

**Region 10  
Regional Response Team/  
Northwest Area Committee  
2005 Strategic Plan**

**March 2008 Revision**

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**Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee 2005 Strategic Plan  
(Revised 02/28/2008)**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to provide guidance to the Region 10 Regional Response Team/Northwest Area Committee (RRT/NWAC) in conducting planning and preparedness activities over the next 10 years. This document is intended to be dynamic and will be updated on a two year cycle to continually reflect the strategic direction of the RRT/NWAC (See Figure 2.0).

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Region 10 Regional Response Team and the Northwest Area Committee (RRT/NWAC) is to protect public health and safety, response personnel, and the environment by ensuring coordinated, efficient, and effective support of the federal, state, tribal, local, and international responses to significant oil and hazardous substance incidents within the Northwest (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) Region as mandated by the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). We are also committed to providing for the development of the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) and coordination of planning and preparedness activities prior to a pollution incident by addressing regional and international issues and providing guidance to the response community, including but not limited to, industry, federal and state environmental and wildlife agencies, local responders, State Emergency Response Commissions, Tribal Emergency Response Commissions, Local Emergency Planning Committees, the public, and other interested stakeholders.

**VISION STATEMENT**

To be nationally recognized as a leader in oil and hazardous substances incident planning, preparedness, and response.

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**OBJECTIVES**

**Objective 1 (Planning)**

Enhance the quality and utility of the NWACP and establish basic policies and procedures to ensure efficient and effective preparedness and response operations.

**Objective 2 (Incident Support)**

Ensure the RRT/NWAC provides key support to OSCs/Unified Command during responses and that resources for response meet the needs of a worst case discharge as outlined by the NWACP.

**Objective 3 (Response Technologies and Policies)**

Ensure OSCs and the response community have the best information, countermeasures, and strategies available to them to maximize protection of human health and the environment.

**Objective 4 (Partnerships)**

Ensure the NWACP reflects the needs of RRT/NWAC member agencies and stakeholders through actively engaging these groups and developing positive working relationships and partnerships.

**Objective 5 (Preparedness)**

Ensure the RRT/NWAC and the spill response community are prepared to effectively and safely respond and to utilize the current NIMS effectively in a response. This will be accomplished through coordinated training and exercises and the implementation of lessons learned.

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	<b>Targeted Completion Date</b>	<b>Comments / Accomplishments</b>
<b>All</b>				
<b>4, 5</b>	All-1: Take advantage of existing meetings/conferences/training sessions to educate responders, industry, and the public about the NWACP and RRT/NWAC. Report all events to Steering Committee.	All	Ongoing	Track outreach events attended here.
<b>3, 4, 5</b>	All-2: Assist tribal, state, and local Emergency Response Commissions/Committees and international response agencies in contingency plan development.	All	Ongoing	Part of outreach and individual agency missions. Get input from all on any assistance given.
<b>NW Oil Spill School</b>				
<b>3, 5</b>	NW Oil Spill School: Promote training for oil spill response personnel so they can safely and effectively use appropriate response resources.	NW Oil Spill School, States, Sectors	Ongoing	Northwest Oil Spill School held in January 2008 in Port Angeles. Document additional courses here.
<b>RRT/NWAC Executive Committee</b>				
<b>1, 4</b>	RRT- 1: Encourage meaningful participation by all member agencies in RRT/NWAC. Target 70% of 25 agencies in attendance at meetings.	RRT/NWAC Executive Committee	Ongoing	Track percent attendance by RRT Representatives here. 1/16/08 – 48%
<b>4</b>	RRT-2: Encourage stakeholders to become involved in RRT/NWAC workgroups and taskforces.	RRT/NWAC Executive Committee	Ongoing	Track additional attendees/members, report out at Steering Committee meetings
<b>1, 2</b>	RRT 3: <b>(NEW)</b> Identify the role of the RRT in support of non-traditional NCP and Stafford Act responses. Steering committee will add to NWACP.	RRT/NWAC Executive Committee	2010	Steering committee will have to do research, but ultimate decision is Exec. Committee.
<b>Steering Committee</b>				
<b>1, 4</b>	SC-1: Review Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and workgroup membership and alternates to ensure appropriate organizations are represented.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	Outcome of roll call at RRT and Steering Committee meetings

