In 1978, the Environmental Response Team was established under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act to provide on-site national expert assistance as required by the National Contingency Plan (NCP) section on Special Forces.

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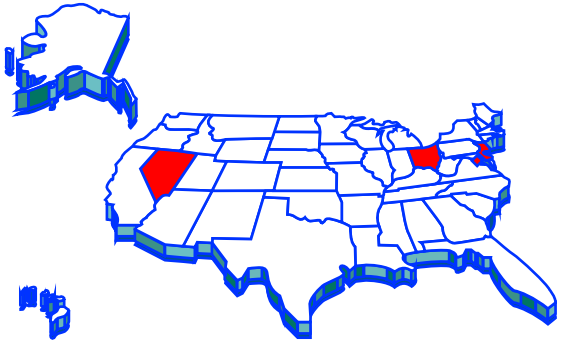
In December 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), establishing legal mechanisms for cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under this legislation, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA) was mandated to take immediate action in the event of any chemical release that poses an imminent threat to public health and safety. In conjunction with the passage of the Act, Congress broadened and strengthened the emergency response capabilities of the NCP.

With the passage of CERCLA, the Office of Solid waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) was established within the U.S.EPA for the specific purpose of administering both CERCLA and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). OSWER quickly became the focal point for a comprehensive, well-coordinated attack on hazardous waste site problems. As a result, OSWER's responsibilities were significantly increased under the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA).

The ERT has evolved into a branch within OSWER and is involved in oil spills, hazardous emergencies, potentially hazardous scenarios, long-term remedial activities, as well as detection and analytical method development for biological and chemical agents. To date, ERT has been active in providing both national and international assistance (all 50 states, all U.S. Territories and Commonwealths, 28 foreign countries) in over 2000 incidents, and represents a vital link to the U.S. EPA's battle to remediate and limit environmental damage to air, land and water, and evaluate threats to both human and ecological health.

The Environmental Response Team is prepared to respond to any incident 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TEAM

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under reconstruction

www.epaosc.org

Environmental Response Team

DIVE TEAM

"I would like to express my thanks for the invaluable assistance provided to the Fish & Wildlife Service on Vieques Island, P.R., by the U.S. EPA, Environmental Response Team. The Service undertook a project to document sea grass as the Mosquito Pier... The study area consisted of 15 transects... .75 miles in length, 190 sampling nodes...18 control locations. The EPA team provided mapping support using GPS and the Cobra-Tac Doppler system... They conducted still and video-photo documentation. The divers assisted with a "sweep" of Blue Beach; 0.5 mile long beach, 100 feet off shore, 20 feet in depth for "suspicious" DOD objects. The EPA divers provided Service divers with hands-on-training in surface supplied diving and AGA masks..."

- Jon Andrew, Regional Chief
National Wildlife Refuge System

The Environmental Response Team Dive Team was established in 1988. With over 60 divers in the U.S. EPA dive program, the ERT is among the few uniquely qualified for hazardous water diving.

The current Dive Team is composed of 9, highly trained, contaminated water divers; 5 dive masters, 4 science/working divers. The Team divers' backgrounds include toxicology, chemistry, geology, and engineering with a combined experience of over 130 years in the environmental field. The Team combines diversity, experience, and extensive resources while performing hundreds of dives annually; in such operations as search and recovery, environmental sampling, and biological assessment. The Team averages over 1,500 hours dive project time per year. Members participate on the U.S. EPA Dive Safety Board.

The ERT can conduct an assessment, assist in contractor selection, or provide on-site oversight of a removal action. They are prepared to deploy and be in the water in a matter of hours.

The ERT Dive Team is highly trained in the detection, assessment, handling, and recovery of hazardous materials. The Team is well equipped for projects ranging from open water biota surveys to contaminated water search and recovery.

The Team's gear includes, but is not limited to:

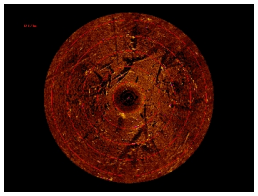
- 41 foot Dive Vessel
- Superlite 17K dive helmets
- Viking dry suits
- AGA full-face masks
- DSI surface-supply air system
- OTS underwater communications

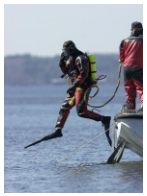
- Kongsberg-Simard Mesotech - sector scanning sonar
- Marine Sonics 700 kHz & 1200 kHz side scan sonar units
- Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV)
- Underwater cameras & digital video
- Cobra-Tac Navigation and Mapping
- Trimble Differential Global Positioning System (DPGS) units

SEARCH and RESCUE

The ERT Dive Team uses divers, remotely operated vehicles, scanning sonar, and geophysical surveys to locate hazardous materials and debris in lakes, rivers and quarries.

Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery, TX





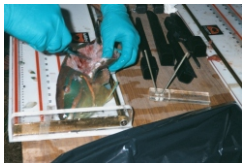
The ERT Dive Team spent 3 months working with other U.S. EPA divers, U.S. Navy, Texas police divers and NASA, using state-of-the-art search equipment to recover debris from Toledo Bend Lake following the Columbia disaster.

Mississippi River, LA. Working with criminal investigators on 3 separate cases, the Team used sonar and divers to locate nearly 200 drums and supervised commercial divers during the over-packing and removal operation.

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Working with a number of local, state and federal agencies, the ERT Dive Team has provided support for an assortment of biological studies.

Vieques, Puerto Rico
The Team collected and analyzed hundreds of samples of locally consumed species to ATSDR in its effort to determine whether the training activities of the U.S. Navy were adversely affecting the local population.



Housatonic River, MA
Divers harvested mussels in a control river and deployed them in the Housatonic River to monitor bioaccumulation from contaminated river sediments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

The ERT Dive Team has collected a variety of environmental samples for a wide range of contaminants.

Manistique Harbor, MI
The ERT Dive Team conducted sediment sampling operations in support of a multi-year harbor dredging operation; using customized tools such as a sledge hammer, cast iron drive head and six foot acetate cores, hundreds of sediment samples were collected for on-site PCB analysis.

Detroit Oil Spill, MI

Sediments were sampled for the presence of submerged oil after a spill in the Detroit River using an airlift pump the Team fabricated on-site.