

Presented to British Columbia Spill Preparedness & Response Symposium

Volunteer Coordination in Washington State

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TYPES OF VOLUNTEERS

- Pre-registered and pre-trained volunteers
 - Are affiliated with an existing volunteer organization
 - Are known to us
 - Are trained and ready to go
- Convergent volunteers
 - Are not affiliated with an existing organization
 - These are people who show up on the day if still wanting to volunteer
 - We must provide on the job training



2007 Cosco Busan, San Francisco



2007 Cosco Busan, San Francisco



2010 Deepwater Horizon spills, Gulf of Mexico



2010 Deepwater Horizon spills, Gulf of Mexico



WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

- 2011 legislative session directed Ecology to create a volunteer coordination system (ESSB 1186)
- When people want to help, we want to ensure that there is a plan that will facilitate an organized way to use volunteers safely and effectively
- Our goal is to have people pre-register and pre-trained

WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?

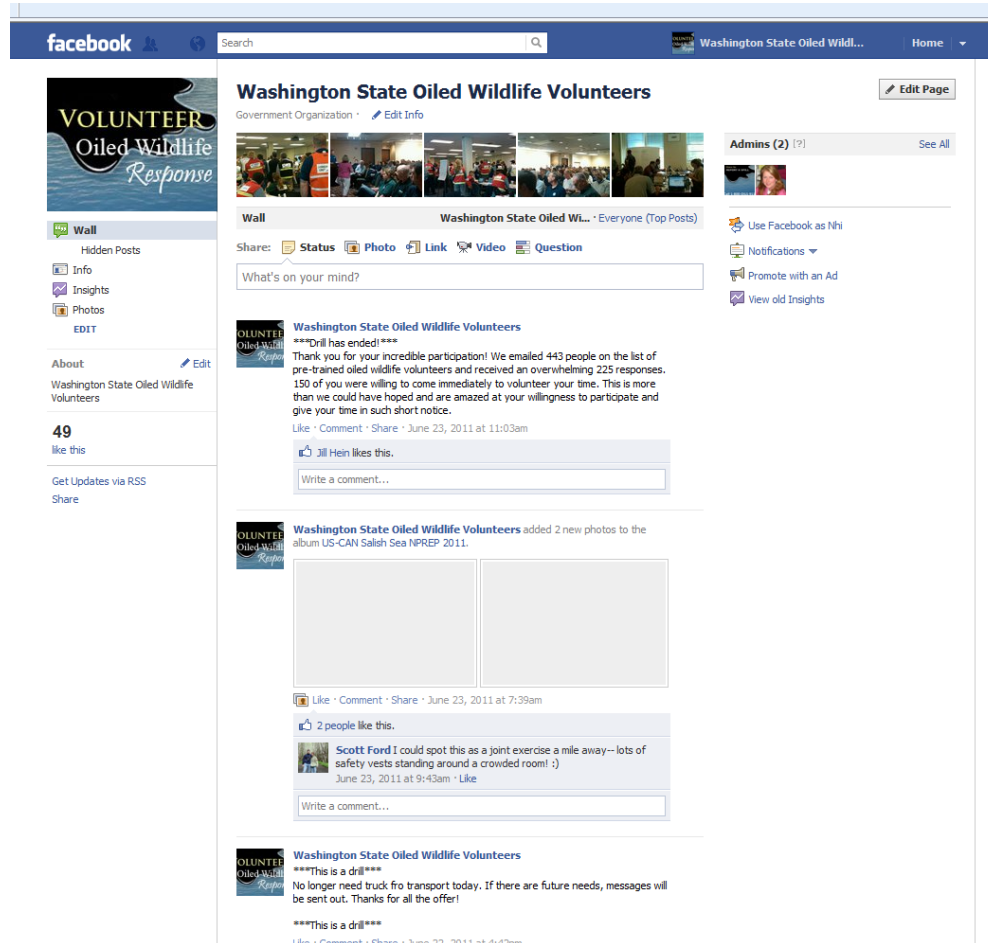
- Develop a mechanism to register volunteers.
 - Web-based system to register, communicate and inform volunteers (PIER SYSTEM)
- Develop a Volunteer Management Plan
 - Part of Northwest Area Contingency Plan customizable for different geographical areas
- Testing volunteers in drills
- Engaging with local emergency managers around the state to develop a structure for registering and processing volunteers
- Engaging with local community volunteer groups

WHAT DO WE HAVE NOW?

- Approximately 450 pre-trained oiled wildlife volunteers.
- Ad-hoc training opportunities



National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) 2011



- We sent email messages to 435 wildlife volunteers
- We also posted to the oiled wildlife volunteer Facebook page
- We received 325 responses in the 2 days of the drill
- 33% were available to show up that day and committed to 2-3 days of the response
- Over the course of the weeks after the drills, we continue to get email responses from volunteers
- Total count of response 401

CHALLENGES WITH USING VOLUNTEERS

- Liability coverage for volunteers
- Finding suitable job for volunteers
- Maintaining a level of trained volunteers
- Maintaining volunteer information
- Keeping volunteers at a level of interest when no real experience is available

Questions?

For more information:

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