

# Coordination of Incident Response and Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Greg Baker  
NOAA Office of Response and Restoration  
Prevention First 2010 Symposium  
October 20, 2010



# Consequences of Coordination Problems

- NRDA field personnel denied access to areas to collect ephemeral data
- Response actions caused avoidable injuries
- Duplication of efforts
- Difficulty getting needed assets for NRDA field work
- Opportunities for emergency restoration missed
- Response statements undermined the Trustees' case

# Response-caused Injuries



2007 Cosco Busan oil spill  
San Francisco Bay



# Response-caused Injuries



2007 Cosco Busan oil spill  
San Francisco Bay



Sand Berms, Louisiana, 2010 BP Spill

# Lessons Learned

(from ICS 100 Course)

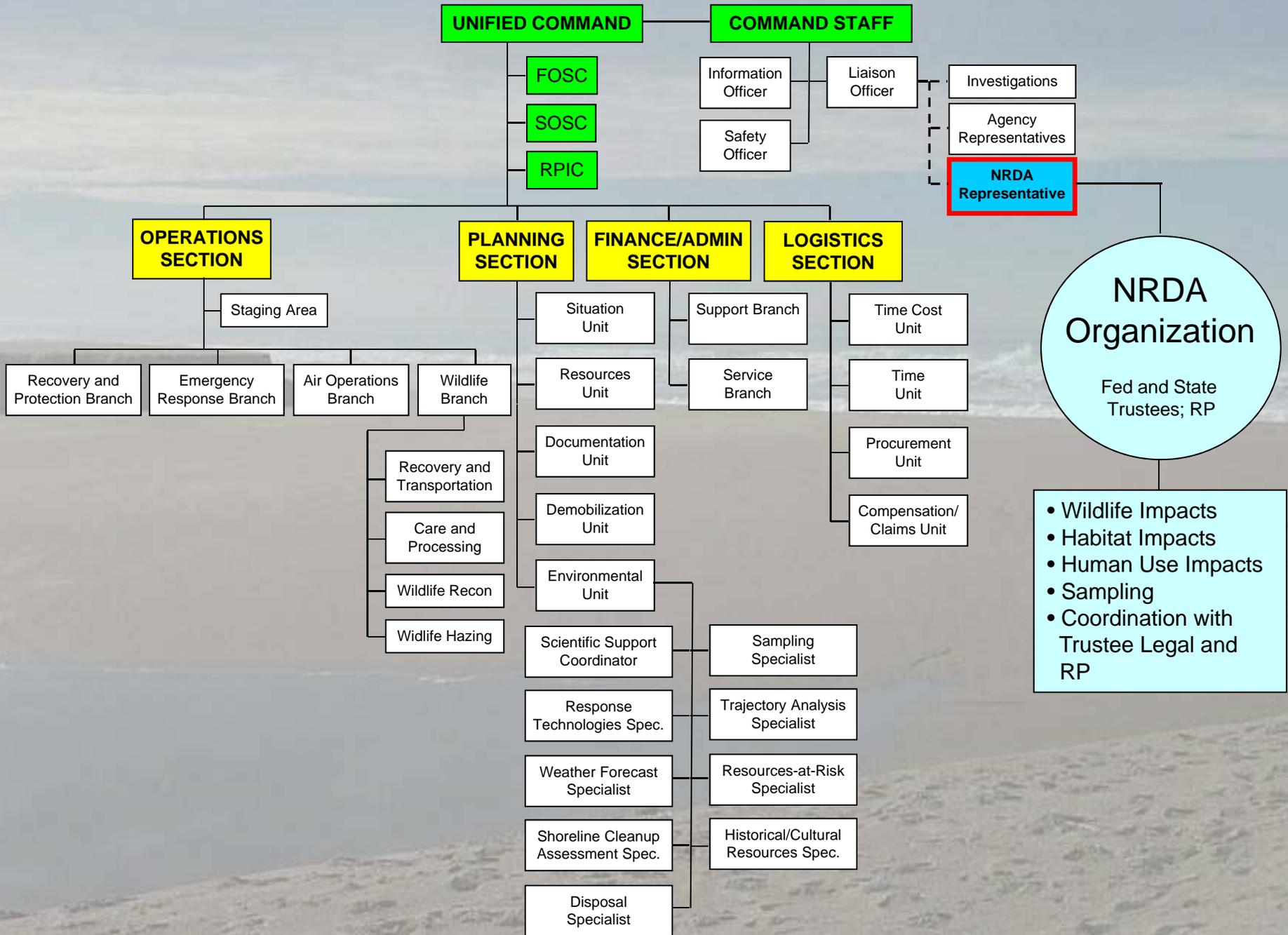
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.asp>

Weaknesses in incident management are often due to:

- Lack of accountability, including unclear chains of command
- Poor communication: inefficient uses of available communications systems and conflicting codes and terminology
- Lack of a systematic planning process
- No common, flexible, predesigned management structure that enabled commanders to delegate responsibilities and manage work efficiently
- No predefined methods to integrate interagency requirements into the management structure and planning process effectively

# Goals

- Establish clear lines-of-communication between Unified Command and NRDA
- Assure all NRDA staff have appropriate Health and Safety Training; clearance to enter the field
- Assure response effort provides spill-related information, logistical needs, and source-sampling to support NRDA.



# Recommendations for Communication

- **One lead point-of-contact (POC) to UC: NRDA Representative**
  - Other potential POCs: NRDA Safety Officer; NRDA Wildlife Operations Liaison
  - Contact within 24 to 48 hours after spill
- **ICS Form 213 (General Message)**
  - Means of initial contact; those involved in the NRDA
  - Examples: identifies NRDA Field Team members, level of safety training, deployment areas

# Recommended Coordination Points

- Unified Command
  - FOSC, SOSC, RP
    - Command Staff (via NRDA Representative)
      - Examples:
        - » **Liaison**: provides initial point of contact for NRDA with UC
        - » **Information Officer**: addresses any press releases or information dissemination related to NRDA
        - » **Safety Officer**: informs NRDA Field Teams re: spill safety plan (via NRDA Representative or NRDA Safety Officer)

# Recommended Coordination Points

- **Investigations**
  - Warden (via NRDA Representative)
    - Example:
      - » Assures source sample collected



# Recommended Coordination Points

- Operations
  - **Wildlife Branch** (via NRDA Wildlife Operations Liaison)
    - Examples:
      - » Search Effort and Recovery Logs
      - » Wildlife oiling/mortality observations

# Recommended Coordination Points

- Planning
  - **Environmental and Situations Units** (via NRDA Representative)
    - Examples:
      - » Spill volume, trajectory
      - » SCAT observations
      - » Coordinate NRDA Field Team deployments

# Effective communications includes mutual respect

- At an incident you encounter people who look like this...



# Effective Communications and Mutual Respect

- When you show up at an incident command post you encounter people who look like this
- So probably better not to arrive looking like this



# NRDA – Incident Command

## Summary of Recommendations:

- All NRDA communications with ICS coordinated through the NRDA Representative (primary point-of-contact)
- NRDA Command Post nearby Incident Command Post
- Establish communications/liaison positions with UC, Safety Officer, Investigations Unit, Environmental Unit, Wildlife Ops.
- Include NRDA within spill drills.