



Got Public Health in ICS? CUPAs and Oil Spill Response: Th-I2

Lead Instructor: Karen Riveles, OEHHA

February 29, 2024

Thursday 1-2:45 pm



**26th California Unified Program
Annual Training Conference
February 26-29, 2024**

Overview

- Introduction to the Public Health Assessment Unit (PHAU): Rachel Fabian, Kathleen Jennings, OSPR
- Community Air Measurement: Russ Bennett, CARB
- Water and Sediment: Karen Riveles, OEHHA
- Seafood Safety: Wesley Smith, OEHHA
- Panel/Audience Discussion: Moderators:
Darwin Cheng, Orange County
Trisha Johnson, Contra Costa



CUPA Conference Survey: Got Public Health in Your ICS?



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Introduction to PHAU

Kathleen Jennings and Rachel Fabian
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



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Who we are

- Representing Regional Response Team IX
Public Health Assessment Workgroup

Rachel Fabian
Preparedness
Branch

Department of Fish & Wildlife
Office of Spill Prevention & Response
(OSPR)

**Kathleen
Jennings**
Environmental
Response Branch



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Who we are

- Representing Regional Response Team IX
Public Health Assessment Workgroup

Orange County
Environmental
Health

Office of Environmental Health
Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

US Environmental
Protection Agency
(USEPA)

Contra Costa
Health Services

California Department of Public
Health (CDPH)

Air Resources Board
(CARB)

South Coast Air
Quality Monitoring
District

State Water Resources Control
Board (SWRCB)

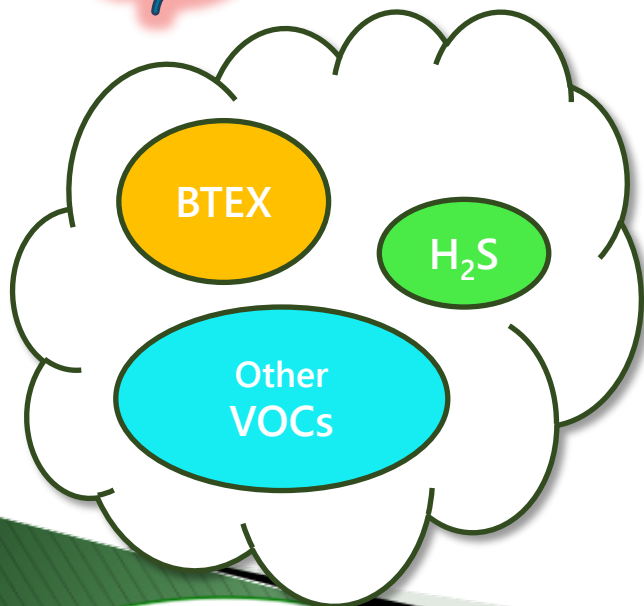
United States Coast
Guard (USCG)

CDFW OSPR

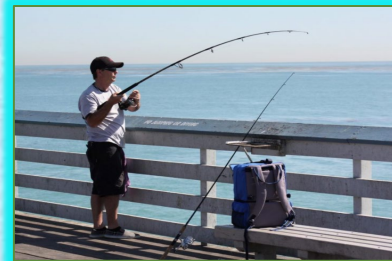


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Oil Spill Public Health Exposures



