

THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TEAM

Working together to protect Americans from threats to our land, air, and water.

National Response Team (MS 5401)
U.S. EPA
Washington, DC
20460

June 10, 2003

Chair:
Environmental
Protection Agency

To: National Response Team Member Agencies

From: Debbie Dietrich, Environmental Protection Agency
Chair, National Response Team

Vice Chair:
U.S. Coast Guard

Re: Chemical, Biological, Radiological Agent Notification

Department of
Commerce

Department of the
Interior

Department of
Agriculture

Department of
Defense

Department of
State

Department of
Justice

Department of
Transportation

Department of Health
and Human Services

Federal Emergency
Management Agency

Department of
Energy

Department of
Labor

Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

General Services
Administration

Department of
Treasury

Please ensure that your agency notifies the National Response Center (NRC) of any suspected releases of chemical, radiological or biological agents that occur at your agency's facilities. There have been several incidents where envelopes filled with powdery material suspected as a biological agent were opened at federal offices and the NRC was not notified. The NRC plays a key role in activating the National Response System, and prompt notification is especially important from National Response Team member agencies. When such information is received, the NRC notifies the FBI and the pre-designated On Scene Coordinator for further action, if necessary.

Section 103 of CERCLA requires the notification of the NRC in the event of a "release or threat of release of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant." At 40 CFR §300.125, the NCP states that "notice of an oil discharge or release of a hazardous substance in an amount equal to or greater than the reportable quantity must be made immediately. . . to the NRC Duty Officer." Notification can be made by calling either 800-424-8802, or for those without 800 access, 202-267-2675.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you need more information about reporting suspected releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, please contact Mark Mjoness, Chair of the NRT's Response Committee, at (703) 603-8727.