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	<b>Targeted Completion Date</b>	<b>Comments / Accomplishments</b>
<b>1</b>	SC-2: Ensure NWACP incorporates all appropriate policy and statutory changes and additions.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	
<b>1, 5</b>	SC-3: Review significant lessons learned during drills, exercises, and incidents to identify those that should be incorporated into the NWACP. Make editorial changes as necessary.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	San Francisco spill and being reviewed by new WG.
<b>1</b>	SC-4: Provide guidance to workgroups to ensure activities reflect priorities outlined in Strategic Plan	Steering Committee	Ongoing	Use Task Lists and Steering Committee Meeting Notes to ensure Strategic Plan is implemented.
<b>2</b>	SC-5: Develop necessary policies to ensure OSCs/Unified Command have support needed during a response.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	Marty Smith is leading an effort to create a list of regional personnel resources to fill out IMT structures.
<b>2, 4</b>	SC-6: Plan and coordinate three RRT/NWAC meetings for each year to provide opportunities for information sharing and policy discussion.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	Meeting held January 16-17, 2008.
<b>2, 4</b>	SC-7: Ensure transition strategies among local, state, tribal, and federal agency OSCs are exercised.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	Removed strategy of "clarifying" transition, as that has been done. Is there a frequency for training? WA will complete at Worst Case Drills every three years.
<b>4</b>	SC-8: Continue to build email list serv database to improve stakeholder outreach.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	All subscribers have been asked to re-subscribe. 2/29/08
<b>4</b>	SC-9: Inform stakeholders of meetings, response activities, and training opportunities utilizing phone calls, emails, mailings, and the RRT/NWAC website.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	
<b>1, 4</b>	SC-10: Create a RRT liaison function to exchange information and lessons learned with other RRTs.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	NRT Annual meeting
<b>1, 5</b>	SC-11: Encourage integration of changes resulting from the implementation of NIMS into training and exercises, as appropriate.	Steering Committee	Ongoing	A total of 85 drills and exercises were attended by NWACP members and implemented NIMS in 2007.
<b>1, 5</b>	SC-12: Ensure changes outlined in the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Incident Management System are incorporated into the NWACP.	Steering Committee	2009	This was changed from NRP to the NRF. Guidance will come down through NRT ~1 yr after NRF is adopted. Will likely be captured by 2009 NWACP update.