RECREATION

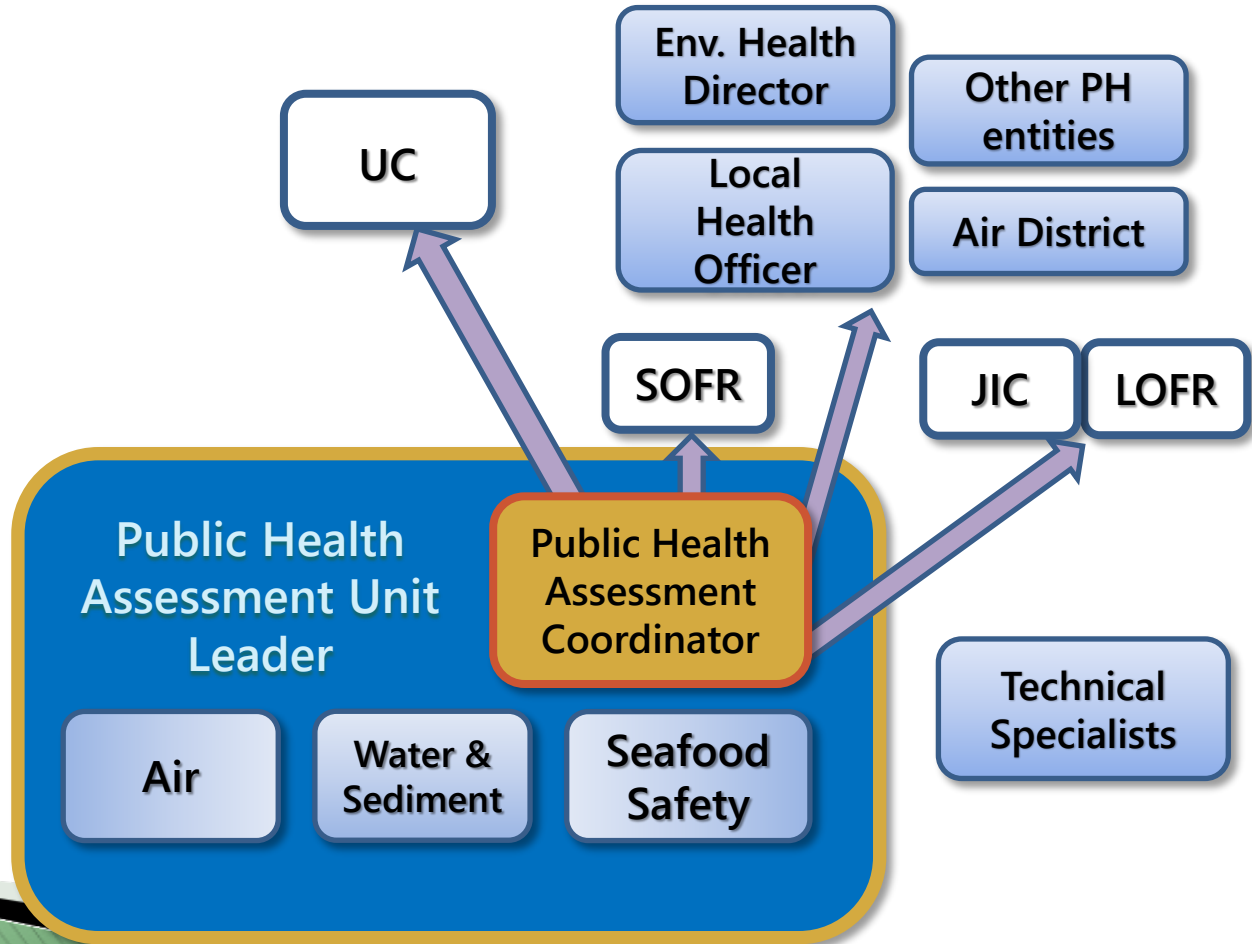


SEAFOOD

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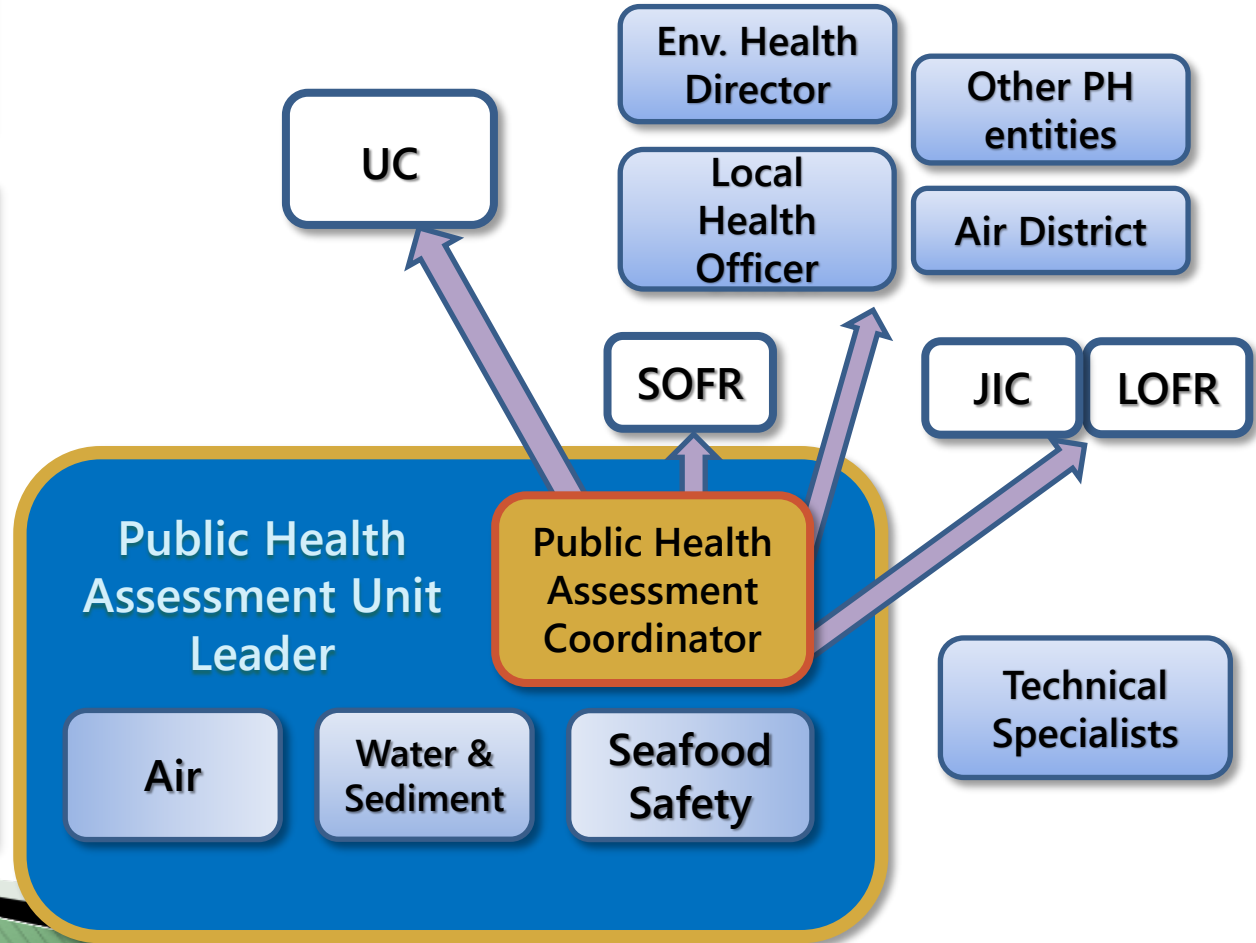
PHAU Concept

- Fills coordination gap between response & public health agencies
- Plan-driven → Planning Section
- Adaptable subgroup structure



Objectives

- Coordinate public health agency efforts
- Ensure methods & action levels are appropriate for public health decisions
- Info sharing within ICS; messaging through LOFR/JIC



Pipeline P00547

Huntington Beach, CA

- Municipalities, park districts closed beaches and harbors
- Odor complaints
- Cancellation of major public event
- CDFW issued a fisheries closure



Takeaways

- PHAU most effective if implemented earlier
- Novelty → opportunities to build shared expectations
- State & federal agencies should prepare to support locals, as resources differ

