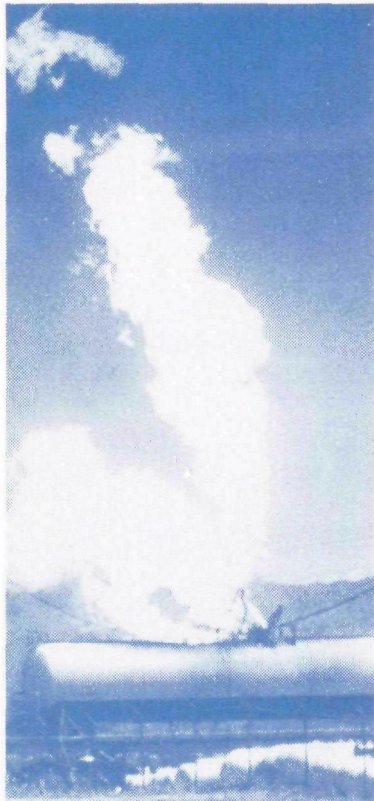




The Emergency Response Notification System



To report releases of oil and hazardous
substances call the National Response
Center: 1-800-424-8802.
IT'S THE LAW!



WHAT IS ERNS?

The Emergency Response Notification System (ERNS) is a national computer database and retrieval system that is used to store information on releases of oil and hazardous substances. ERNS provides a mechanism for documenting and verifying incident notification information as initially reported. ERNS is operational in all ten U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions and is supported by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). It provides a direct source of easily-accessible data that can be used to analyze spills and to support emergency planning efforts by Federal, State, and local governments.



WHY IS ERNS NEEDED?

ERNS provides a comprehensive, national picture of oil and hazardous substance releases. Information on releases is readily available to anyone involved in the response network to assess potential hazards associated with a release, and to plan release notification and response programs. Before ERNS was established, there was no centralized source of information on all oil and hazardous substance releases reported to the Federal Government. With ERNS, data from across the nation can be gathered and analyzed by using one system. Not only does this speed the process of data gathering, but it provides a more solid foundation for analysis and planning purposes because ERNS contains the most comprehensive source of data ever compiled on releases of oil and hazardous substances. ERNS also supports the release notification requirements of the following legislative and regulatory requirements:

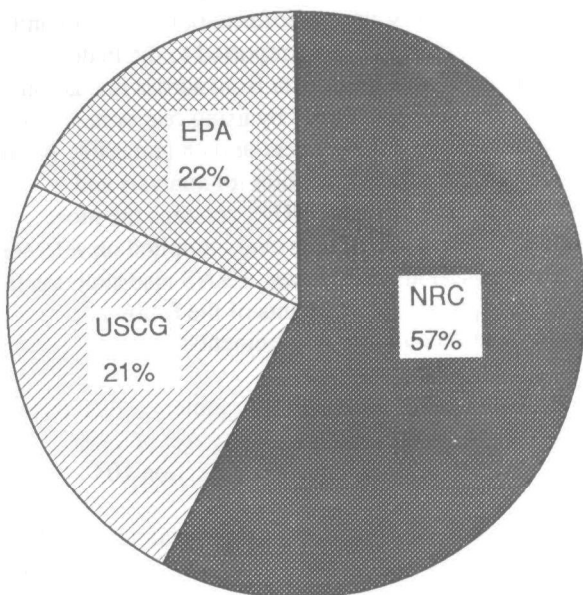
- The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended -- Section 103
- Title III of The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) -- Section 304

- The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act) -- Section 311
- The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) -- Sections 300.51 and 300.65

HOW DOES INFORMATION ENTER ERNS?

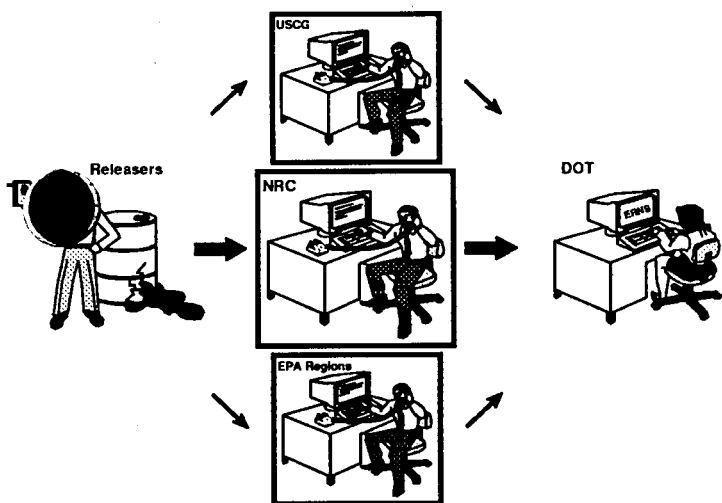
Information is entered into ERNS when a person calls the Federal government to report the release of oil or a hazardous substance. The National Response Center (NRC), the USCG, and EPA are the Federal authorities who generally receive the initial release notifications. The following chart illustrates the percentage of notifications received by the NRC, EPA, and USCG.

