

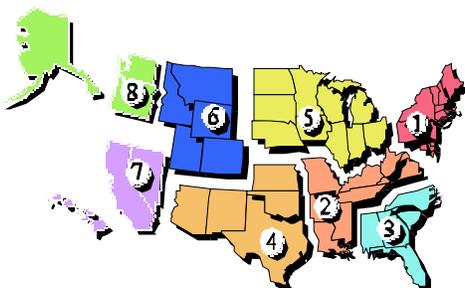
The Beacon

"By and for emergency responders"

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) NUCLEAR INCIDENT RESPONSE

The Department of Energy's emergency response programs provide the national technical response to all nuclear or radiological emergencies within the United States and abroad. The emergency response assets in this program provide expert technical advice from throughout the DOE complex in response to nuclear weapon accidents and significant incidents, radiological accidents, lost or stolen radioactive materials, and acts of nuclear terrorism. These assets facilitate access to nuclear weapons design and production capabilities, as well as provide deployable capabilities, configured rapidly for a time-phased response to any specific nuclear accident or incident. These assets are:

- # Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC) – The ARAC provides real-time computer predictions of the atmospheric transport of radioactivity from a nuclear accident or incident. These predictions use topographical and real-time meteorological data in a 3-D radiological dispersion model. Maps are produced that contain accumulated integrated doses and airborne concentration and contamination distributions.
- # Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) – The RAP provides the initial DOE radiological emergency responder to assist in characterizing the radiation environment at the accident or incident scene; to assist in identifying the presence of radioactive contamination on personnel, equipment, and property at the accident or incident scene; and to provide advice on personnel monitoring, decontamination, and material recovery. The RAP typically possesses portable radiation detectors, air samplers, personnel protective clothing and equipment, and communication equipment. The RAP is located in eight regional coordinating offices across the US.



(Cont. p. 2 - DOE)

Page 2 (From p. 1 - DOE)

- # Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) – The REAC/TS provides 24-hour medical consultation on health problems associated with radiation accidents, an emergency response team of health professionals, radiation medical support, and training programs for health professionals. The REAC/TS has been designated as the World Health Organization Collaboration Center for radiation emergency assistance.
- # Aerial Measuring System (AMS) – The AMS provides helicopters and fixed wing aircraft to respond to radiological emergencies. Personnel and equipment aboard these aircraft provide aerial radiation surveys and search, real-time radiological aerial sampling, plume sampling and tracking, aerial photographic surveys, and aerial multi-spectral scanning surveys. Aircraft are located at Las Vegas, NV and Washington, DC.
- # Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) – The FRMAC coordinates Federal off-site radiological monitoring and assessment activities for a nuclear accident or incident. The FRMAC provides the Lead Federal Agency and State authorities with coordinated and quality controlled evaluation and interpretation of radiological monitoring and assessment data. The size of the response is dependent on the magnitude of the accident. The FRMAC team transitions to long-term monitoring for the Environmental Protection Agency, if required.
- # Accident Response Group (ARG) – The ARG provides the technical response to US nuclear weapons accidents and assistance in assessing weapons damage and risk, and in identifying procedures for safe weapon recovery, packaging, transportation, and disposal of damaged weapons.

DOE also provides nuclear terrorism response assets. These are:

- # Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) – The NEST searches for lost or stolen nuclear material, weapons, or devices. Search operations are driven by intelligence and use a dedicated search group as the core of the response consisting of scientists, engineers, technicians, and operations specialists. Field-trained searchers familiar with the location are also used for increased capability in limited operational environments. A Search Response Team (SRT) provides a quick response capability backed up by a Search Augmentation Team (SAT). The SRT is a seven-person team on two-hour recall to be deployed by commercial aircraft. Once on site, they can be fully set up in three hours. The SAT is a 31-person team that can be deployed within 12 hours of notification to provide a sustained search response with full technical capability to search larger areas.
- # Nuclear/Radiological Advisory Team (NRAT) – The NRAT provides technical advice, emergency response, and follow-on expertise to the On-Scene Commander. The NRAT maintains a quick readiness posture to provide nuclear/radiological data collection and technical advice and recommendations to the Lead Federal Agency. The NRAT is the DOE component of the interagency advisory team, the Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST).

(Cont. p. 3 - DOE)

- # Lincoln Gold Augmentation Team (LGAT) – The LGAT provides expert technical advice concerning diagnostics, render safe procedures, weapons analysis, and device modeling and effects prediction to deployable US military Explosive Ordnance Disposal operators in Special Mission Units. The LGAT is supported by a Home Team at the weapons laboratory.

- # Joint Technical Operations Team (JTOT) – The JTOT provides advanced technical capabilities to move or neutralize nuclear weapons of mass destruction. The JTOT activities consist of advanced technical activities to reduce the yield of the device, and make the device explosively and electrically safe, as well as demilitarization and disassembly operations to make the device nuclear safe.

FEATURED WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

This month's featured website is the Chemical and Biological Weapons (CBW) Resource Page at <http://cns.miis.edu/research/cbw/index.html>. This site, sponsored by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, contains the United States Response to CBW Terrorism and Domestic Preparedness (including a clickable map of the U.S. Terrorism Bureaucracy) and various CBW links to nonproliferation, terrorism and response, warfare and defense, demilitarization, characteristics, and past incidents. There are also links to CBW resources, links, projects, and publications, including a sample edition of ChemBio Weapons and WMD Terrorism News.

TERRORISM TRAINING: NEW DIRECTIONS FROM THE FBI

State and local emergency responders, planners, and practitioners, collectively known as stakeholders, have voiced concerns that federal programs could be more responsive to their needs and consistent with a national strategy for domestic preparedness.

