

**Session 17: CRCPD Overview**  
**Part 1: CRCPD'S Role in Emergency Preparedness: Consistency, Partnerships, and Resources**

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**Abstract:**

State radiation control programs have the responsibility of assuring the safety of the public from unnecessary radiation, including preparation for and response to radiological incidents and other emergencies. For states that have nuclear power plants within their borders or within the 10-mile emergency planning zones, states provide teams for offsite emergency planning, assessment, detection, and radiological assistance to local government. In all states, homeland security and preparedness for other radiological emergencies has become an important role for radiation control programs. The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), an organization whose membership consists primarily of directors and staff of state, territorial and local radiation control programs, provides many activities to maintain consistency and minimize guidance development time for states. In the areas of homeland security and emergency response, CRCPD provides operational guidance, tools and models for emergency planning, outreach to and collaboration with federal agencies and other organizations to support emergency preparedness, and responds to changes in federal guidance and to emerging issues. Information on state resources and mechanisms for obtaining those resources in an emergency are also important functions of the organization. The ability to include volunteer assistance from other radiation professionals and partnering with other organizations will improve states' capability to prepare for and respond to radiological emergencies. This presentation provides an overview of the support provided by CRCPD to federal, state, and local governmental organizations for their radiological preparedness efforts, including guidance documents, tools, planning models, outreach, education, and a network of partners and volunteers.

**Biographical Sketch of Kimberly Steves:**

Kim Steves has been employed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Radiation Control Program, for 17 years. Previously to that she worked for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. At KDHE, she currently holds the position of Supervisor of Environmental Radiation, Emergency Preparedness, and Right-To-Know. In her current position, Ms. Steves has responsibility for the management of the Kansas Radon Program and all departmental radiological emergency planning and preparedness activities. She also supervises a radiological environmental surveillance program for Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know program. In addition to her regular work duties, Ms. Steves is also a Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise Evaluator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. She is currently a Board Member for the Conference of Radiological Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD), and a member of the Health Physics Society. Ms. Steves is a past-chairperson of the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference Steering Committee.

Ms. Steves holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering from the Kansas State University and is a Certified Public Manager in the state of Kansas.

## **Part 2: CDC-CRCPD Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to a Successful Radiological Response**

Frieda Fisher-Tyler ([frieda.fisher-tyler@state.de.us](mailto:frieda.fisher-tyler@state.de.us); 302-744-4944)

### **Abstract:**

In an effort to help prepare the nation for a public health threat involving nuclear/radiological incidents, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) sponsored the "Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Response" in June of 2008. The purpose of the roundtable was to bring together representatives from state and local public health agencies and radiation control programs with representatives from professional organizations to: increase awareness and understanding of their responsibilities for preparing and responding to radiological incidents; strengthen communications and improve working relationships among participating organizations; and share information on available resources. Participants included experts in the broad fields of health physics, hospital preparedness, epidemiology, public health preparedness, risk communication, psychology and emergency medicine. Participants represented federal agencies, state and local health departments and professional organizations. Short presentations about each organization were followed by a scenario discussion designed to elicit ideas from the participants regarding the role of public health during a radiological emergency. It was followed by a presentation on the roles of public health during a radiological emergency and examples of successful collaboration. Facilitated discussions were used to 1) identify gaps, capabilities and strategies; 2) identify ways to strengthen communication; 3) list challenges to both internal and external coordination relative to radiological response; 4) provide short term solutions to communication issues, and provide a list of organizations they could partner with or add to their list of initial contacts; and 5) provide short- and long-term strategies to continue the newly developed partnership. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the roundtable focusing on information gained from the roundtable, including short- and long-term actions to follow.

### **Biographical Sketch of Frieda Fisher-Tyler:**

Frieda Fisher-Tyler is Radiation Control Program Director, Delaware Division of Public Health. She is certified in comprehensive practice by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, and worked as an Industrial Hygienist, Radiation Safety Officer and EHS Director in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, prior to transitioning to the public sector, and served as a Director on the American Board of Industrial Hygiene from 2001-2005. Ms. Fisher-Tyler leads the Technical Assessment Center for the Delaware Radiological Emergency Plan, serves as Administrative Agent for the Delaware Authority on Radiation Protection, and represents Delaware on the Appalachian Commission for Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW). Ms. Fisher-Tyler served as Chair of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) Homeland Security Emerging Issues workgroup from 2004-2006, and currently chairs the CRCPD Homeland Security & Emergency Response Task Force 2, working with CDC to expand partnerships for radiological emergency preparedness among federal, state and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Fisher-Tyler received her Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University, and her Master of Health Science degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.