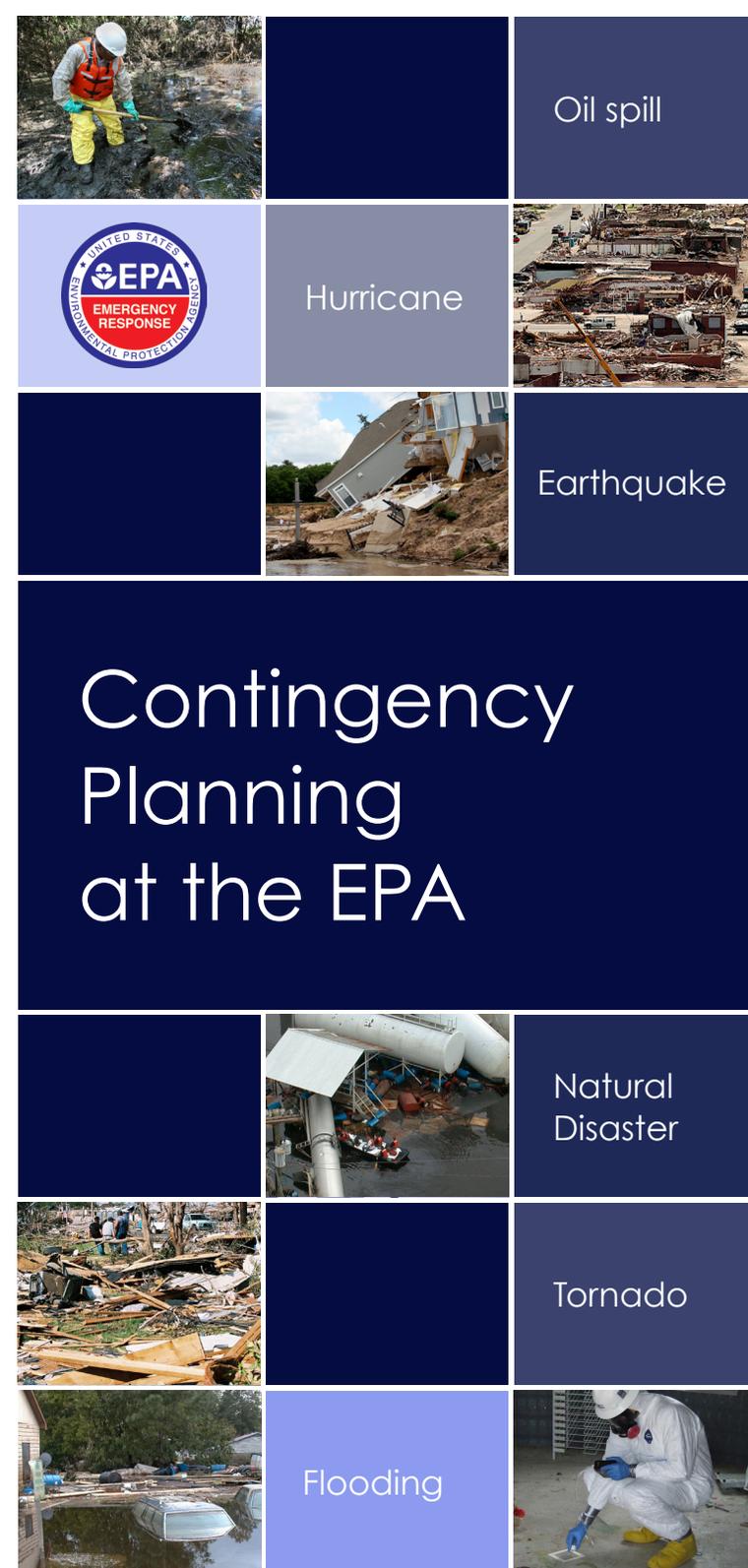


## Key points in Area Planning

- Area Contingency Plans are Community Plans (local, State, Federal, Tribal and Industry)
- ACPs Plan for the full range of hazards (all-hazard planning)
- ACPs are a response tool (data, maps, links, intelligence)

## UMR

The Upper Mississippi River Spills Group plans for five States, two Regions and a thousand miles of river and have developed notification protocols, trained hundreds of responders, exercised thousands, tested specialized river response equipment, and developed response and protection strategies for several key locations. This group worked with EPA's Offices of Water and Research and Development on an early warning network that serves double duty of monitoring water quality and alerting responders to a spill.



## Overview:

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) amendment to the Clean Water Act (CWA) established planning entities and requirements for the National Response System to specifically address



worst-case discharges of oil and CWA hazardous substances during preparedness and response. Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) and Area Committees are one such entity.

The Area Contingency Plan (ACP) is statutorily required for the active interaction of response personnel before, during, and after spills. It is the connectivity between preparedness, response, and prevention. Area Committees are comprised of members from Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies, Industry and Non-Governmental Organizations.

EPA Regions have implemented the Area Committee and Area Contingency Planning responsibilities in a number of

different ways. One of the more common approaches selected by some EPA Regions, has been to create “subareas” in which to focus Area Planning activities. Currently EPA Regions work with 14 areas and 62 subareas to convene Area Committees comprised of federal, state, and local government agencies to prepare Area Contingency Plans (ACPs). Area Planning has been implemented to various degrees among the Regions.

EPA, along with the USCG, are the only federal Agencies with the authority to work to the local level and we can provide strong examples of how all levels of government and the private sector work together.



The Area Committee (AC) provides a forum to work through issues that are of importance to the locality. ACs develop policies, collect data including contacts, create strategies, and assemble it all into an ACP that can be used by any responder.

The experience during response is that a community of responders arrives, policies are right for the community, information is appropriate and readily available, and the response goes much more smoothly.

Outside of response, preparedness is the activity of responders. Thousands of first responders have received training through

our Area Committees. Exercising with local groups ties us into the systems

we actually have to face, and with the training opportunities, provides an opportunity for all of these governments and industries to share capabilities by observing and interacting.



Our Area Planning efforts, when well executed provide the Agency with unparalleled data, excellent outreach as well as the readiness implicit in preparedness. In order to further the reach of well-executed ACs, area planning for all hazards is a priority of the Agency.