The federal community agrees that a national strategy and interagency cooperation are essential to enhance the capabilities of emergency responders at the local and state level to safely and effectively respond to terrorist threats. The NDPO is currently developing a national strategy to better utilize federal resources.

About the NDPO

The NDPO is divided into several program areas - Training, Exercises, Planning, Equipment Research and Development, Information Sharing, and Health and Medical - all of which will be staffed by experts from federal, state, and local departments and agencies.

(Cont. p. 4 - Training)

The NDPO training program is focusing on the integration of the numerous federal domestic preparedness training programs into the broader national training strategy.

Minimum Standards

The NDPO's mission is to ensure that training made available to state and local officials meets minimum standards. In order to accomplish this, the NDPO is identifying applicable standards for each of the response disciplines (fire/rescue, HAZMAT, law enforcement, emergency medical providers, emergency managers, etc.) for application to relevant aspects of the training.

The NDPO and the federal partners have established a Board of Standards which will review federal training programs to ensure compliance with federal standards and regulations.

Existing Delivery Systems

The NDPO will maximize the use of existing federal training delivery systems at the federal, state, and local levels and will offer evaluation of existing and newly developed federal WMD-related training curricula. The NDPO recently observed and provided input for city threat assessment training that is under development by the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and was recently conducted in San Antonio, Texas and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The NDPO is in the process of identifying a contractor to assist in the evaluation of four threat/risk assessment options currently under consideration. The contractor will expedite the process so that threat/risk assessments can be delivered to communities in a timely manner. This will enhance the national strategy.

The NDPO will provide coordination for the assessment of domestic preparedness training needs; the identification and/or development of training solutions and standards; the evaluation and tiering of training courses; and the delivery of appropriate training to the response community. The NDPO, in cooperation with the federal partners, is currently working on the compilation of an updated training compendium that will be made available to local and state partners.

Multi-Agency Goals

In support of this mission, representative from the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and National Guard Bureau (NGB) have met and identified the following objectives to achieve the NDPO training program mission, including:

1. Establishment of a training program area within NDPO that includes representatives from DOJ, DOD, DOE, Department of Transportation, FEMA, EPA, National Guard, and state and local experts from the various disciplines.

(Cont. p. 5 Training)

2. Identification and cataloging of available federal training for use by state and local authorities.
3. Expedite the delivery of threat/risk assessments to cities/jurisdictions for the purpose of assessing needs.
4. Identification or development of proper training solutions (based on the specific needs of the target community) that are standardized, and tiered, and delivered to the response community.
5. Monitoring and tracking of available training on an ongoing basis to ensure that new techniques and technologies are integrated and that accepted standards are met.

Sustaining the Effort

Finally, the NDPO training program area will, through appropriate consultation with the response community, work to ensure that WMD domestic preparedness is maintained beyond the initial training evolution. Therefore, it will be necessary for the NDPO training program area to identify and establish training sustainment mechanisms which are administered at the state and community level but coordinated at the federal level.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the State and Local Advisory Group?

To obtain national emergency responder Stakeholder input regarding NDPO program strategy development and implementation, the NDPO is establishing a State and Local Advisory Group. Membership will be drawn from constituencies representing, but not limited to, fire/rescue, HAZMAT, emergency medical and health services, law enforcement, emergency management, and state and local governments. They represent the diverse functional areas of state and local entities which may be involved in the planning for or response to a terrorism incident involving WMD.

Advice and guidance provided by the State and Local Advisory Group will support the NDPO goal of enhancing the capabilities of emergency responders and medical professionals at all levels to safely and effectively respond to potential or actual terrorist acts involving WMD.

Most importantly, establishment of the State and Local Advisory Group is consistent with an original Stakeholder recommendation made to the Attorney General for state and local representation in the NDPO in the form of an advisory board.

(Cont. p. 6 - FAQ)

2. What is the purpose of the State and Local Advisory Group?

The purpose of the State and Local Advisory Group is to seek the view, advice, and constructive ideas of non-federal partners involved in the pursuit of national domestic preparedness. The publically accessible Advisory Group will become a strong voice providing valuable insight regarding the direction and strategy of the NDPO. The NDPO has recently initiated the process for compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Advisory Group must be approved by the FBI Director and the Attorney General. The first meeting of the Advisory Group is planned for September, 1999.

3. How is the NDPO planning to ensure that state and local emergency response personnel have direct representation in the office?

The NDPO has several options available to it to capture the expertise of state and local emergency responders. Emergency responder personnel who are currently employed by local, county or state government can be brought on-board via an Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement (IPA), which allows the FBI to reimburse the individual's home agency for the time spent at the NDPO. IPA's can allow for full-time or part-time assignment to the NDPO.

The NDPO will also be hiring state and local emergency response personnel. The individuals will be familiar with the various disciplines within the NDPO mandate including Health, Medical, Fire, HAZMAT, and Law Enforcement issues related to WMD matters.

Ad hoc advice and guidance on the development and implementation of NDPO policy and strategy will also be provided to the NDPO's management via the State and Local Advisory Group.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE NDPO

During the past month, the NDPO has sponsored an inter-agency workgroup on establishing suggested guidelines for commanders in responding to biological threat agents. The attending leaders representing fire, HAZMAT, medical, and law enforcement met in Crystal City, Virginia and provided valuable input which will eventually result in a Field Operating Guide. This set of suggested guidelines will be distributed throughout the response community and endorsed by the contributing associations and agencies.

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The NDPO hosted the second WMD conference for local planners and FBI WMD Field Coordinators on May 13, 1999. The conference was designed to elicit input from regional planners on a number of WMD-related topics. The conference also provided a forum for the outlining of successful programs initiated by federal, state, and local working groups located in San Francisco, Louisville, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Dallas, and San Diego.

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