19,000 notifications via the National Response Center, managed by USCG, related to spills in the environment. These spills range in size and can threaten human health, the environment, the economic viability of a community, and the availability of critical infrastructure, such as drinking water systems.

EPA's role also includes responding to planned incidents and terrorist attacks, like the 2001 World Trade Center and anthrax attacks. The agency participates in and hosts exercises that prepare state, local, and other federal emergency management staff for these types of incidents.

Overview of Emergency Response: Fiscal Year 2022



226
On-Scene
Coordinators
(OSCs)



195
Total
Removal
Actions



108
Emergency
Response
Actions



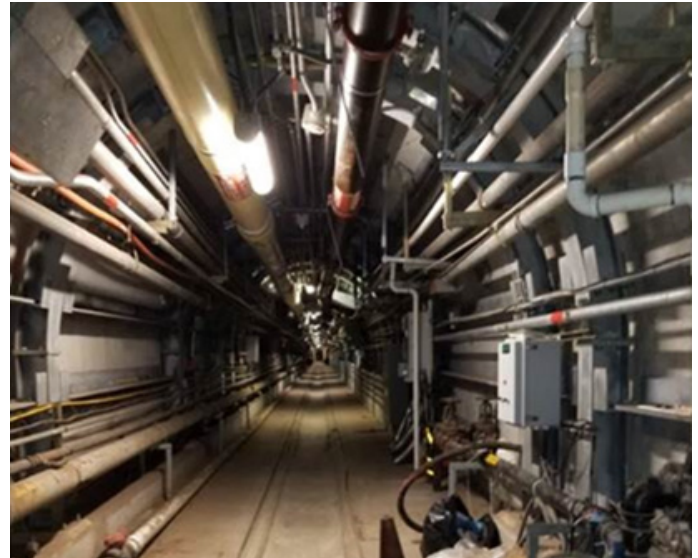
**Most Frequent
Contaminants**
Mercury
Asbestos
Lead
Volatile Organic Compounds
Tetrachloroethene

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & REMOVAL ACTIONS

Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Oahu, Hawaii

In November 2021, 14,000 gallons of a mixture of jet fuel and water were discharged from a ruptured pipeline at the [Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility](#) at the U.S. Navy's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) in Oahu, Hawaii. The mixture entered a tunnel and one of the three main drinking water shafts that serve JBPHH and the City of Honolulu, causing the Navy to shut down the access to the drinking water shaft and the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) to issue a drinking water advisory to not drink or use the tap water from the JBPHH system. This impacted approximately 93,000 U.S. Navy water system users.

In 2015, EPA and HDOH jointly entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with the U.S. Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency following a release in 2014 to address fuel releases and implement infrastructure improvements. In December 2021, EPA joined an Interagency Drinking Water System Team tasked with identifying water distribution zones to be flushed, sampled, and cleared to restore



clean and safe drinking water. OSCs and the Water Emergency Team provided technical advice and consultation on data validation and data management systems and tools for displaying results and progress metrics as the systems were cleaned and brought back on-line. EPA also performed underground storage tanks (UST), Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC), and drinking water inspections at the site.

EPA deployed the Portable High-Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification System ([PHILIS](#)) mobile laboratory assets to Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach, California, where daily military flights from Hawaii transported drinking water samples for analysis. The mobile labs support reduced sample transport time, provided rapid turnaround for results, and significantly increased sampling capacity. The mobile labs were positioned to analyze up to 50 water samples per day, provide initial findings within two days, and provide verified data within seven days of receipt. Throughout the 45-day deployment, the labs analyzed 2,053 drinking water samples, including 1,108 volatile organic compound samples and 945 total organic carbon samples. EPA provided support for this response through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Navy.

In March 2022, the final drinking water advisory was lifted for the last water distribution zone, and a long-term monitoring plan was implemented.



Genesee Valley Finishing Site Rochester, New York

The removal action at the Genesee Valley Metal Finishing Site was completed in FY21 involving the removal of abandoned plating wastes and solvent cleaners from the 10,000 sq ft former electroplating facility. Subsurface soil vapor assessment activities followed the mitigation activities and determined that vapors from the trichloroethylene (TCE) solvent storage tank migrated to the adjacent John Williams No. 5 public grade school, and approximately 10 residential/commercial establishments.

