

RRT General Session - August 16, 2011

Introductions

Update on Greg Houge. Will return to work in September, request for donations for paid leave and website.

Speaker: Mr. Bruce Kinney with FEMA discussed National Level Exercise(NLE) 2011

- Largest national level exercise – includes about 90% of agencies present at RRT
- Real world event that will affect the Mississippi River
- Discussed strengths and areas for improvement (AFIs) recognized within the exercise.
 - i.e. COMMS – Strengths: found alternate forms, government provided tactical COMMS support. AFIs: Allocation of COMMS, gaps in telecom services, reporting information between states.
 - i.e. Medical surge – Strengths: push of resources, response to blood supply, coordination with private sector. AFI: medical surge assets have limitations.

Speaker: Jennifer Mosser with ORIA discussed EPA response to the Fukushima, Japan Nuclear Emergency

- 2 groups—Center for Radiation Emergency Management and RERT—located in Montgomery, AL and Las Vegas, NV.
- EPA assumes leadership of domestic response.
 - If under the NCP, ORIA supports OSCs during response.
- CREM gives strategic direction, not tactical. Focus on prevention, protection, assessments, monitoring, and sampling. Key roles: regional liaison and regional radiation advisor.
- Provide technical assistance to RERT— support the OSC, FRMAC, provide a field deployable team.
 - Scenario 1: impacts one or more sites within US, OSC is IC. i.e. Las Conchas Fire Response 2011. RERT serves as senior EPA representative in FRMAC.
 - Scenario 2—no specific site in US, has potential to affect the US, no IC, ORIA conducts sampling, RadNet is deployed.
- March 11, 2011 – Fukushima considered a Level 7 “major accident”, a release of radiation to the environment took place.
 - ORIA provided technical assistance to RERT, supported the OSC, FRMAC, and provided a field deployable team.
 - Iodine is primary component of release: it can be transported a great distance in the atmosphere and is easily detected and measured.
 - Water samples were below the MCL and milk samples were below TSD.

Q: What other isotopes of concern were there?

A: In addition to Iodine, cesium was of concern.

Q: Half life of Iodine? Cesium?

A: Iodine: 8 days, Cesium: 30 yrs. Iodine increases cancer risk over lifetime (chronic exposure).

Q: Who was the lead federal agency responsible for getting information out to the public?

A: EPA lead the domestic response, was “really lead out of the White House”. Office of Science, Technology and Policy were the lead in getting info to the public.

Q: Plume modeling was not out quickly; Wasn't NARAC the lead agency for plume modeling?

A: NARAC was using NOAA trajectories; US and Japan did not want to release data to impede the political relationship with Japan.

Speaker: OSC Art Smith discussed the Army Chemical Materials Agency Training

- Under NCP, the Army can contact RRT for assistance with any hazardous substance release. RRT would support the Army OSC with logistics, clarifying roles, responsibilities.
- Brad Benggio suggested Navy OSC exercises and training, and mentioned using the Navy table top exercises as a model.
- Pete Cooper—former Army OSC by virtue of command, stated the biggest thing learned, is that rather than be self sufficient and throw a task force, call EPA for expertise, ideas, and in general to walk through a situation.

Speaker: LT Alyssa Johnson with the National Response Center

- NRC is the sole national point of contact for reporting spills and hazardous nature. Their primary function is to take reports and pass on information to the appropriate agency.
- NRC takes reports on oil and hazardous spills, radiation/biological incidents, suspicious activity, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, aviation and maritime incidents, and anything affecting national infrastructure
- Information is processed in the reporting system, IRIS is notified and the OSC and/or CG, the state, or NRT is contacted.
- Spill hotline: 1-800-424-8802
- Railroad derailment hotline: 1-800-424-0201
- Website: www.nrc.uscg.mil

Q: There are more calls than reports—are calls screened?

A: Yes calls are screened, several calls do not require reporting.

Note: Fields cannot be left blank when reporting via the internet, therefore calling in to report an incident may be best.

Q: Can calls be bridged to the appropriate agency?

A: Yes, NRC does direct connect to an OSC/CG.