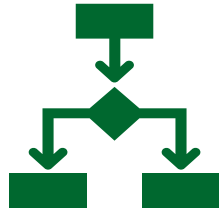
Region IX PHAU Workgroup



Scope & Objectives



Communications
Protocols



Decision Tree

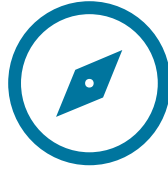


RCP Language

**Community Air
Monitoring**

Water & Sediment

Fisheries Closure



**Sampling Plan
Templates**

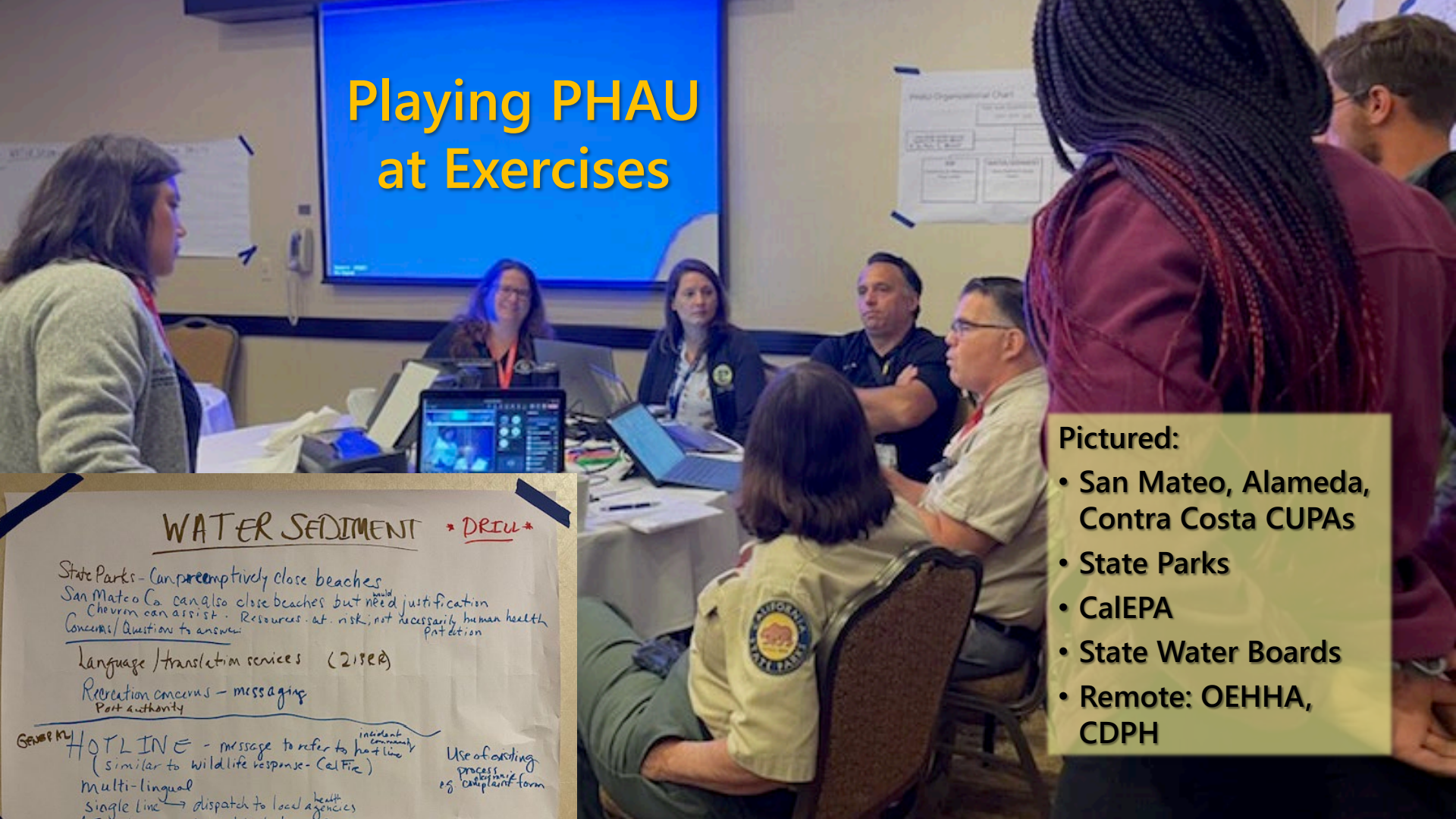


**Agency Roles &
Coordination**



**Action Levels &
Methodologies**

Playing PHAU at Exercises



Pictured:

- San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa CUPAs
- State Parks
- CalEPA
- State Water Boards
- Remote: OEHHA, CDPH

WATER SEDIMENT * DRU *

State Parks - Can preemptively close beaches
San Mateo Co. can also close beaches but need justification
Chevron can assist. Resources at risk, not necessarily human health protection
Concerns/Questions to answer:

Language / translation services (21822)

Recreation concerns - messaging
Port authority

GENERAL HOTLINE - message to refer to ^{incident community} hot line
(similar to wildlife response - Cal Fire)
multi-lingual
single line → dispatch to local agencies
Use of existing process ^{complaint form}

Community Air Measurements

AIR

→ This is a drill.*

Local Resources/Capability - Limited

San Mateo Co. - Some initial assessment, fielding of phone calls
OK to co-opt CTEH as long as CAMP is OK with County?

