

ERNS Statistics

Emergency Response Notification System (ERNS) Fact Sheet

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
Emergency Response Division 5202G

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

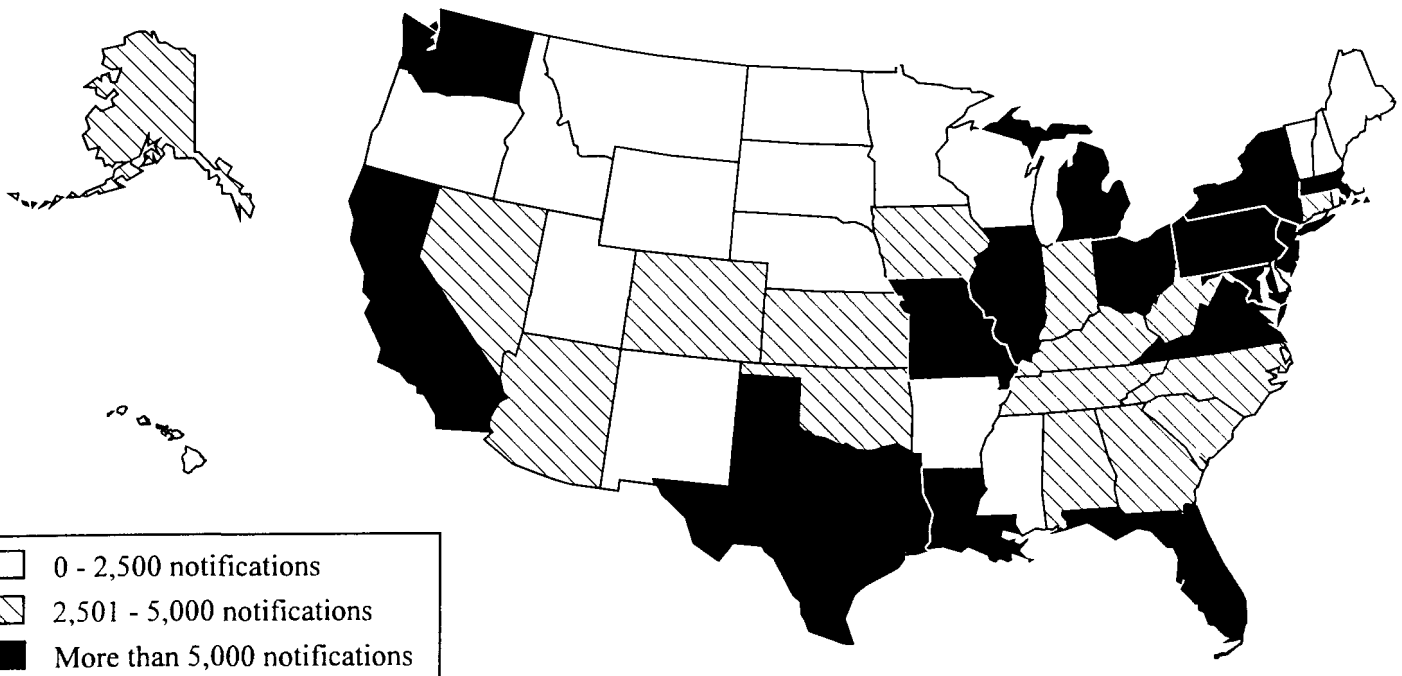
What is ERNS?

The Emergency Response Notification System (ERNS) is a computer database containing information on release notifications of oil and hazardous substances that have occurred throughout the United States and have been reported to the National Response Center, the ten EPA Regions, or the U.S. Coast Guard. The initial notification data may be updated with information from various Federal, State, and local response authorities as appropriate. ERNS data can be used to analyze release notifications, support emergency planning efforts, and assist decision makers in developing spill prevention programs.