Speaker: Jim Snell with Volunteer Tennessee

- Federally owned corporation established in 1994, under the state emergency management plan.
- Discussed where volunteers fit into the scheme of a large scale event, the Volunteer Coordination Plan, and what to do regarding unanticipated/unaffiliated volunteers (AKA“second disaster”)
 - Cons: Unaffiliated volunteers can strain an already weak infrastructure.
 - Pros: volunteers can help with mass care, case management, donations, camp set up, long term recovery, assessments, shelter operations, counseling, etc.
- During Deep Water Horizon, CNCS conducted coordination management, outreach to established organizations, help release information, and established volunteer reception centers.
- Jim Snell: 615-253-1426
- Kelly DeGraff: 202-606-6817

Q: Is there a funding commitment in the Memo of Understanding (MOU)?

A: If there is a request for corporation to respond, they assign a budget. The corporation usually has a budget for an initial response.

Q: Are relationships already in place with state EOCs?

A: Yes, specifically in TN-Volunteer Tennessee is a part of the state emergency management plan, and serve as a liaison to 15-20 organizations.

Note: a draft technical document by NRT, which addresses volunteers, does been generated, however it is uncertain if a finalized copy exists.

Shane recognized Bruce Freeman (AL) and Eric Dear (MS) for their legacy with RRT and new member Grady Springer (AL) and Barry McMaster (MS) for assuming the respective positions.

FEMA, NOAA (conference next month on dispersants), DOE (event in August and October), ATSDR mentioned upcoming events and continued support efforts. Department of Agriculture has three upcoming events.

CG Alternate Co-Chair David Ormes from RRT Region 3 was introduced.

RRT IV Meeting: 8/17/2011

Speaker: Sean Kaufmann discussed Emergency Response Interagency Perspectives

- Something is not working? Do something different! This can be applied to Emergency Response to improve emergency coordination.

- Maslow – People need to be rational 1.) self actualization 2.) esteem 3.) belongingness 4.) safety/security 5.) physiological.
 - Noise → Behavior. Psychological triggers for creating noise.
- First challenge: The Emergency Response itself
 Second challenge: SOP vs. VOP (varied operating procedures)
 - SOP: 2 people doing same thing = achieve same results.
 - VOP: 2 people doing same thing a different way = different results.
 - Plans must be understood and achievable.
 Third challenge: Myers-Briggs. Personality clashes—not character flaws.
 Ultimately—just recognize someone, tell them they are doing a good job.
- Phics-it: Public Health and Incident Command System. Listen-talk less, empathize, adapt, demonstrate, achievable plan.
- Sean Kaufmann 404-849-9366; skaufmann@emory.edu

Q: Have you seen a good model for implementing lessons learned?

A: Resources is biggest challenge. You cannot prepare for a response, can only prepare people; there is no way to determine one set one way. Take lessons learned, make initiatives.

Speaker: Chase Lyles with TDEC Division of Water Pollution Control

- Primary event: Tornado disaster in East TN
 - Tornadoes are not anticipated in mountainous areas; locals were unprepared for a large scale tornado.
 - Several responders had to be re-trained during the response
 - Debris removal, CAFOs damaged, power outages, transformers down
- West TN flooding: Different than Nashville 2010 floods because locals anticipated the storm
- Upwards of 20 inches of rainfall.
- Determining when to evacuate the city if things got worse.
 - Railroad was untouched-only path for evacuation
- Concerns: Prison nearby, pump station overflows, drinking water affected.

Q: Did cost share issues under FEMA, or any federal assistance program drive the mission?

A: Not sure, likely yes. Kentucky: Yes, it did drive the mission.

Note: Catch 22, when federal assistance is needed most, states cannot put up funds. FEMA can go 100% on the disaster fund, but when it is at its limit, Congress has to provide funds. The Stafford Act was set up for Congress to funnel money in, but EPA has funds going to several programs—does not have a back up fund like FEMA. There needs to be a clear way to get things done due to funding issue. FEMA: Governor has to make the request for 100% funding, then the President will make the decision. States can borrow money from FEMA to cover cost share.