Concerns/ Questions to answer:

SIP or Evac - data/recommendations

Initial messaging/risk communication

Unhoused ~

Language availability/translation - English/Spanish/Chinese

Monitoring locations - why?

(residential, commercial)

health system notification

Mass shelter/care

public Mass events

School closures
sensitive receptor
vulnerable pop

ground truth

Pictured:

- Air Resources Board
- Responsible Party
- Response Contractor

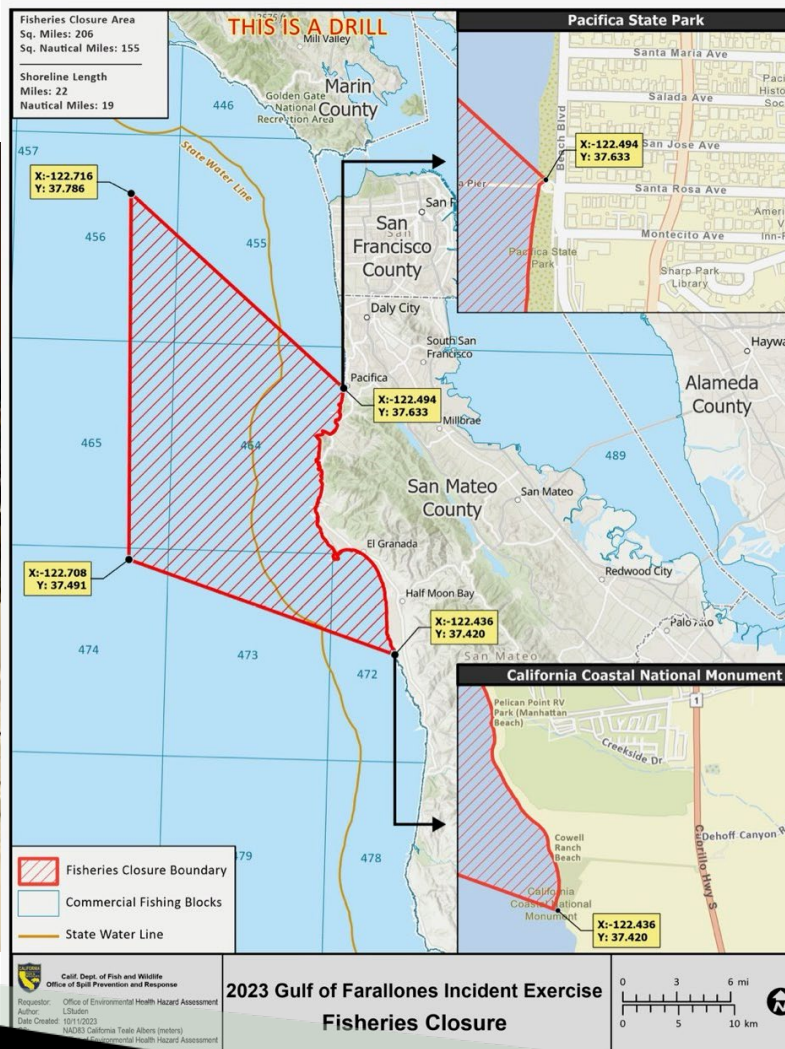


Seafood Safety



Pictured:

- OEHHA
- OSPR
- USCG





GOT PUBLIC HEALTH IN ICS? CUPAS AND OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Community Air Measurement

Russ Bennett

TH-12

February 29, 2024



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Overview

What we have here is



Failure to coordinate

- Roles and Goals
- Issues
- A better way?



