The Wildlife Branch: CA Role in USCG’s IMH Handbook Revision

Michael Ziccardi DVM PhD
Director
mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu
USCG IMH (2006)

- Assist USCG in use of NIMS ICS during response ops
  - NIMS: Standardized mgmt template for all Fed responses
- Easy reference job aid, not policy doc
- Response concept
  - 80% share common principles, procedures and processes
  - 20% unique to the type of incident (e.g., oil spills)
NIMS Components

- Preparedness
- Communications and Information Management
- Resource Management
- Command and Management
- Ongoing Management and Maintenance
- Incident Command System
- Multiagency Coordination Systems
- Public Information
General ICS Structure

COMMAND STAFF
- Information Officer
- Safety Officer
- Liaison Officer
- Investigators
- NRDA Reps.
- Agency Reps.

OPERATIONS SECTION
- Staging Area
  - Recovery and Protection Branch
    - Protection Group
      - On-Water Recovery Group
      - Shoreside Recovery Group
    - Disposal Group
    - Decon Group
    - Dispersants Operations Group
    - ISB Operations Group
  - Emergency Response Branch
  - Air Operations Branch
    - SAR Group
    - Salvage/Source Control Group
    - Fire Suppression Group
    - Hazmat Group
    - EMS Group
    - Law Enforcement Group
  - Air Tactical Group
    - Helo Coord
    - Fixed Wing Coord
  - Recovery Group
  - Wildlife Branch
    - Wildlife Rehab Center Manager
  - Air Support Group
    - Technical Specialists
      - Legal Specialist
      - Human Resources Specialist

PLANNING SECTION
- Situation Unit
  - Display Processor
  - Field Observer
  - GIS Specialist
- Resources Unit
  - Check-In/Status Recorder
  - Volunteer Coordinator
- Documentation Unit
- Demobilization Unit
- Environmental Unit
  - Scientific Support Coordinator
  - Sampling Specialist
  - Response Technologies Specialist
  - Trajectory Analysis Specialist
  - Weather Forecast Specialist
  - Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Specialist
  - Disposal Specialist

LOGISTICS SECTION
- Support Branch
  - Supply Unit
    - Ordering Mgr.
    - Receiving & Distribution Mgr.
  - Facilities Unit
    - Security Mgr.
  - Vessel Support Unit
  - Ground Support Unit
  - Service Branch
    - Food Unit
    - Medical Unit
    - Communications Unit

FINANCE/ADMIN SECTION
- Cost Unit
- Time Unit
- Procurement Unit
- Compensation/Claims Unit

* Possible Assignment of Technical Specialists
Current Revision (2012-13)

- Will become part of FEMA's Emergency Response - Field Operations Guide
- Focused on Ch. 19 (Oil Spills)
- OWCN/OSPR approached to help modify Wildlife Branch to follow CA WRP
Oiled Wildlife Care Network

• **Administration**
  - 1994–1997: OSPR
  - 1997–: Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis

• **Mission**
  - Provide best achievable capture & care to oiled wildlife

• **Funding**
  - Interest from Oil Spill Response Trust Fund

• **Oversight**
  - Advisory Board

• **Structure**
  - > 30 Member Organizations
  - Programs
  - Research

• **Programs**
  - Readiness
  - Response
  - Reaching Out
CA Wildlife Response Plan

- Part of Region IX RCP
  - Associated with all ACPs

- Contents
  - Statutory Basis
  - WB Organization
  - OSPR/OWCN
  - Prevent/Reduce Impacts
  - Activation/Demobilization
  - Appendices
    - Protocols
    - Job aids

WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLAN FOR OIL SPILLS IN CALIFORNIA

Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response

June 2011
Generalized Oiled Wildlife ICS Structure

UNIFIED COMMAND

Liaison Officer

NRDA

Operations Section

Wildlife Branch

Planning Section

Environmental Unit

Wildlife Reconnaissance Group

Wildlife Hazing Group

Wildlife Care & Processing Group

Wildlife Field Stabilization Group

Wildlife Recovery & Transport Group

Wildlife Processing Unit

Wildlife Care Unit

Wildlife Intake

Wildlife Pre-Wash Care

Wildlife Cleaning

Wildlife Conditioning

Wildlife Support

Live & Dead Strike Teams if Needed

Marine Mammal and Bird Task Forces if Needed
Reconnaissance Group

- Evaluates numbers, species, and locations of wildlife that could be/are impacted by oil
  - Aerial Survey Unit
  - Boat Survey Unit
  - Shoreline Survey Unit
Hazing Group

Deters wildlife from entering contaminated areas
Recovery & Transportation Group

- Collection of dead and capture of live oiled animals
Field Stabilization Group

- Provides “first aid” to animals near to spill area
- Linked to increased survival to release
Care & Processing Group

- Collects evidence from all live & dead animals
- Provides medical care to affected animals
NOTE: In certain situations (e.g., multiple animal groups, widespread recovery, multiple facilities), Task Forces may be established within each Group.
Advantages of IMH Revision

Planning
- Plans can be reviewed and pre-approved
- Wildlife response can be standardized across regions
- Personnel have clear understanding of roles/responsibilities
- RPs know what to expect
- Plans are adaptable and expandable

Response
- Can be staged based on spill needs and dynamics
- Clarifies flow of information
- Ensures response done safely and effectively
- Allows orderly approval and billing process

Follows basic tenets of ICS
- Span of control
- Unity of command
- Chain of command
In Summary

- California Infrastructure
  - Planning = Success
- Evolution of oil spill response
  - Wildlife issues more critical
  - Success can be accomplished
- Importance of IMH revision
  - Ensures organized accomplishment of activities
  - Professionalizes oiled wildlife response
  - Makes wildlife responders more answerable to response structure