



National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference, Inc.

PO Box 681188, Prattville, AL 36068 ♦ Ph: 334-206-5412 ♦ FAX: 334-365-5624
www.nationalrep.org

Workshop No. 1: Population Monitoring in Radiation Emergencies: Practical Considerations

Armin Ansari, CDC (404-498-1837; asa4@cdc.gov)
Gregg Dempsey, US EPA (702-784-8232; dempsey.gregg@epa.gov)
Justin Spence, Oregon Dept of Human Serv. (971-673-0508; Justin.I.Spence@state.or.us)
Eva Lee, GA Institute of Technology (404-894-4962; evakylee@isye.gatech.edu)
Craig Marianno, DOE (702-794-1638; mariancm@nv.doe.gov)
Onalee Grady-Erickson, (651-215-6955; onalee.grady-erickson@state.mn.us)

Population monitoring is a process that begins soon after a radiation incident is reported and continues until all potentially affected people have been monitored and evaluated for: 1) needed medical treatment, 2) the presence of radioactive contamination on the body or clothing, 3) the intake of radioactive materials into the body, 4) the removal of external or internal contamination (decontamination), 5) the radiation dose received and the resulting health risk from the exposure, and 6) long-term health effects. Population monitoring (including people and their pets) is accomplished locally and is the responsibility of state, local, and tribal governments. Many critical components of population monitoring should be put in place in the first few hours after the incident, before the arrival of federal assets that might be used to assist in the monitoring efforts. However, the challenges of population monitoring especially in the first few hours and days after a radiation incident tend to be overlooked in emergency response planning.

In this workshop, many challenges of population monitoring are identified and practical suggestions to address those challenges are discussed. Among the topics are detailed discussion of the CDC guide for population monitoring, selection of contamination screening criteria, practical considerations for operating a community reception center, development of a software to be used as a decision tool for optimizing design of community reception centers, building on the established infrastructure and planning at the state and local public health departments throughout the country, population monitoring at TOPOFF IV exercise, federal assets that can be used to assist in population monitoring, and practical considerations for monitoring of pets.

Each attendee will receive a printed copy of CDC's "Population Monitoring in Radiation Emergencies: a Guide for State and Local Public Health Planners". Active participation of attendees in the workshop discussion is encouraged.

DATE OFFERED: Monday, April 07, 2008

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ROOM: TBD

Short Biography

Armin Ansari, PhD, CHP Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Armin Ansari is a health physicist at the Radiation Studies Branch, National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His primary role is to support the agency's nuclear/radiological emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and he currently chairs an interagency working group on population monitoring. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Ansari was a senior scientist with the radiological consulting firm of Auxier & Associates in Knoxville, TN (1994-2002); a project leader with the Environmental Survey and Site Assessment Program at Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (1992-1994); and a postdoctoral fellow at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Biology Division (1989-1991) and Los Alamos National Laboratory, Life Sciences Division (1991-1992) where he was an Alexander Hollaender Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow. Armin Ansari received both his BS (1984) and Ph.D. (1989) degrees in radiation biophysics from the University of Kansas. He is certified by the American Board of Health Physics and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Health Physics Society.



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Workshop No. 2: Communicating Radiation Risks

Vincent Covello, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Risk Communication
Co-Founder, Consortium for Risk And Crisis Communication

Sebrena Sawtell
Booz Allen

WHAT IF YOU were asked to explain radiation exposure to the media and public during an emergency?

What would you say? Are you ready?

Communicating effectively in a crisis can inspire confidence, build credibility, and, most importantly, save lives and minimize injury.

This training will introduce conference participants to key principles and techniques in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's newly published pocket-sized guide, *Communicating Radiation Risks: Crisis Communications for Emergency Responders*. The Guide was developed especially for responders and government officials communicating with the public and the media – or advising those who do such as radiation experts – during the early critical moments of a radiological emergency.

Training topics as based on the Guide include:

- How to be an effective spokesperson
- Sample scenarios
- Pre-approved messages
- Tips for working with the media
- How to build on lessons learned

DATE OFFERED: Monday, April 07, 2008

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ROOM: TBD

Short Biography

Vincent Covello, Ph.D. Director, Center for Risk Communication Co-Founder, Consortium for Risk And Crisis Communication

Vincent Covello, Ph.D, founder and director of the Center for Risk Communication, is a nationally and internationally recognized trainer, researcher, consultant, and expert in risk and crisis communications. He has consulted for several hundred government agencies. Dr. Covello's most recent assignments include trainings, workshops, and consultations related to the London tube bombings, avian influenza, pandemic flu, anthrax, smallpox, radioactive waste disposal, hazardous waste sites, mining, West Nile virus, mad cow disease, bioterrorism, and air quality issues.