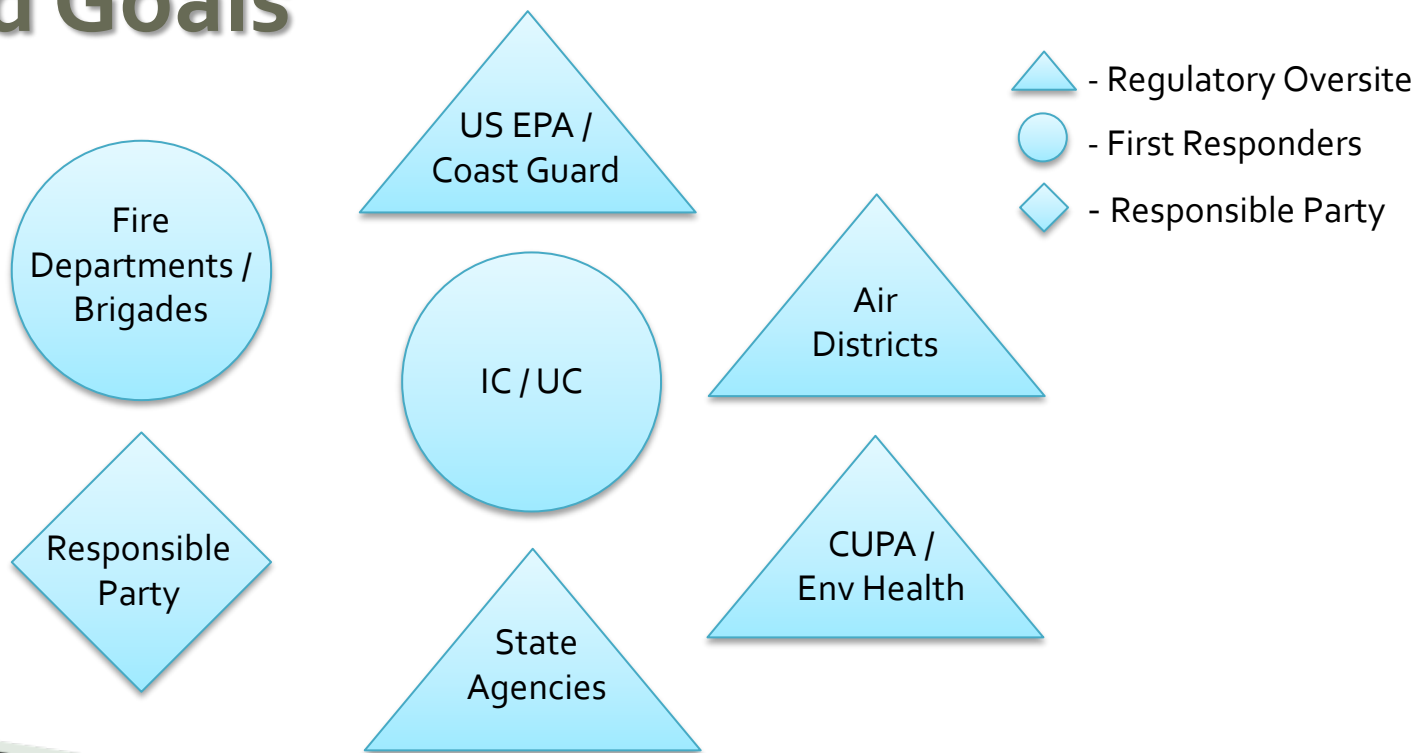
Bonhomme Richard Response



Pipeline P Response



Roles and Goals



Issues

Information /
Data Sharing

Inconsistent
Preparedness

Differing
Authorities

Poor
Coordination

Delays in Setting
up IC /UC

Uncoordinated /
Conflicting Messaging

Disparate
Objectives



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Success Stories

- Pipeline P Response
- Tustin Hanger Fire
- Issues Resolved
- Sharing Valuable Lessons Learned



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Response Template

- Local Threat Assessment
- Emergency Response System Overview
- Emergency Response Procedures
- Training
- After Action Review / Continuous Improvement
- Funding and Authority



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Next Steps

- Local/State/Federal Capabilities Survey
- Develop Response Template
- Statewide Meetings
- Assist with Implementation
- Training, Drills, and Exercises





Contact Information

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PHAU Water and Sediment Subgroup

Karen Riveles, OEHHA

February 29, 2024



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Overview

- Participating Agencies
- Water and Sediment (W&S) Subgroup Objectives
- W&S Checklist
- Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Analyte List
- Fact Sheets