EPA's subsequent investigations defined the extent of the TCE contamination, and the public health concerns were evaluated by EPA's risk assessors. It was determined that TCE vapors were present in the school, two residential properties, and two commercial properties at concentrations of public health concern. In FY22, vapor mitigation systems were installed in the impacted buildings and post installation indoor air sampling conducted during the heating season verified that the systems are operating as designed; effectively mitigating the indoor vapor concerns from TCE contamination migrating from the building source. Extensive coordination was necessary to organize the multiple tasks associated with the project, including investigative efforts, public outreach to numerous diversified groups and individuals, and coordination of construction activities for the installation of vapor mitigation systems.

Conway Park Somerville, Massachusetts

EPA completed the cleanup of Conway Park, which was closed in 2018 due to the discovery of high concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil during a planned park renovation.

EPA and the city memorialized an agreement to address the site contamination through a settlement. The settlement included a path to clean up the

park under a carefully coordinated mixed-work approach, where EPA removed the source contamination by excavating and disposing of contaminated soil, and the city performed the remaining work, which included final site restoration. An event was held in May 2022 to celebrate the reopening of the park and the successful partnership.

New Mexico Wildfires

In May 2022, a federal disaster declaration was issued to provide federal funding to state and local governments for wildfire cleanup in New Mexico across the counties of Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, San Miguel, and Valencia. Following the preliminary assessment of potential hazardous material impacts from the wildfires and support needs by New Mexico Environmental Department, New Mexico requested emergency support. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued EPA a mission assignment to conduct removals of household hazardous waste and bulk asbestos at properties impacted by the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon fires in the counties of Mora and San Miguel.

EPA completed removal and proper disposal of household hazardous waste and bulk asbestos at 314 properties after property owners granted access. After a potential impact to one of the Las Vegas, New Mexico's reservoirs with ash, debris, and sediments following flooding after the wildfires, EPA received a mission assignment from FEMA to provide drinking water technical support to state and local authorities to help them bring their drinking water supply back online.



Waymire Drum Site Los Angeles, California

Between the 1920s and early 2000s, drum cleaning and stripping facilities, and later auto parts salvaging companies, operated at the site location. A 2017 EPA site inspection revealed TCE, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and vinyl chloride in soil gas at concentrations that threatened to migrate to nearby homes. Further assessment by EPA indicated the presence of these compounds in on-site offices, adjacent homes, and crawlspaces. The agency installed vapor mitigation systems in these areas from 2019 to 2020 and conducted testing, operations and maintenance activities through 2021 before handing these responsibilities over to the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Kentucky Tornadoes

In December 2021, a strong low-pressure [tornado system](#) tracked from Kansas City toward the Great Lakes region, producing a significant severe weather event across the Midwest and Southeast. Preliminary reports of more than 50 tornadoes were made across several states, including Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee, with the worst damage concentrated in Kentucky. FEMA issued mission assignments to EPA to assess debris fields for oil and hazardous materials to support the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection.

EPA mobilized OSCs from Regions 4 and 5, as well as contractors. The team contacted

The site is located in a densely populated, predominantly Hispanic, Spanish-speaking, underserved community. Because 89% of the community speaks Spanish, EPA primarily communicated in the language and secondary in English. The neighborhood is in the top 4% of communities with the highest proportion of people of color.

In February 2022, the agency installed pilot systems designed to address the contamination: a soil vapor extraction system, and soil vapor monitoring wells adjacent to the pilot well. The soil vapor extraction system began operating in October 2022.

55 Risk Management Plan facilities, three Facility Response Plan facilities, and seven National Priority List sites within the tornado pathways. None of the identified facilities reported issues or requested assistance. EPA also provided oversight for four responses related to the storm, which included leaking drums from a collapsed warehouse, two gas and electric companies that suffered releases of transformer oil and mineral oil, as well as a commercial parking lot that had damaged vehicles that released diesel fuel. In all the incidents, the EPA OSC conducted site assessments and verified that response activities were being sufficiently executed.





Josephine Fentanyl Emergency Response Grants Pass, Oregon

On February 3rd, 2022, EPA was contacted by Josephine County Public Health regarding an incident at the Josephine County Jail. An unknown amount of fentanyl was smuggled into a jail holding cell and eventually released into the holding cell and floor drain. Both inmates and deputies were transported to a local hospital where they were treated for potential fentanyl exposure. In the absence of any other available resources or responders for the incident, EPA mobilized to the jail to conduct appropriate cleanup and decontamination measures.

