

Session 26: Multi-Agency Emergency Response Coordination Plan to a Radiological Incident

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Abstract:

Since the September 11, 2001, tragedy, the United States has focused tremendous resources on preparedness activities for a potential terrorist attack involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) materials. However, preparedness efforts for radiological incidents has been particularly challenging because of its complexity and the limited number of subject matter experts. A significant aspect of preparedness planning for a radiological incident is the coordination of local, state, and Federal response assets. The National Response Framework briefly describes the coordination of Federal response assets during an incident in its Nuclear/Radiological Incident Annex. Some major cities in the United States have attempted to produce comprehensive response plans to a radiological incident; however, many of these plans have not been finalized. The County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health, Radiation Management program has completed an innovative plan to coordinate local, state, and Federal governmental agencies, public organizations, and private resources that would respond to a significant radiological incident. The *Los Angeles County Multi-Agency Emergency Response Coordination Plan to a Radiological Incident* (LA Rad Plan) includes detailed and practical advice in the form of emergency response guides (called Playbooks) that are provided to responders at all levels of incident command. Combined with information cards, tables, position job aids, standard operating guides, instructions, and forms, the Playbooks form a Responder Field Manual for easy and practical use during an incident. Most importantly, the plan provides guidance in the coordination of activities for local, state, and Federal response assets to avoid duplication or gaps in response activities. This is the first comprehensive plan in the United States to integrate major response organizations in a coordinated manner for a radiological incident. For the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference, the principal author for the LA Rad Plan, Carl Palladino, will present the process that the County of Los Angeles employed to develop the Playbooks and Responder Field Manual and discuss the results and how it is currently being applied.

Biographical Sketch of Carl Palladino:

Mr. Carl Palladino has over 20 years experience as a Project Manager, Radiation Subject Matter Expert, Chemist, Chemistry Teacher, and Quality Assurance Engineer, with the last 16 years as an environmental consultant. He is a principal with The Palladino Company, Inc. and as a health physicist provides a wide range of services to Federal, state, and local government agencies and private companies. He has diverse experiences in responding to hazardous materials incidents; investigating and remediating hazardous and radiological waste sites; developing, implementing, and evaluating terrorism exercises; and developing and conducting health and safety trainings. Carl has taught over 135 radiation safety classes to thousands of emergency response personnel. He was the principal author of the Los Angeles County Multi-Agency Response Coordination Plan for a Significant Radiological Incident.

Biographical Sketch of Jeffrey Day:

Jeffrey Day is certified by NRRPT and has earned a Masters of Instrumentation in Physics from the University of Utah. Mr. Day has participated in demolition and decontamination activities for the control and containment of waste and has performed surface and subsurface characterization of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM). He has worked in the radiation field for 9 years and has spent the last three years performing Radiation Emergency Response and preparing Los Angeles County Public Health for such emergencies including acts of terrorism.