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Participating Agencies

- California Department of Public Health
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- Contra Costa Health Hazmat
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
- Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Orange County Environmental Health
- State Water Resources Control Board
- United States Environmental Protection Agency



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Objectives

- Develop guidance and templates for water and sediment sampling and analysis
- Create a list of chemicals found in oil spills
- Compile health guidance and emergency exposure values for chemicals in water and sediment
- Establish communications templates regarding re-opening of beaches, parks, harbors, and recreational areas
- Create a checklist for actions related to water and sediment



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Water and Sediment Checklist Components

- Establishment of PHAU W&S Subgroup
- Pre-Oil Background Sampling and Analysis
- Beach or Recreational Area Closure
- Initial Water and Sediment Assessment
- Water and Sediment Sampling Data
- Data Sharing and Interpretation
- Recommendations and Messaging
- Re-opening of Beach or Recreational Area
- Demobilization



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Water and Sediment Guidance

- Provide guidance and templates to standardize the collection, analysis, and dissemination of water and sediment sampling results following an oil spill.
- Determine the need for closure, or reopening, of a beach or recreational area.
- Chemical list with health guidance and emergency exposure levels to assist in determination of action levels.



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Sampling and Analysis Plan

- Improve the documentation, communication, planning, and overall quality associated with water and sediment sampling and analysis by:
 - detailing sampling considerations and objectives prior to sample collection,
 - providing standardized sampling methodology for water and sediment collections,
 - providing a standardized format for recording and handling data, and
 - outlining analytical procedures



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Sampling and Analysis Plan (cont.)

- The SAP protocol addresses the following topics for water and sediment sample collection:
 - Project organization and management
 - Chemicals of concern
 - Sampling locations
 - Sampling timing
 - Sampling methods
 - Sample handling and documentation procedures
 - Chemical analysis and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) measures



Analyte List

- Oil spills at beaches and recreational waters can pose health risks to humans.
- Screening contaminant levels in environmental samples can help prevent these risks and guide cleanup decisions.
- Comparing samples to human health screening levels is an effective way to monitor short and long-term health risks to the public.



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Development of Fact Sheets

- **Purpose:** to assist local communities when oil spills occur affecting beaches and recreational areas
- **Fact sheets developed so far:**
 - Public factsheet answering FAQs on beach closures and oil spills
 - Informational sheet for Local Health Officers (LHOs)



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Next Steps

- Review of draft documents
- Continued outreach and education
 - Local Environmental and Public Health agencies in California
 - Assess capabilities and resources
- Continued development of materials
- Exercise Plans
- Be ready for the next oil spill!
- Expand PHAU to all hazards



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Contact Information

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PHAU Seafood Safety Subgroup

Wes Smith, OEHHA
Noah Ben-Aderet, OSPR
Annie Nelson, OSPR
February 29, 2024



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Participating Agencies

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
- Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)



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Overview

- Background
- Fisheries Closure Protocol
- Sampling and Analysis Protocol
- Risk Assessment Protocol
- External Communications



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Background

- **Fisheries Closure Following Oil Spills (FGC §5654)**
 - OEHHA works closely with CDFW-OSPR and CDFW Marine Region
 - OEHHA is required to evaluate the potential public health threat associated with seafood consumption following oil spills into California waters
 - A closure is required following an oil spill, unless OEHHA finds there is not likely to be a public health threat



