



Environmental Crisis Response and Management

When environmental emergencies strike—fires, explosions, chemical releases, natural disasters, or industrial accidents—immediate, strategic legal response is critical. These catastrophic events can devastate operations, trigger extensive regulatory scrutiny, generate massive tort and remediation liabilities, and threaten a company’s reputation and long-term viability. In these high-stakes moments, clients routinely turn to our lawyers to rapidly mobilize, coordinate complex multi-jurisdictional responses, and protect business interests, allowing our clients to focus on operational recovery.

Our strategic approach has been widely recognized, including by *The National Law Journal*’s 2022 Crisis Management and Government Oversight Professional Excellence Award and by *Chambers USA*, where clients have described our lawyers as “stand outs in emergency response and risk management.”

AREAS OF FOCUS

Environmental crises rarely involve a single legal issue or jurisdiction. Our integrated approach addresses the full spectrum of anticipated challenges:

Immediate Response and Compliance

- Emergency regulatory reporting and notifications
- Coordination with federal, state, and local agencies
- Document preservation protocols and litigation holds
- Media and stakeholder communication strategies

Investigation and Enforcement Defense

- OSHA, EPA, DOJ and state regulatory investigations
- Criminal and civil enforcement proceedings
- Internal incident investigations and root cause analysis
- Expert witness coordination and technical support

Litigation Management

- Mass tort and personal injury claims
- Environmental remediation and natural resource damage claims
- Consideration of insurance coverage and recovery actions
- Business interruption and commercial litigation
- Expert witness coordination and technical support

Long-Term Recovery Planning

- Permitting for rebuilding and remediation efforts
- Environmental management system improvements
- Compliance program enhancements
- Corporate governance and risk management counsel

With lawyers across the United States and in key international locations, our team has managed some of the most complex environmental disasters, from major chemical plant explosions and refinery fires to train derailments, pipeline spills and facility chemical releases. We understand the unique pressures of crisis management—the need for immediate decisions under intense scrutiny, coordination across multiple stakeholders, and the imperative to position clients for both short-term stability and long-term recovery. Our team is also deeply experienced in conducting internal investigations, responding to a myriad of government inquiries and navigating increasingly expedient class action litigation filings.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- For **BioLab**, following accidental releases at multiple facilities, we have led the company’s response to numerous government investigations, including those initiated by OSHA and US Chemical Safety Board (CSB) inquiries, the EPA, and state environmental agencies, and have defended multiple class action lawsuits.
- We represent **Norfolk Southern** in connection with the February 2023 train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. Our work has spanned the full range of environmental crisis response and management, including preparing the CEO for congressional and state hearings, and negotiating a consent decree to resolve liabilities with the United States.
- For **BP America**, we managed the incident response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, handling 15 congressional hearings and investigations by the Department of Defense, Securities Exchange Commission, National Oil Spill Commission, CSB, and National Academy of Engineers.
- We served as national coordinating counsel for **Columbia Gas** on environmental enforcement and legislative matters. We represented the company in criminal investigations, state attorneys general inquiries, state public utilities commission actions, and prepared commission filings.
- We represent a **marine vessel manufacturer** in multifaceted federal and state investigations and litigation arising from an allision between the container ship Dali and Baltimore’s Key Bridge, resulting in the collapse of the Key Bridge and the deaths of road workers. Following the incident, we immediately deployed a cross-disciplinary team of lawyers to provide boots-on-the-ground assistance. Since the allision, we have successfully handled every phase of the overlapping federal and state investigations/litigation.

“Their talent extends from the partner level to the first-year associate level. They have the bench strength to bring in other specific experience when needed to provide advice and guidance.”

— *Chambers USA 2025*

“They understand the law inside and out. They delve into every detail of the cases. That mastery of the facts and the issues allows them to be very effective when litigating.”

— *Chambers USA 2025*

CONSISTENTLY RECOGNIZED BY:



Best Lawyers

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