EPA performed initial testing using field screening technology along with assistance from the Oregon 102nd WMD Civil Support Team (CST) and identified areas of the jail to be decontaminated. EPA coordinated with specialists in its Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response (CESER) for the appropriate decontamination solutions and methods. Following approximately five days of decontamination and sampling, the jail was cleared and returned to the county for use.

Addressing Known and Potential Lead Exposure Various Locations in the Midwest – Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska

EPA focused resources to address sites with known or high risk of lead exposure. This included forming On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Strike Teams to rapidly assess properties with reported elevated blood lead levels (EBLLs) in children, performing removal actions to address soil contamination at properties with confirmed EBLLs, and providing alternative water for sites with lead-contaminated drinking water. In addition, removal actions were completed at two sites—Recycletronics - Akron Farm Facility in Iowa and Recycletronics - G Street in Nebraska—with

abandoned and broken lead-contaminated cathode ray tubes (CRTs). Both sites were near sensitive populations, presented significant technical challenges, and were in areas identified as having potential environmental justice concerns.

EPA evaluated a total of 101 residential properties across Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska where EBLLs had been reported. In total, over 6,500 tons of lead contaminated soil and 2,700 tons of lead-containing CRTs were removed for off-site disposal.



Large-Scale Fire Responses

Plainfield, Indiana; Shorewood, Illinois; Madison, Illinois

In July 2022, EPA responded to three large scale-fires at the Plainfield Warehouse, Shorewood Pesticides, and the Interco Metaltronics Recycling Facility. All three fires generated smoke plumes that impacted adjacent communities for miles. The agency coordinated with multiple state and local partners at each fire, providing both roving and static air monitoring and sampling that health agencies utilized for shelter-in-place decision making. EPA provided technical guidance and/or sampling for firefighting run-off water management at all three fires. Additionally, EPA sampled fire debris at the Plainfield Warehouse Fire for possible asbestos contamination.

Lithium Batteries Fire

Morris, Illinois

On June 29, 2021, the old Federal Paper Board mill in Morris, Illinois caught fire due to unknown causes. The building is currently owned by Superior Battery, Inc., and approximately 550,000 lb of lithium batteries (along with solar panels, lead-acid batteries, nickel-cadmium batteries, and other waste) were stored inside. The smoke plume threatened to release contaminants into the atmosphere potentially exposing nearby residents to hazardous substances including particulates, metals, and volatile organics.

EPA participated as a Cooperating Agency as part of the Unified Command in response to the fire, with OSCs deployed to provide air monitoring support. Alongside state partners, EPA also collected water samples from the outfall to the Illinois and Michigan Canal and a water collection trench on the east side of the building, as well as providing continued support in monitoring.

While most of the response work occurred in FY22, EPA completed a time-critical removal action at the site of the fire in October 2022 (early FY23). EPA consolidated and shipped over 388,000 pounds of batteries for proper hazardous waste disposal and removed another 700 cubic yards of fire debris and other waste. Throughout the cleanup, EPA crews performed daily air monitoring around and inside the building.



TA Truck Stop Air Release East Greenwich, New Jersey

On August 10, 2022, a tanker truck carrying approximately 7,000 gallons of zinc alkyl dithiophosphate--also called Lubrizol 1395--stopped at the TA Truck Stop and began venting and causing a very strong rotten egg smell. Gloucester County and neighboring Salem and Camden County officials received hundreds of odor complaint calls and advised people in the area to limit outdoor activities and remain in their homes.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) remained the lead agency on the site but requested EPA



support with air monitoring. EPA deployed six stationary air monitoring stations at the truck stop and in the surrounding community and conducted 24-hour monitoring for over five days until NJDEP determined the responsible party's contractor was providing air monitoring.

NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

The [National Response Team](#) (NRT) is composed of 15 federal agencies and is chaired by EPA. The NRT provides technical assistance, resources and coordination on preparedness, planning, response and recovery activities for emergencies involving hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants, oil, and weapons of mass destruction in natural and technological disasters and other environmental incidents of national significance.

EPA Environmental Response Team Supporting Cuban Matanzas Fire

On August 5, 2022, a fire started after lightning hit one of the oil storage tanks at Matanzas, Cuba's largest port receiving crude oil and fuel imports. The fire was contained on August 12.

