

National Advisory Council (NAC)

Retired Subcommittees

The National Advisory Council (NAC) has two Congressionally mandated subcommittees: the **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee** and **RESPONSE Act Subcommittee**. Both have stood down and are not active.

IPAWS Subcommittee

This disbanded in February 2019 after submitting its report to the NAC in November 2018. The report contained recommendations to ensure IPAWS provides timely and effective warnings in the event of natural disaster, acts of terrorism, and other manmade acts or threats to public safety.

Specific Goals

- Incorporates many communications technologies.
- Adapts to and incorporates future technologies for communicating directly with the public.
- Provides alerts to the largest portion of the affected population, including nonresident visitors and tourists, individuals with disabilities, individuals with access and functional needs, and individuals with limited English proficiency.
- Enhances community preparedness and response through local and regional public and private partnerships.
- Reaches the greatest number of people through redundant alert mechanisms.
- Protects individual privacy.

RESPONSE Act Subcommittee

The RESPONSE Act of 2016 directed FEMA to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee to provide recommendations for improving emergency responder training and resources for incidents involving railroads.

Meetings

Meetings were held in Washington, DC, Pueblo, Colorado, and/or via teleconference in the spring and summer of 2011. They were held on a bi-weekly or monthly basis to review training, resources, best practices, and unmet needs. Topics included:

- Quality and application of rail hazardous materials incidents training for state, local, and tribal emergency responders. This included those serving small communities near railroads.
- Available funding from federal, state, local, tribal and nongovernmental for rail hazardous materials incident training. This included those serving small communities near railroads.
- The strategy for integrating product flow studies, mapping, and rail and hazardous materials databases for state, local, and tribal emergency responders. This included increasing the rate of access to the individual responder in existing or emerging communications technology.



FEMA

Final Report and Recommendations

The subcommittees final report was titled, *Ensuring Rail Preparedness: Improving Responder Training and Resource Allocation for Rail Hazardous Materials Incidents*. The report contains seven approved recommendations from the NAC, based on proposed recommendations submitted by the NAC Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee.

Members

Members included federal and other government officials, rail industry experts, emergency response providers, emergency response training providers, emergency response providers, emergency response training providers, tribal organizations, vendors, developers, and manufacturers of systems, facilities, equipment, and capabilities for emergency responder services, and other technical experts.

- **Kathleen M. Fox (Subcommittee Co-Chair)**
 - Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness
- **Chris Howell (Subcommittee Co-Chair)**
 - NAC Member (Vice Chair, Response and Recovery Subcommittee)
Director, Tribal Relations
BNSF Railway
- **Howard McMillan (Subcommittee Co-Chair)**
 - Executive Director
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- **Karl Alexy**
 - Director, Office of Safety Analysis
Federal Railroad Administration
- **David Bierling**
 - Research Scientist
Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- **Patrick Brady**
 - General Director, Hazardous Materials Safety
BNSF Railway
- **Robert Wayne (Bobby) Breed**
 - Vice President and General Manager
Specialized Response Solutions, National Response Corporation
- **Reggie Cheatham**
 - Director, Office of Emergency Management, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Environmental Protection Agency

- **Rick Ferguson**
 - Senior Specialist Emergency Response, Land Transportation
Shell Oil Company
- **Peter Ginaitt**
 - NAC Member (Preparedness and Protection Subcommittee)
Environmental Health and Safety Officer and Emergency Manager
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
- **Scott Gorton**
 - Manager, Freight Rail Industry Engagement, Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement
Transportation Security Administration
- **Kaylynn Gresham**
 - Director Emergency Management Homeland Security
Oneida Nation
- **Robert Hall**
 - Director, Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Investigations
National Transportation Safety Board
- **Yvonne Hayes**
 - Assistant General Chairman for GC 851 and Chairperson for Local 1138
International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Transportation
Division
- **Ronald Hewitt**
 - Director, Office of Emergency Communications
Department of Homeland Security
- **Renee Loh**
 - Former Executive Director
North Dakota Firefighter's Association
- **Tim McLean**
 - Chief, Casselton Fire Department
Casselton, North Dakota
- **Joseph Molina**
 - Chief, Vancouver Fire Department
Vancouver, Washington
- **Gregory Noll**
 - Representative, Inter Agency Board (IAB)
Program Manager, South Central (PA) Regional Task Force

- **Bill Offerman**
 - National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Executive Board
Fire Chief Elwood Fire Protection District
Elwood, Illinois
- **Capt. Anthony Popiel**
 - Deputy Director, Incident Management and Preparedness Policy
United States Coast Guard