Speaker: Bruce Freeman former Alabama EMA discussed the Alabama Tornadoes

- April 27, 2011 tornadoes took place; within 3 days, the department got a request for support.
- Hackleburg, AL was hit by an EF5 tornado.
- 62 tornadoes within a 12 hour period. 250 fatalities, 19 counties affected. Of the 33 businesses in the town, 32 destroyed.
- SECO activated, shelters opened, mutual aid responders arrived, disaster declaration was requested
- There were more deaths throughout the EF4 tornado in Tuscaloosa than the EF5 in Hackleburg.
- 90% of debris removed within 90 days.
- Local residents carry the heaviest burden-not one state that has enough resources to handle a response.

Q: How was HHW handled?

A: HHW was segregated by the Corp. There were some unscrupulous issues with contractors throughout HHW segregation.

Notes: During the Safer Alabama Summit, better response plan design was discussed.

Speaker: Randy Nattis discussed Data Management, Info Sharing, and Scribe

- Essentials: data acquisition management and dissemination, data quality objectives, translating field work into electronic data = eases the burden of paper trails.
- Data communication –one local database does not meet the needs of the project.
- SCRIBE.net allows maintenance of several projects at one time, so data can be added to larger databases.
- Scribe: database for real time air monitoring, analytical results—air, soil, surface water, sediment; also including data from ADEM, FDEP, MDEQ, NPS Ops.
- Field data collection: ArcGIS can collect, edit and update field data in real time and disseminate info.
- Case studies: DWH and Minot, ND flood.
- First mission: manage EPA data—ensure consistency of regions, coordinate field management centers, publish data on daily basis, and serve as a liaison between field management and EPA HQ.

Q: Is there a common structure that can be fed into more unique agencies?

A: Yes. OSC Nattis elaborated on similar data sets and ‘marrying’ these data sets into Scribe.

Q: Is Scribe compatible with Macs?

A: Yes.

Q: Where are we (R4) among national data management within the country?

A: Still a lot of work to be done within EPA, Scribe/database management is not as developed in other regions

Q: Can Scribe feed into IRMA?

A: IRMA is a disseminating tool, where as Scribe is a management tool.

Q: It does not bode well when federal agencies put other federal agency's data on their websites when not allowed to. How do we get to next step?

A: Efforts to focus on database would have to come from a higher authority. The FOSC would manage data dissemination, but this doesn't happen soon enough in the response.

Speaker: LCDR Shaun Edwards discussed International Oil Exploration

- US does not have a bilateral agreement with Cuba, so issues are greater than any faced.
- First exploration to take place in December 2011, with full production within 3-5 years.
- Cuba has leased 36% of 59 blocks of northern coast for exploration. Contractor installing rig is Repsol
- Rig: Scarabeo 9, currently in Singapore. Oil companies to follow: PetroVietnam, Petronas (Malaysia), ONGC (India), Statoil (Norway). Bahamas conducting seismic surveys IVO Cay Sal Bank.
- Infrastructure is not designed to meet threat. Response structure is unknown, and the affect to the environment—fast moving current to gulf stream
- US will continue outreach—congressional briefs, engagement, contingency plan, currently bi-weekly briefs with CG, EPA, NOAA, Florida.

Q: Is there any way to streamline which local vessels can be used?

A: Yes, working on pre-identifying.

Q: Does Repsol plan to send someone to unified command in the event of a release?

A: Repsol would like for us to be at their post in Trinidad. If small spill, will set up in Havana.

Speaker: Brad Benggio with NOAA discussed their TAP model

- The TAP (trajectory analysis plan) model is based on similar modeling during DWH, same assumptions.
- The model is not a response tool; it is a planning tool.
- Based on 90 day release. It is anticipated that it will take 5 days for oil to reach the US shoreline.
- Impact analysis—based on 200 scenarios and 15 years of meteorological data into statistical analysis

Q: Is it anticipated that tar balls will follow the Gulf stream or will it be influenced by something else?

A: would mainly be influenced by Gulf stream. There is a model showing LA, AL, FL, MS being affected.

Q: What is the accuracy of the model?

A: NOAA generated it—very accurate. Resolution could be rough, it is based on probabilities.

Q: Can model be based on time of year—seasonality?

A: Yes, NOAA will continue to create models based on temperature trends, but seasonality does not change response.

Q: To verify the model, has NOAA looked at older spills? Does the model follow the same trends?

A: Nothing to compare the model to. Repsol stated the worst case is 75,000 barrels per day.

Q: Since Repsol is not required to report releases, then how will we know about a release?