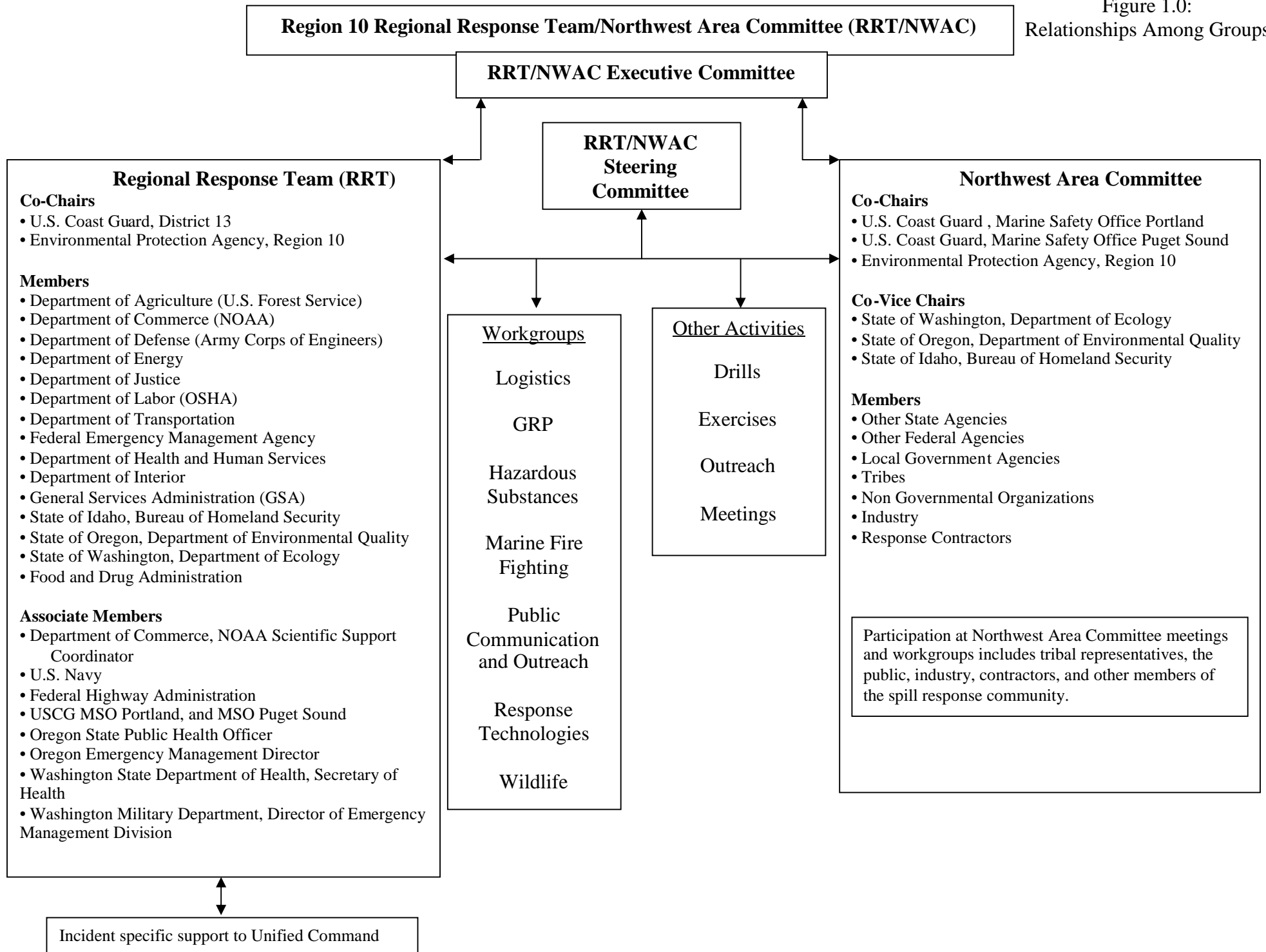
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Responsibility</b>	<b>Targeted Completion Date</b>	<b>Comments / Accomplishments</b>
<b>3</b>	SC-13: Look for areas that may need additional pre-approval agreements/MOAs, etc for expedited use of alternative countermeasures.	Steering Committee	2010	Review existing agreements/MOUs to see what exists and then discuss to see where we have holes/needs.
<b>2, 3, 5</b>	SC-14: (NEW) Complete assessment of web-based response tools each RRT member agency uses to provide situational awareness during responses. Assessment to include capabilities, interoperability and access.	Steering Committee	2010	The bulk of this work could be done with contract support, and may need a task force. The issue has risen repeatedly.
<b>2, 5</b>	SC-15: Develop and implement plans with organizations bordering area of responsibility to ensure effective and efficient response.	Steering Committee	2010	Due to CANUSWEST and NPREP, this will likely be accomplished in 2008. CANUSPAC was exercised in 2007.
<b>1, 3</b>	SC-16: Review existing Marine Firefighting section of the NWACP (section 8000) and identify gaps, develop a program for resolving those gaps, and revise the NWACP, as necessary.	Steering Committee	2008, 2015	Marty Smith will coordinate with John Dwyer to have completed for 2008 update.
<b>Workgroups</b>				
<b>3</b>	WG-1 Review existing and new/state-of-the-art technologies and methods, particularly related to early spill assessment, remote sensing, and alternative countermeasures to ensure spill assessment and response is as effective and efficient as possible.	Workgroup: Response Technologies, Ad Hoc Equipment and Logistics	Ongoing	Logistics Workgroup needs membership and leadership.
<b>3, 4</b>	WG-2 Ensure GRPs are regularly updated, through a public process, to incorporate relevant and appropriate information necessary to protect areas of environmental and special economic importance.	Workgroup: GRP	Ongoing	In 2007, Central Puget Sound GRP was updated. Both Oregon and Washington have GRPs in the pipeline.
<b>3</b>	WG-3 Develop GRPs for all high risk areas.	Workgroup: GRP	Ongoing	
<b>1, 3</b>	WG-4 Plan for and identify resources available for Weapons of Mass Destruction/ counter-terrorism preparedness and response. Incorporate into NWACP.	Workgroup: Hazardous Materials	2010	Included NWACP point from 1.5. Need to look into other RRT solutions to this issue.