The facility was severely damaged and lost nearly half of its storage capacity, which impacted power plants supplying energy across the country. The fire and fuel spill also damaged a nearby settlement of 20 homes. Provincial officials from Cuba's

Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment have not found evidence of acid rain or contamination of reservoirs.

On August 18, 2022, the Government of Cuba requested technical support from EPA in the recovery efforts to the August 5 fire. The agency provided virtual support in the areas of facility damage assessment and future risk mitigation, environmental and human health impacts, and oil spill remediation.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Addressing the disparities that exist in communities with environmental justice issues is an administration priority that EPA is focusing on to protect human health and the environment. Although environmental emergencies and incidents occur in many places across the U.S. and its territories, there are many communities with environmental justice concerns that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of these events. Residents and community members near removal action sites or chemical facilities often experience health issues from contaminants. The agency is working to enhance its environmental justice efforts through all phases of emergency management.

Environmental Justice Screen Training for Emergency Responders

In FY22, EPA delivered basic Environmental Justice Screen ([EJScreen](#)) training to over 100 responders to help obtain nationally consistent screening and mapping. EJScreen combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution incidents. It is the primary tool used for EJ Screening assessments that help on-scene coordinators and additional staff address environmental justice concerns related to EPA response and prevention activities.

Advancing Environmental Justice Through Oil Spill Prevention and Preparedness Programs

EPA works with our partners and the regulated community to develop and implement prevention practices that reduce the risk of oil spills into waters and build preparedness capacity for oil spill emergencies. These efforts are especially important in disadvantaged communities who disproportionately bear the burden from these incidents. During the summer of 2022, EPA conducted environmental justice analyses of oil program inspection data and inspection targeting protocols to better account for vulnerable communities. The agency plans to use this information to amend its inspection targeting strategy to consider environmental justice factors. EPA also provided oil inspectors with training on tools like [EJScreen](#) to gain a better understanding of community characteristics and concerns.





Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.



Proposed Regulations Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns

EPA has made efforts to incorporate environmental justice concerns in its proposed regulations for chemical accident prevention and preparedness.

- The Risk Management Program (RMP) [Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention](#) proposed rule is expected to make communities safer by reducing the frequency of chemical releases and their adverse effects. This rule is a critical piece of EPA's work to advance environmental justice as these facilities are often located in communities that have historically borne a disproportionate burden from pollution.

Communities living at the fenceline of RMP facilities are often unaware of the chemicals and processes at facilities located in their neighborhoods. EPA proposed to increase the availability of such information to fenceline communities in their requested language.

- Under the [Clean Water Act Hazardous Substance Facility Response Plan](#) proposed rule, facilities that meet the applicability criteria would be required to evaluate potential impacts to communities with environmental justice concerns from a worst-case discharge to navigable water. Additionally, EPA Regional Administrators would have discretion to require facilities that may not meet the applicability criteria to develop facility response plans due to environmental justice concerns. The public may also petition the Regional Administrator to consider a facility to be regulated because of its potential impacts to communities with these concerns. The verification code is 501121

Integrating Environmental Justice Into Emergency Response

EPA developed and issued the [Integrating Environmental Justice into Emergency Response Preparedness and Management](#) document, that enhances the inclusivity, equitability, and responsiveness of EPA's emergency response functions through greater integration of environmental justice considerations throughout the emergency response process.

ASPECT Supporting Environmental Justice Initiatives

In support of EPA Administrator Regan's [Journey to Justice](#) initiative, the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology ([ASPECT](#)) conducted screening flights over 30 facilities in Louisiana to identify potential chemical emissions near historically overburdened communities. The ASPECT flights were combined with ground-based assessments to provide a three-dimensional awareness of potential pollution in the area. A final report was compiled from these data that incorporated arial and ground-based assessment data into a comprehensive operational picture.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Although there were many emergency management accomplishments highlighted by EPA for FY22, there were many other actions, activities, and responses that occurred and underscore the everyday work performed by the agency to mitigate risk. The agency remains committed to finding more ways to fight climate change, improving regulations to mitigate risk posed by environmental emergencies, ensuring emergency management staff have the latest training to better engage with and respond to communities impacted by natural disasters, and addressing the disparities that are present in many of these communities. EPA is looking forward to its continued collaboration with other federal partners and state, local, and tribal governments to protect human health and the environment by preventing, preparing for, and responding to natural disasters and environmental emergencies.



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