A: There are a lot of “eyes on the project”, don’t think there would be a delay in reporting.

Speaker: Gwen Keenan discussed Meta-Leadership

- Goal: To equip our nation’s leaders with the skills, knowledge, and abilities required to effectively lead during crisis in the 21st century.
- Meta-leader: leaders of leaders who mobilize people and organizations to collaborate in times of preparedness and crisis. Recognize that achieving national preparedness demands linking, leveraging the efforts and resources of many agencies, across government, business and non-profit organizations.
- To be a leader, you need to: 1.) know strengths and weaknesses; 2.) situational awareness—context, culture, problem, event; 3.) lead down; 4.) lead up; 5.) lead across.
- Understand your authority and your influence.
- Self awareness, self regulation, empathy, motivation, social skills—emotional intelligence for your strengths and weaknesses
- Personal attributes—courage, curiosity, imagination, passion, integrity.
- CDC meta-leadership conference: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/npli/>

Speaker: Robert Mitchum with the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection

- Why do we need chemical facility security? 1.) Target for terrorism, 2.) posses materials that could be stolen.
- Facility completes form stating types of chemicals they have at their establishment. DHS does periodic inspections to ensure the chemicals at the site.
- 4,126 currently regulated. DHS has issued 66 administrative orders.
- Current regulation: Ammonium nitrate—section 563: secure handling of ammonium nitrate under the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

- Help desk: www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity or www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure

Q: EPA has RMP—are these sites included in the DHS program?

A: RMP facilities may not necessarily meet same DHS threshold, depends on type of material they have.

Q: Is enforcement the same as it is in TSA?

A: Similar, but there are administrative orders within DHS.

Notes: DHS has a software that measures the risk of a facility.

RRT IV Meeting: August 18, 2011.

Speaker: Gary Andrew discussed Funding Meth Lab Clean Up

- COPS was established in 1994
- COPS-Community Orienting Policing Services- Provided interagency communications and grant programs, which included funding meth lab clean ups.
- Provided \$11.3 billion in assistance from inception to FY 2010. \$19.2 million in grants was awarded for meth lab clean ups during FY10.
- Tennessee Methamphetamine Task Force-Director Tom Farmer. Lead the nation in 2010 with 2,082 labs. Average cost for clean up: \$2,500.
 - Tennessee utilized over 20% of the available COPS grant money last year.
- February 22, 2011- funding of meth lab clean up ended abruptly. No warning, no back up plan.

Note: The states discussed if law enforcement could carry the burden of cleaning meth labs, rather than using funds from environmental programs. There is not much money in LGR (Local Governments Reimbursement) program, which has \$250,000 a year. Superfund money goes to that program. EPA has discussed the issue with HQ and LGR is not the answer.

Q: Clean up on site—collect chemicals, put them in pod, and have a contractor clean up centrally rather than stay in field. Is this practice trending?

A: Is an option to reduce cost to clean up the labs, if off site is feasible.

Note: States cannot continue to use their emergency response funds for meth clean up—this will lead to their funding running dry and EPA will be called in to assist throughout possible emergencies.

Q: If no one is cleaning up labs due to inadequate/no funds, what is happening to the chemicals at the lab?

A: (Alabama) Rural areas that do not have the money, who once relied on federal funds, consider if they should continue to even bust meth labs--is it worthwhile?

Q: Are homes being certified as clean?

A: TN has developed a guidance/process for certification which provides the owner steps on achieving clearance. Go to TDEC's website and LGR for developing a policy.

Note: USDA used money for clean up of small labs in forests—clean up was done on outside, not within the lab; but the department is trying to hang on to funds for lab clean up. USDA cannot find qualified contractors. The states can provide info for contractors. Typically, drug task forces, when they bust a lab, give the homeowner a list of contractors who can clean up. There is a tiered quarantine system, where a hygienist has to look at the lab/home, give an estimate, and homeowner fits the bill.

Q: What is the average cost for a home to be cleaned?

A: There are several variables—all items: clothing, textiles, furniture are removed and disposed. Typical a three bedroom home can be between \$2,500 up to \$30,000.

Q: What can RRT do to support you?

A: There will be a Department of Justice representative at NRT. This will provide an audience to get the message out for assistance. States will need to draft a letter that can be presented to the representative.