Percentage of Notifications
Received by Each Organization
in 1988
(Total Notifications: 28,937)



The person reporting the release is asked a series of questions about the release. If the NRC, for example, receives the initial report, the information is immediately transmitted to the appropriate EPA Regional Office or Coast Guard District Office. The EPA or Coast Guard Incident Scene Coordinator (OSC) then transmits the information to the appropriate State and local response authorities and other parties, as necessary. Information on all releases originally reported to the NRC and EPA Regional Offices is electronically transmitted from the NRC or EPA Regional Office to the Transportation Systems Center at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where it becomes part of the ERNS database. Information on releases reported to the Coast Guard is provided to ERNS via the Marine Safety Information System (MSIS). The NRC, along with EPA and the USCG, provides a standardized inter-agency system nationwide for handling incident data, from discovery to evaluation and response.

RELEASE NOTIFICATION INFORMATION FLOW



WHAT NOTIFICATION IS REQUIRED FOR RELEASES?

CERCLA section 103 requires the release of a reportable quantity (RQ) or more of a CERCLA hazardous substance to be reported immediately to the NRC. Under the NCP, regulations implementing CERCLA, and U.S. Coast Guard reporting regulations, the report may be made to the predesignated Federal OSC for the area where the release occurs if notifying the NRC is not practicable, or to the nearest Coast Guard unit if notifying either the NRC or Federal OSC is not possible; in either event, the NRC must be notified as soon as possible.

Under SARA section 304, the release of an RQ or more of a CERCLA hazardous substance or a SARA extremely hazardous substance (EHS) must be reported to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) of any State likely to be affected by the release and to the Community Emergency Coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of any area likely to be affected by the release. Transportation-related releases may be reported to the 911 emergency number or, in the absence of a 911 emergency number, to the operator. Notification must be followed by a written report as soon as practicable.

Under section 311 of the Clean Water Act, certain oil discharges must be reported. In the oil discharge regulations (40 CFR Part 110), EPA establishes three categories of reportable discharges of oil. A discharge must be reported immediately to the NRC if it:

- Causes a sheen to appear on the surface of the water;
- Violates applicable water quality standards; or
- Causes a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or upon the adjoining shorelines.

When in doubt -----> Call the NRC!

WHAT INFORMATION IS IN ERNS?

ERNS contains a wealth of information on specific releases of oil and hazardous substances. Examples of notification information in ERNS include:

- Discharger identification
- Date of release
- Material released
- Cause of release
- Damage/injuries/deaths
- Amount released
- Source of release
- Incident location
- Response actions taken
- Authorities notified
- Environmental medium into which the release occurred

Information is recorded in ERNS when a release is initially reported to the Federal government. Initial notifications, which comprise most of the information in ERNS, reflect preliminary information on a release, and are cited as unverified data. Depending on the severity of the release and any response actions taken, the EPA or Coast Guard OSC may obtain further information through assisting at the site of the release or discussing the situation with State and local officials. In instances where notification information is verified, additional and more detailed data on the release, including information related to response actions can be added to ERNS.

For further descriptive information on the data available in ERNS, please contact EPA's Emergency Response Division (see address on inside front cover.)

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC USES OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ERNS?

Information in ERNS can be used by emergency response personnel, enforcement personnel, and others who want to analyze any aspect of the release notification and response system. ERNS has been used in the following specific applications:

- Guidance and regulatory development
- Congressional inquiries
- Response preparedness
- Compliance and enforcement support
- Statistical and trend analyses
- Program planning and management
- Information requests from the public and Federal, State, and local governments

WHO MANAGES ERNS?

ERNS is managed and supported by the EPA, USCG, NRC, and DOT's Transportation Systems Center. A systems development workgroup comprising EPA Headquarters representatives, EPA Regional Managers and On-Scene Coordinators, the NRC, and DOT's Research and Special Programs Administration and Transportation Systems Center meets regularly to manage the development, maintenance, enhancement, and operations of ERNS at the Regional and National levels. The workgroup provides a comprehensive forum for programmers, users of the system, and members of the emergency response community to exchange ideas and to identify potential uses of the system and the information ERNS can provide.



HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN THE INFORMATION IN ERNS?

Information from ERNS is made available to the public in periodic reports published by EPA's Emergency Response Division. These reports contain summaries of release notifications and can be obtained from the address below or by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 (in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, call 1-202-382-3000). Examples of these summaries are provided on the following page.

For information concerning EPA Regional ERNS databases, contact the Freedom of Information Act Office of the specific EPA Region in which you are interested. Addresses and telephone numbers of the EPA Regional Offices are located at the end of this brochure.

