

Session 8: An Update on Population Monitoring Activities at CDC

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Abstract:

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 both 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 for radiological or nuclear terrorism incidents. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been charged by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist state, local, and tribal governments in preparing to perform their population monitoring responsibilities during a public health emergency involving radiation or radioactive materials. Toward that end, CDC has undertaken a number of activities in cooperation with a variety of partners to address issues associated with population monitoring. Information about current CDC activities related to population monitoring is available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/>. This talk will present an update on work underway at the time of the meeting so that all members of the REP community will be informed of this work.

Biographical Sketch of Charles W. Miller:

Dr. Charles Miller joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in January 1992. He is currently Chief of the Radiation Studies Branch. In this position he provides leadership for the agency's radiological emergency response and consequence management efforts. Previously, he worked with the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and Anderson (Indiana) University. His primary area of expertise is the transport and dose assessment of radionuclides released to the atmosphere, and other facets of environmental radiological dose assessment. He has authored or coauthored over 100 journal articles, laboratory reports, and meeting papers. Dr. Miller is a member of both the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements and the Health Physics Society. Dr. Miller holds a B. S. in Physics/Math from Ball State University, a M. S. in Meteorology from the University of Michigan, and a Ph. D. in Bionucleonics (Health Physics) from Purdue University.