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<b>1, 2</b>	WG-5 Clarify the process in the NWAC for responding to terrorism events.	Workgroup: Hazardous Materials	2010	Made this more general, and added as a new strategy for Steering Committee.
<b>2</b>	WG-6 Ensure both pre-staged and augmented first-response resources/equipment are available to respond to various sized discharges and spills in the NW area.	Workgroup: Logistics	2009	WA has completed. OR has more work to do. 50% of document in database. Should be finished by 2009
<b>1, 5</b>	WG-7 Test and evaluate NWAC Communications plan to ascertain interagency operability in communications, coverage, and equipment.	Workgroup: Logistics	2010	Communications plan is in area plan but needs to be updated.
<b>4</b>	WG-8 Develop and implement an outreach program to increase stakeholder awareness of the NWACP and RRT/NWAC member agency roles, responsibilities, and capabilities.	Workgroup: Public Communications and Outreach	Ongoing	Workgroup is currently working on creating brochures for RRT and NWACP.
<b>4</b>	WG-9 Develop and implement an outreach program for communities during spill responses	Workgroup: Public Communications and Outreach	Ongoing	
<b>4</b>	WG-10: Encourage stakeholders to become involved in RRT/NWAC workgroups and taskforces.	Workgroup: Public Communications and Outreach	Ongoing	Track additional attendees/members, report out at Steering Committee meetings
<b>5</b>	WG-11: (NEW) Develop a volunteer strategy that allows initial response volunteers to be used during a spill response. This needs to include insurance issues, training and volunteer coordination and, an outline of the Volunteer Coordinators position and qualifications.	Steering Committee Volunteer Task Force.	2009	This is coming out of the San Francisco spill lessons learned.

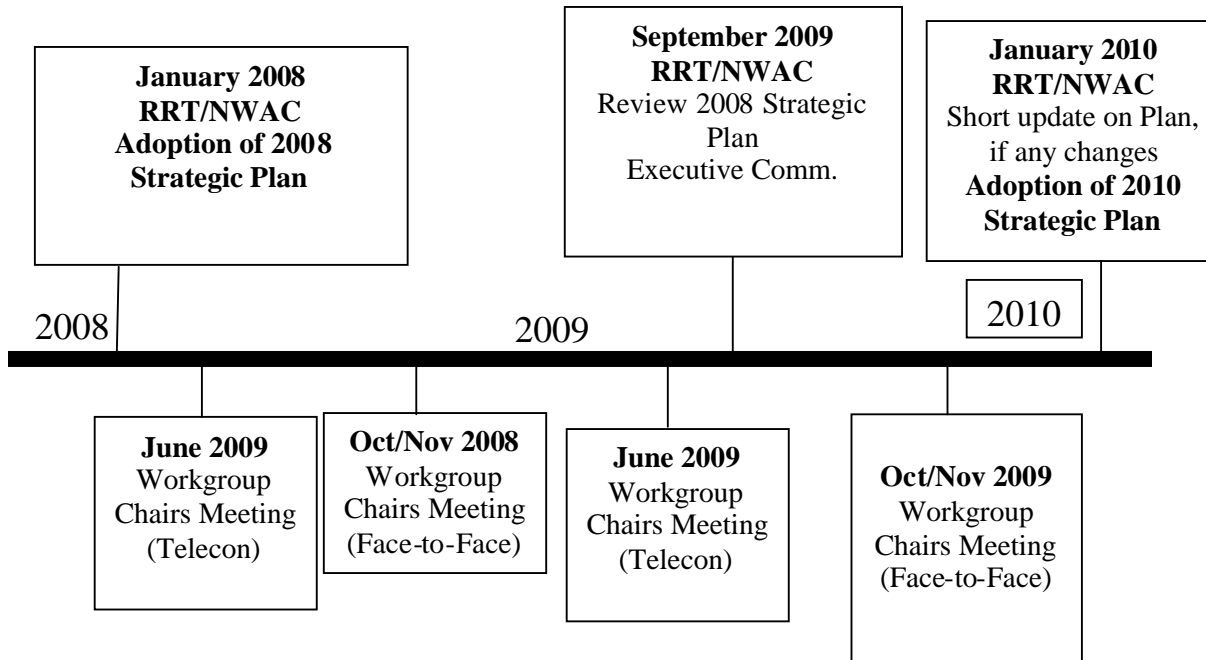


Figure 1.0:

Relationships Among Groups



**Figure 2.0: Strategic Planning Timeline**



The RRT/NWAC Strategic Plan is to be updated every two years  
The above is the recommended timeline for updating the plan