Over the past 25 years, Dr. Covello has held positions in academia and government. Before establishing the Center for Risk Communication, he was Associate Professor of Environmental Sciences and Clinical Medicine at Columbia University for over 10 years. Dr. Covello has authored or edited more than 25 books and over 75 published articles on risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. Dr. Covello is also the lead risk and crisis communication consultant to the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Sebrena Sawtell

Sebrena Sawtell is an Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton's Organization and Strategy capability focused on Strategic Communications. With a decade of communication experience, Sebrena's areas of expertise include risk communication, crisis management, health care, media relations, publication development and production, campaign development/implementation, audience assessment, creative design, grass roots marketing and branding.

Holding a master's in business administration and a bachelor's degree in communications, Sebrena provides a well-balanced knowledge of efficient and effective communications methods, business strategy and crisis preparation. Her recent assignments have included working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, State and County Health Departments, health care companies and the agricultural industry.

Sebrena previously held the position of director of public relations for one of the largest privately-owned health care management companies in the nation, managing communication and crisis efforts for over 260 locations in 28 states.



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Workshop No. 3: Impact of Core Damage Assessment on Public Protective Actions

US NRC Presenter(s): Frederick Hasselberg (E-mail: FWH@NRC.GOV),
Lou Brandon (E-mail: LKB1@NRC.GOV)

This 4-hour training workshop discusses the essential role of core damage assessment on off-site dose projection and protective action decision-making.

- Reactor Accidents and Core Damage Estimates (60 min)

Basic assumptions on reactor core contents
Quick review of boiling water reactor (BWR) and pressurized water (PWR) designs
Fission products and fission product barriers
Fuel rod failure and its consequences
Types of reactor accidents and core damage states
Stages of a severe core damage accident scenario

- Relationships between core damage, event classification, consequence assessment, and protective action decision-making (60 min)

Classification of reactor emergencies
Use of key plant parameters to recognize and classify emergencies
NRC's core damage prediction, recognition and assessment tools
Core damage states and off-site consequences
Release pathway and mitigation factors
The ultimate value of "containment"

Break (20 min)

- NRC's RASCAL program – NPP airborne release impacts (75 min)

Core damage assessment options
Monitored Mixtures - distinguishing between total iodine and iodine-131
Variations of input parameters and validation of anticipated results
Basic interpretation of RASCAL results
Using field team measurements to help characterize plume impacts
Limitations, assumptions, reasonable agreement, and important perspectives
Detailed result information: rates, trends, deposition, and other perspectives

- RASCAL 4.0 improvements and updates (Spring 2008) (15 min)

New atmospheric transport and dispersion module
Likely to significantly reduce offsite dose projections under low wind speeds

- National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) maps (10 min)
Approved by the NRC before distribution
Can become available to States as early as plume phase

DATE OFFERED: Monday, April 7, 2008

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ROOM: TBD

Short Biography

Frederick (Rick) Hasselberg

Rick Hasselberg is a senior emergency response coordinator in NRC's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR). He is the lead response coordinator for staffing and training NRC staff members involved in incident response operations. Among his assignments is the responsibility for training, qualifying, and exercising all members of NRC's Reactor Safety Team (RST) as well as the RST's overall performance.

Previously, Rick served as an emergency preparedness specialist in NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, as project manager for NRC's certification of the Westinghouse AP600 advanced light water reactor design, and as a reactor technology instructor at the NRC's Technical Training Center in Chattanooga, TN.

Prior to joining NRC in 1979, Rick worked for 3 years as a nuclear training instructor at the J.M. Farley Nuclear Plant near Dothan, AL. From 1968 to 1976, he served as a reactor operator, nuclear training instructor, and audiovisual production specialist in the U.S. Navy.

Rick has 40 years of experience in the preparation and presentation of technical materials customized to his target audience. He is an award winning industrial trainer and still photographer with an extensive library of nuclear related images. He can be reached at 301-415-6417 or e-mail fw@nrc.gov.

Lou Brandon

Lou Brandon is an emergency response coordinator in NRC's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR). He coordinates the sixteen member NRC Headquarters Protective Measures Teams, responsible for incident assessment using the Radiological Assessment System for Consequence Analysis (RASCAL) model, and other assessment tools.

Before joining the NRC in 2006, Lou worked for the State of Michigan for 13 years in radiation protection. He was Chief of the Nuclear Facilities Unit, within MDEQ, for 7 years and responsible the radiological aspects of nuclear power plant emergency preparedness and response. He was also a strong supporter of local and federal radiological incident response. During this time with the State he became a certified health physicist and worked extensively with many assessment models including RASCAL.

Lou received MS and BS degrees in Physics from Michigan State University. He worked for Schlumberger, performing oil well surveys with various radioactive sources for three years. His experience includes teaching at the high school and university level. Lou can be reached at 301-415-8013 or e-mail lkb1@nrc.gov.