

BAY ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE TEAM (BART)

BART is part of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. Its aim is rapid, effective response to environmental incidents on Narragansett Bay.

Narragansett Bay sustains much more than The Ocean State. Its riches are at once natural, recreational, aesthetic, cultural, economic, and spiritual.

When a ship sinks or when downpours overwhelm a water treatment plant, the Bay suffers trauma. Sometimes, too, tiny threats subtly accumulate and then boldly surface. For example, a small shift in the weather can doom a suffering sector of the Bay's ecosystem: Dead fish or seaweed wash ashore; the sight and smell of them overwhelm the senses; swimming is restricted and clam beds are closed; ordinary life along the coast is disrupted or worse. For such environmental incidents, BART is prepared to:

- Receive reports and Assess impacts
- Pursue appropriate remedies
- Provide information and advice.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Avian Influenza (AI) occurs around the world in several different forms. Most forms of AI, or "bird flu", have been around for many years, including here in Rhode Island, and are not going to make people sick. In some parts of the world, however, one particular strain of the virus, called H5N1, in a highly pathogenic form, is causing illness and death in poultry and some waterfowl such as swans and geese. Some people in close contact with the sick poultry in those countries have become infected and died; but so far the virus is not easily transmitted between people. This strain of virus has not yet shown up in North America, but State and Federal officials have been making plans to deal with it, if and when that occurs.

To Report An Oil or

Hazardous Material Spill

Weekdays: 8:30am – 4:00pm

401-222-1360

After hours – Weekends – Holidays

401-222-3070

**"IT IS AMAZING WHAT
YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH
IF YOU DO NOT CARE
WHO GETS THE CREDIT"**

HARRY S. TRUMAN

**RI Department of
Environmental Management**



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