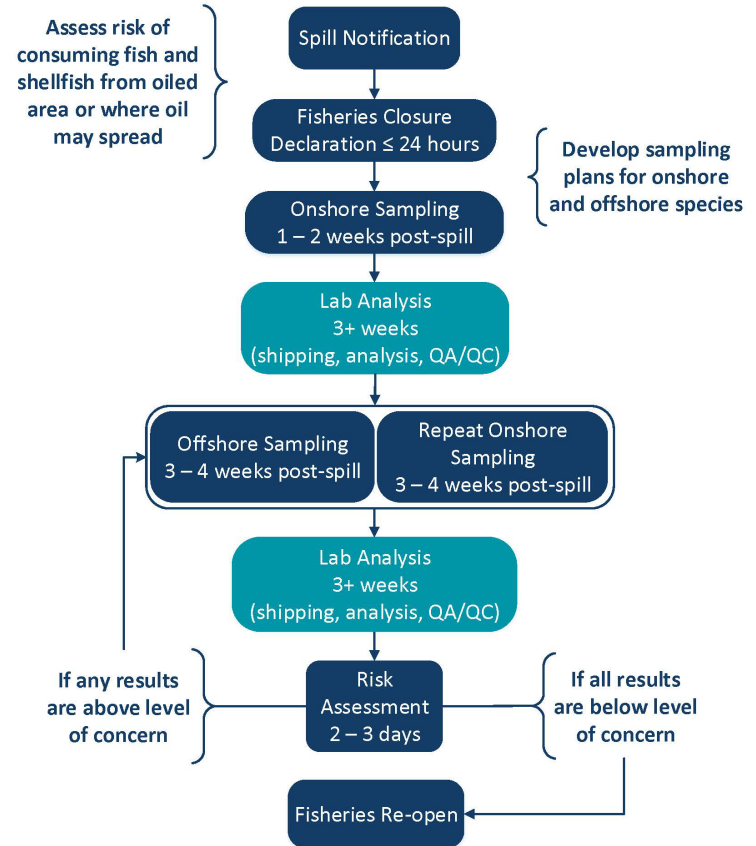
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Fisheries Closure and Re-opening

- If a closure is in effect for more than 48 hours, “expedited testing” of seafood is required before fisheries can be re-opened
- OEHHA convenes a group to design a sampling and analysis plan



Fisheries Re-opening Process After Oil Spills



Sampling Protocol

- OEHHA, OSPR, Marine Region staff work together to develop a spill-specific sampling and analysis plan (SAP)
 - Species are selected based on:
 - Potential exposure to oil-related compounds
 - Potential bioaccumulation of oil-related compounds
 - Commercial, recreational, and/or subsistence importance



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT
OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Protocol for Seafood
Sampling and Analysis to
Support Fisheries Re-
Opening Decisions Following
Aquatic Oil Spills in
California

March 2020



Fish, Ecotoxicology, and Water Section
Pesticide and Environmental Toxicology Branch
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
California Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Risk Assessment Protocol

1. Determine the chemicals of concern and methods of analysis
2. Develop toxicity values for chemicals of concern
3. Measure the concentrations of chemicals of concern for each species and site
4. Compare chemical concentrations for each species at each site with levels of concern (LOCs) established by OEHHA for each chemical of concern



PROTOCOL FOR SEAFOOD RISK ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT FISHERIES RE-OPENING DECISIONS FOR AQUATIC OIL SPILLS IN CALIFORNIA

November 2013

(Updated March 2015)



California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

External Communications

- Fisheries Closure Sign
- Fact sheet/FAQ
- Presentations
- Talking points for Liaison Officer



Oil Spills and Seafood

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is responsible for evaluating whether a public health threat is likely to result from eating seafood after an oil spill into California inland or marine waters. Oil spills can occur as a result of many types of accidents involving boats, pipelines, offshore oil platforms, and even vehicles or aircraft that crash into waterways. By California law, if oil spills into an area where fishing or aquaculture takes place, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) must close fishing and shellfish harvesting from waters in the area of the spill – *unless* OEHHA finds that a public health threat does not exist or is unlikely to exist. The following questions and answers describe the process by which OEHHA responds to spills and evaluates the risk of eating seafood after a spill.

How is OEHHA notified about oil spills?



When an incident takes place and an oil product spills (or has the potential to spill) into California waters, CDFW's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) notifies OEHHA. In addition to their other response duties, on-scene OSPR personnel verify the reported information and gather pertinent factors that are used in the determination of whether seafood should be consumed after an oil spill.

How does OEHHA determine whether seafood should be consumed after an oil spill?

If it is determined that fishing or shellfish harvesting takes place in the vicinity of a spill, OEHHA scientists use knowledge gained from chemical testing in seafood after previous oil spills to help determine whether harmful levels of chemicals are likely to build up in seafood after a spill. Factors that are taken into account include the:

- Type of oil and volume that spilled
- Weather and water temperature
- Season
- Location (e.g., near shore versus offshore; inland versus marine)
- Seafood species in the area



Any Questions?



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Panel/Audience Discussion



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Thank you!

Presenters	Agency	Contact Information
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