Information stored in the National ERNS database may be obtained from EPA's Emergency Response Division through the Agency's Freedom of Information Act Office. Address your request to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Freedom of Information Act Office
A-101
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

EXAMPLES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM ERNS

1988 CALENDAR YEAR INFORMATION

Releases by Mode

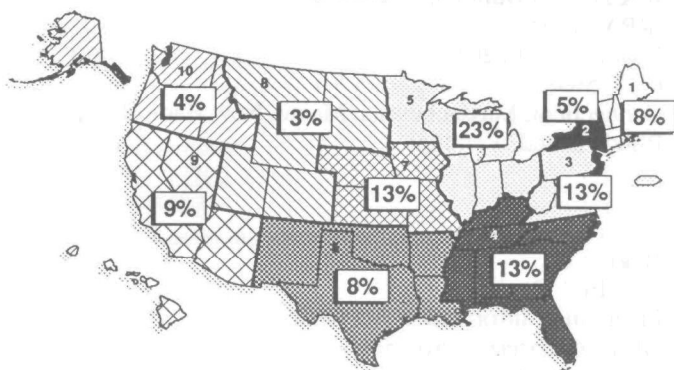
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Fixed facility	18,824	51
Marine	3,796	13
Highway	2,353	8
Offshore	1,713	6
Pipeline	1,633	6
Railway	711	2
Underground		
Storage Tanks	363	1
Air Transport	125	0.4
Other	3,419	12

Most Commonly Reported Materials

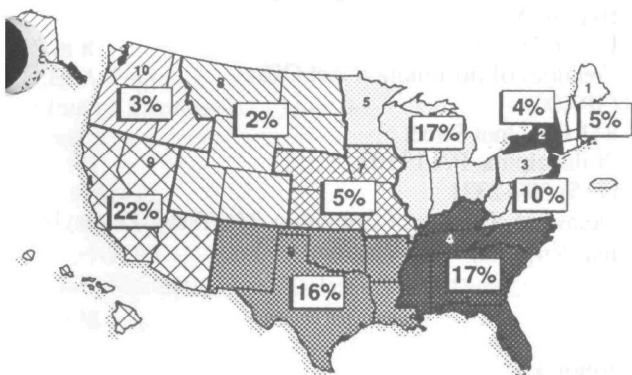
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>CERCLA</u>		
PCB's	736	15
Ammonia	612	12
Sulfuric Acid	370	8
Chlorine	303	6
Hydrochloric Acid	221	5
<u>Non-CERCLA</u>		
Diesel Fuel	3,682	16
Crude Oil	2,914	12
Gasoline	1,834	8
Unknown Oil	1,232	5
Waste Oil	1,166	5

EXAMPLES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM ERNS

Reports of PCB Releases by Region (1988)



Reports of Sulfuric Acid Releases by Region (1988)



EPA REGIONAL CONTACTS FOR ERNS INFORMATION

Region 1

U.S. EPA Region 1
Freedom of Information Act Office
JFK Federal Building
(RPA-2203)
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3187
Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire,
Rhode Island, Vermont

Region 2

U.S. EPA Region 2
Freedom of Information Act Office
Office of External Programs
26 Federal Plaza
Room 905
New York, NY 10278
(212) 264-2515
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

Region 3

U.S. EPA Region 3
Freedom of Information Act Office
(3PA00)
841 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 597-2321
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania,
Virginia, West Virginia

Region 4

U.S. EPA Region 4
Freedom of Information Act Office
345 Courtland Street, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30365
(404) 347-3004
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North
Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

Region 5

U.S. EPA Region 5

Freedom of Information Act Office
(5PA)

14th Floor

South Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-6686

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

Region 6

U.S. EPA Region 6

Freedom of Information Act Office
(6M-II)

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202-2733

(214) 655-6558

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

Region 7

U.S. EPA Region 7

Freedom of Information Act Office

726 Minnesota Avenue

Kansas City, KS 66101

(913) 236-2803

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Region 8

U.S. EPA Region 8

Freedom of Information Act Office
(80EA)

Suite 500

999 18th Street

Denver, CO 80202-2405

(303) 294-7599

Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah,
Wyoming

Region 9

U.S. EPA Region 9

Freedom of Information Act Office

(E-2)

215 Fremont Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 974-7492

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa,
Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Region 10

U.S. EPA Region 10

Freedom of Information Act Office

(MD-103)

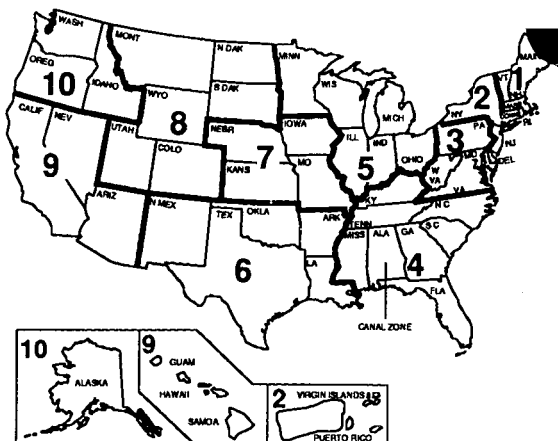
1200 Sixth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

(206) 442-4280

Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

EPA REGIONS



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