



Challenges in Radiological Emergency Response

An EPA Perspective

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Overview

- EPA's Response Role
- Issues
 - ✓ Improving response coordination
 - ✓ Laboratory capacity/capability
 - ✓ Resource & long-term considerations
- EPA's Actions
 - ✓ Implementing National Incident Management System
 - ✓ Developing New Protective Action Guides
 - ✓ Crisis Communication Guide
 - ✓ Enhancing radiological laboratory capacity



EPA Response Role

- National Contingency Plan
 - ✓ Provide overall response coordination and management/support to federal, state, tribal, and local governments
- National Response Plan – Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex; one of 6 Coordinating Agencies
- Primary Responsibilities
 - ✓ Perform and coordinate radiological monitoring and assessment
 - ✓ Develop Protective Action Recommendations
 - ✓ Lead clean-up following an unattributed RDD



Challenges:

Improving Response Coordination

- Response communities have experienced “growing pains” when united in radiological response
 - ✓ Radiological Emergency Preparedness
 - ✓ NCP
 - ✓ Emergency Management
- We need a single concept of uniting a response at all levels
 - ✓ National Incident Management System being inconsistently implemented (who’s in charge of what?)



Challenges:

Laboratory Capacity & Capability Deficiencies

- There is a major gap in the nation's radiological laboratory capacity and capability
 - ✓ Insufficient for expected demands in a radiological or nuclear Incident of National Significance
- This gap will severely hamper the nation's incident response and recovery actions
 - ✓ Ultimately resulting in decision delays



Challenges:

Resource and Long-term Obstacles

- Federal agency commitments for the cleanup phase
 - ✓ DHS RDD/IND optimization process not yet fully exercised
 - ✓ Lack of resource commitments for long-term clean up
 - ✓ Unrealistic assumption about capacity of state/local responders for long-term cleanup?
- Waste disposal
 - ✓ Nation's capacity for radiological waste disposal is limited



Actions:

NIMS Implementation

- Incident Command System
 - ✓ Training EPA personnel on ICS
 - ✓ Identifying how to integrate EPA assets and FRMAC into ICS
- Data Management within EPA and with DOE
 - ✓ Working to improve EPA mechanisms for data sharing
 - ✓ Coordinating EPA & DOE FRMAC data management systems



Actions:

Protective Action Guides Manual

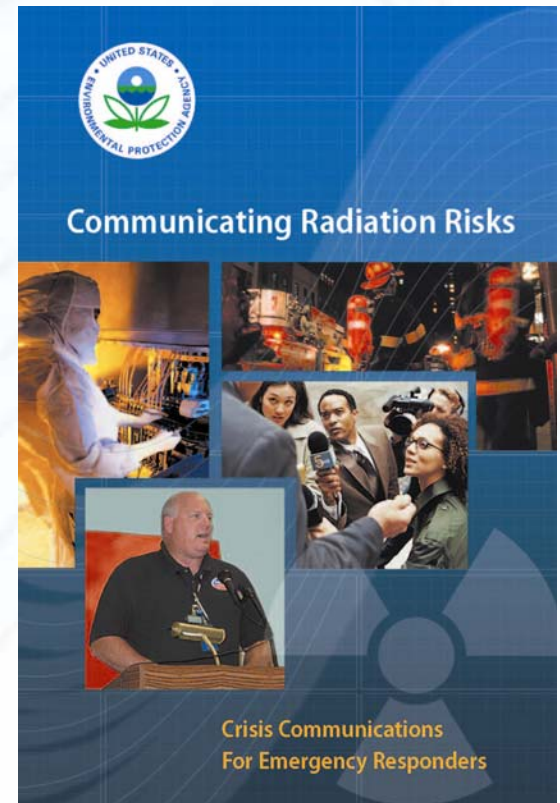
- Addition of FDA's Food PAG Guidance and new EPA Water PAG
- Incorporation of DHS RDD/IND Guidance
 - ✓ Part of New Recovery Chapter
- PAG session yesterday here at NREP
 - ✓ Another session scheduled for CRCPD conference
 - ✓ Expect to issue FR notice in June 2007



Actions:

Crisis Communications Guide

- *Communicating Radiation Risks: Crisis Communications for Emergency Responders*
- *Developing training for guide*
 - ✓ Making the guide an active part of responders tool kits
- *Testing and refining messages and the messaging process through emergency exercises*



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Actions:

Enhancing Rad-Lab Network

- Working with commercial labs to augment capability
- Working to develop new rapid radiochemistry methods/procedures
- Working to initiate a radiological lab network as a component to of OEM's environmental laboratory network
 - ✓ Pilot project in FY 08
 - ✓ COOP with two (2) state labs



Questions?