Data Limitations

Because ERNS is a database of initial notifications and not incidents, there are several limitations to the data. ERNS primarily contains initial accounts of releases, made during or immediately after a release occurs when exact details are often unknown. The data are usually not updated unless an EPA Region is involved in the response action. There may be multiple reports for a single incident, (this occurs when the caller makes a second report to update original data or a private observer reports a release that has already been reported by the facility). Because reports are taken over the phone, transcription errors (e.g., misspellings of discharger or location information), occasionally limit the quality of some data.

Number of Notifications by State, 1987 - 1994



CERCLA Notifications by Size

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Less than 1,000 pounds*	3,459	3,893	5,376	5,150	5,420	5,891	6,124	6,551
1,000 - 9,999 pounds	741	867	1,035	982	959	935	835	830
10,000 - 99,999 pounds	310	373	388	398	386	311	322	257
100,000 pounds or greater	54	77	103	71	72	63	56	48
Total**	4,541	5,176	6,865	6,555	6,801	7,181	7,301	7,656

Petroleum Notifications by Size

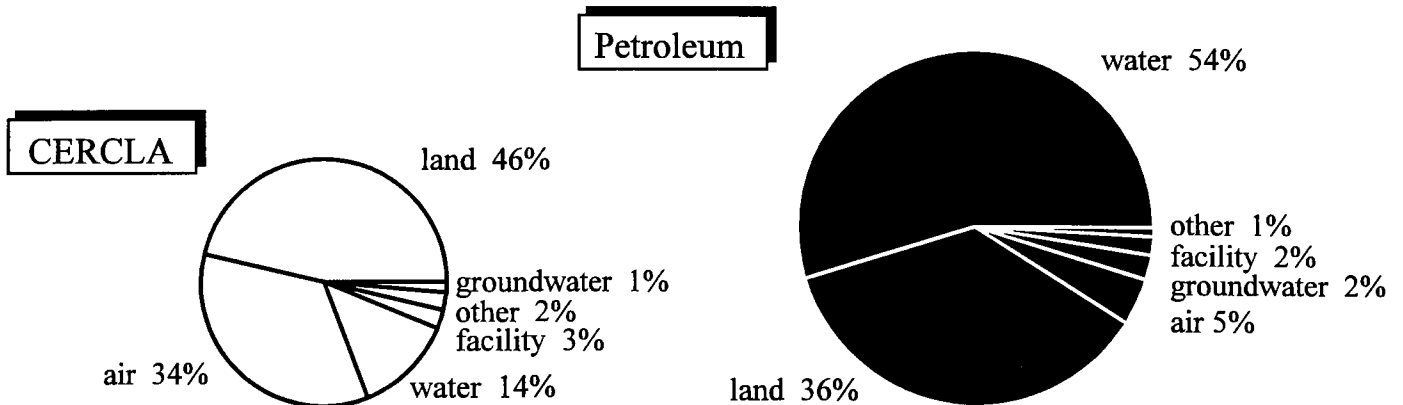
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Less than 1,000 gallons*	11,029	11,252	11,864	13,319	13,689	12,742	12,629	13,052
1,000 - 9,999 gallons	943	840	935	971	986	886	821	673
10,000 - 99,999 gallons	174	159	175	183	178	122	128	102
100,000 gallons or greater	25	25	33	26	20	14	20	13
Total**	12,164	12,265	12,999	14,495	14,868	13,762	13,592	13,835

* Includes notifications that had no quantity reported.

**Notifications do not add to total because a single notification may have releases of more than one material.

Release Reports By Media

Requests for information on release reports of petroleum products and hazardous substances defined under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) are most common. CERCLA hazardous substances notifications account for approximately 19% of the total number of notifications in ERNS, and petroleum product notifications account for approximately 40%.



Obtaining ERNS Data

Additional information on the ERNS data base may be obtained by calling the ERNS Information Line at (202) 260-2342, by sending an e-mail request to erns.info@epamail.epa.gov, or by writing to EPA at the following address:

