



DRAFT

Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Meeting

(Anchorage – BP Energy Center)

May 8, 2008

Meeting Notes

May 9, 2008

1. **Participants:** See attached.
2. **Agenda:** See attached.
3. **Safety Moment:** Sandra Brewer (BP Energy Center Coordinator) briefed the group on the building evacuation procedures, primary mustering points, and general facility layout and accommodations.
4. **Introductions:** Larry opened the meeting with an overall welcome followed by introductions. A sign-in sheet was also circulated (see the attached participant list).
5. **Action Items from the Previous Meeting:** The group reviewed the action items from the previous meeting held on February 13, 2008 in Anchorage.
 - a. **State Hazmat Budget Requests:** Geoff Harben asked members of the Statewide Hazmat Team to provide their budget proposals for next year's budget increment. DEC will review the proposals and allocate funding based on the requests. **(Closed)**
 - b. **Law Enforcement Participation:** Each community with a Level A Hazmat Team will provide a law enforcement point of contact to Larry Iwamoto. Larry will also work with the Alaska State Troopers and determine an appropriate point of contact at that level. The list will be provided to the Public Health Lab to assist with outreach to make law enforcement folks aware of the overall sample collection and processing procedure. (Extended Action Item)
 - c. **EPA 165.5 (Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents)**
Course: Work group members should explore the possibility of locating a qualified, in-state agency/ organization to deliver this course. The course is requested fairly often by Alaskan communities, and having an in state training provider could be beneficial. Anchorage, Kodiak, and Central MatSu have all expressed interest in the course. The current EPA course provider will work with the Alaska training provider and make materials available for the course. (Extended Action Item)
 - d. **Statewide Hazmat Symposium:** Work group members were asked to provide a list of attendees from their organization to Larry. Based on the preliminary estimates, there may be a need to provide priority for attendance to Hazmat responders first, followed by other interested parties. **(Closed)**
 - e. **Container Inspector Training:** Jim Hill requested that the Coast Guard contact John Albrough who is currently scheduled to provide Container Inspector

Training in Anchorage. If possible, Jim would like to schedule the same type of training for Southeast Alaska. **(Closed)**

6. Hazmat Team Updates:

- a. **EPA:** Matt Carr provided an update on recent upgrades to EPA's response capability. A custom-made satellite dish will be delivered to EPA shortly and provide the equivalent of a T-1 capability. The unit supports EPA's mobile command post and can be shipped to remote areas of the state to support response operations. In terms of radiological monitoring equipment, EPA has several devices including four sampling devices. Internal EPA training continues to be held every two weeks at the EPA Anchorage warehouse. The next training opportunity will be on May 29, 2008. Interested group members should call Michele Sherwood or Len Marcus (257-5000) for information on training courses.

Matt Goers, EPA Criminal Investigation Division, noted that there are 200 EPA investigators nationwide with 1-2 staff assigned to Alaska. Matt stressed that criminal settlements can often result in funding to communities, such as for the purchase of fire trucks and other response equipment. Matt offered to provide a presentation on environmental crimes at the next meeting. With regard to meth labs, EPA will always defer to the local law enforcement first, then the State, and DEA.

- b. **Juneau Hazmat Team:** Eric Mohrmann briefed the work group that they recently completed the EPA 165.5 course which provided good networking and positive recruitment for Hazmat and firefighter volunteers. They continue to purchase Hazmat equipment for the team, plus were involved in responding to a corroded gas cylinder located alongside the highway in Juneau. The Hazmat team is currently composed of 7 career staff and 10 volunteers.
- c. **Elmendorf AFB Hazmat Team:** Ken Barkley provided an overall summary of the merger of the Elmendorf and Ft Richardson Hazmat teams. The team is now composed of civilian and military personnel, and this affords a better degree of continuity, especially since the military firefighters usually are reassigned every three years. They do have a dedicated Hazmat response vehicle, and maintain a full Level A Hazmat Team, They have two mobile command post vehicles, and are able to respond beyond the base jurisdictional boundaries thru mutual aid arrangements. There are normally 8-10 technicians available on any given shift for immediate response. The relationship with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit is also excellent.
- d. **Kodiak Hazmat Team:** Rome Kamai noted that Kodiak sent two Hazmat team members to the Hazmat Symposium and they were very happy with the networking and good ideas they obtained for further improving the Kodiak Hazmat response capability. They are currently changing over from Industrial Scientific instruments to Rae instruments. There are nine members currently Level A qualified, and they are seeking the EPA 165.5 course to further qualify additional staff, including volunteers. They have not had any recent Hazmat responses, but are active with oil spill responses, including the use of spill response conexes provided by DEC.

- e. **Valdez Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to provide an update.
- f. **103rd Civil Support Team:** Kevin Peterman briefed the group that the 103CST will be out-of-state attending training on May 10-17.
- g. **Ketchikan Hazmat Team:** Jim Hill was not available to attend the meeting but did provide an email update and a PowerPoint presentation to Larry. Larry provided copies of the PowerPoint presentation to the group, and summarized the recent Ketchikan response to a storage facility with a variety of hazardous materials, including explosives and chemicals (fuels and oxidizers). They are also planning on a Maritime Mass Casualty drill in Spring 2009.
- h. **Fairbanks Hazmat Team:** Jim Maltby updated the work group on recent events in Fairbanks. The Fairbanks Memorial Hospital has a new addition to the facility which includes a decon facility. The Hazmat team is training with the hospital staff on a monthly basis. The local fire departments in the Fairbanks North Star Borough are also in need of operations training, and the Hazmat team is providing that training.
- i. **Anchorage Hazmat Team:** Jim Vignola provided an update on the Anchorage Hazmat capability. They currently have 34 Level A qualified team members with 10-12 members on shift at any one time. Jim also briefed on a recent radiological response which involved the Anchorage Fire Department, Anchorage Police Department, and the Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services radiological specialist. The item was overpacked into another container and the situation was resolved. Jim will be headed to Aniston, Alabama for WMD/Hazmat response training offered thru the federal Office of Domestic Preparedness. According to Jim, the application is very easy to fill out, and the training is free. Applicants will need to fill out the application, acquire State training officer approval (DMVA), and attend the course. (See Informational Items in these notes for a website).

Jim also briefed the group on a recent white powder incident at the Federal Building in Anchorage. A federal marshal had received a threatening letter in the mail. The team responded and the incident turned out to be uneventful.

Jim also mentioned that there is a trend for criminals to begin producing ricin as a means to commit crimes against other people. Biological labs are apparently increasing because of this trend.

- j. **Public Health Lab (DHSS):** Stephanie Massay informed the group of a recent incident where an unknown suspicious powder was discovered on a package delivered to a video store. The powder was actually residue from a fire extinguisher, and the package turned out to be rental videos which were removed from a post-fire scene and subsequently returned to the video store.

Jim Vignola asked if it was possible to receive an email summarizing the results of white powders dropped off at the lab. Stephanie indicated that she would not be able to provide the formal report, but will check to see what the lab can release in terms of information.

Stephanie also asked the group if any of the Hazmat teams required additional

training on the sampling kits. At the moment, the teams do not require additional training, but as team membership changes, additional training may be required. The Juneau Hazmat Team also expressed an interest in receiving training sometime in the future once the team is activated.

- k. **BP Hazmat Team:** Doug Frey, BP Hazmat Team coordinator, briefed the group on the team's capabilities. They have 24-25 trained team members, and two Hazmat response vehicles (one for the Eastern Operating Area and the other for the Western Operating Area of the North Slope). While they typically do not respond to incidents beyond their jurisdiction, they may respond as a good Samaritan and provide emergency assistance as necessary. Doug discussed two recent incidents: one involving gluteraldehyde ammonium disulfite, and the other involving a suspicious white powder that later tested positive for ammonia.
- l. **Federal Dept of Homeland Security:** Tom Burgess informed the group of the new National Response Framework which consists of 20 annexes and organizational guides. The new framework assigns specific responsibilities to federal agencies and also affects the private sector. Tom mentioned that FEMA will be providing a class on the National Response Framework on June 26. The website for further information on this topic is: www.fema.gov/NRF
- m. **Alaska Dept of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management:** Wanice Cowles noted that the 2008 Emergency Response Guides (ERG) have arrived and are available thru DMVA. Contact Wanice (428-7042) if you need the ERG. Wanice also mentioned that the federal HMEP grant funding for federal FY09 will be significantly more than previous years. Wanice requested that the group determine valid projects for using the funding. The group agreed that the funding could be used to sponsor the EPA 165.5 courses requested by several group members. The ammonia training for Juneau would also qualify for HMEP grant funding, plus any future Hazmat Symposium should also consider the HMEP grant as a potential funding source.

Wanice also mentioned that they now have two new Deputy Directors within DHSEM. Mike O'Hara will serve as the deputy director for external coordination, while Roberta Carney now serves the deputy director for internal coordination.

Matt Goers (EPA) asked if there was nexus or central point of contact where EPA criminal settlement funding could be transferred for use by the Hazmat teams. Since DMVA does have grant authority (while DEC does not), Wanice recommended that Roberta Carney (428-7023) could serve as the point of contact for EPA for this specific purpose.

- n. **Alaska Railroad:** Jim Seeberger summarized the recent Alaska Railroad Whistlestop tour held in April. While the support and presentations were good, the overall participation at some of the local communities was less than satisfactory. One suggestion was to hold this biennial tour in September; however, this would conflict with the annual moose hunting season in Alaska, plus the April timeframe was thought to be the proper time to re-educate railbelt communities on railroad safety and general emergency response procedures prior to the start of the summer tourist season.

7. Drills and Training: Larry provided an updated Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Activity Schedule for the group to review. The group provided additional information and a revised, updated schedule is attached.

- a. EPA 165.5 Course (Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents):** Several work group members inquired about the possibility of conducting a course in their local jurisdiction. Matt Carr indicated that EPA is currently seeking bids for contractors to deliver the course. The contract period is five years in length, and EPA funds the contract. However, EPA training funds are on a constant decline, and the free training aspects of the program are also undergoing a corresponding reduction. EPA-certified local contractors may also be hired by the local community to conduct the course, but there is a cost incurred. Matt noted that due to travel costs and equipment shipping costs, courses held in Alaska are typically twice as expensive as courses in the lower 48. Matt contacted Diane Ruthruff (EPA training officer, Seattle, (206) 553-5139; (206) 553-4672, ruthruff.diane@epa.gov) and identified the following contractors who are certified to conduct the course. Diane also indicated that one ERTDMI course is projected for 2009 in Alaska.

R10 Scientific & Technical Training

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OMP.NSF/webpage/Scientific+&+Technical+Training+Opportunities>

The Training Exchange

<http://www.trainex.org>

ERTP Virtual University

http://www.ertpvu.org/kc/login/login.asp?kc_ident=kc0001

- b. Statewide Hazmat Symposium:** Larry Iwamoto provided the summary of critiques for the recently held symposium. Ken Barkley noted that the symposium was invaluable in terms of the ability to network with other first responders, and establish a good relationship prior to an incident. Larry noted that the symposium participants overwhelmingly agreed that future symposiums should be held, but with more hands-on training. The symposium work group members will review the critiques in detail and use the comments to prepare the schedule for the next symposium (tentatively scheduled in 2010 in Fairbanks).
- c. Marine Firefighting Symposium:** Eric Mohrmann attended the event in Valdez (May 5-7, 2008) and indicated that there were 60-65 attendees. The symposium was well-planned and featured good instructors as well as a tour of a crude oil tanker.
- d. WMD Sampling Course:** Pat Ryan briefed that they will be hosting another WMD Sampling Course on October 14-16, 2008 in Anchorage. He also inquired if any of the group members had suggestions for a venue for the course. The requirements are a large classroom for up to 45 people, plus three smaller breakout rooms. Several suggestions were offered including the Campbell Creek Science Center, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facility, the IBEW facility, and the EPA warehouse. Jim Vignola will also check on the availability of the Anchorage Fire Training Center, but noted that it will be undergoing renovation at the time and may not be available. Group members wishing to

sign up Hazmat team members for the course should contact Pat Ryan or Larry Iwamoto.

8. **Statewide Hazmat Budget Status:** Geoff Harben provided an update on the current status of State funding for the Statewide Hazmat response program. Approximately \$61,000 remains in the State Hazmat Capital Improvement Project (CIP), following recent allocations to the Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Fairbanks Hazmat Teams, plus recent travel expenses incurred by the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group meetings and the Hazmat Symposium.

9. Additional Items of Discussion:

- a. **Standard Operating Guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures for the Statewide Hazmat Response Team:** The primary purpose of this initiative is to review existing SOGs/SOPs and begin a process to update and further standardize these documents. Eric Mohrmann noted that he has funding available thru the MMRS grant to develop SOGs/SOPs for his Hazmat team, and this would be a great opportunity to review existing documents and develop an updated set of guidelines and new guidelines for the Statewide Hazmat Team. Larry asked work group members to provide a listing of available SOGs/SOPs for their Hazmat team, and a smaller work group will be convened at a later date to prioritize development of the guidelines.
- b. **Tier Two Data Summary for Reporting Year 2006:** Larry provided both a hard copy and a CD of the recent Tier Two data summary project sponsored by EPA and DEC. Those receiving the report were cautioned that the material contained in the report should be safeguarded per the directions of the State Emergency Response Commission.

10. Action Items:

- a. **Law Enforcement Participation:** Each community with a Level A Hazmat Team will provide a law enforcement point of contact to Larry Iwamoto. Larry will also work with the Alaska State Troopers and determine an appropriate point of contact at that level. The list will be provided to the Public Health Lab to assist with outreach to make law enforcement folks aware of the overall sample collection and processing procedure. (Extended Action Item)
- b. **EPA 165.5 (Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents) Course:** Work group members should continue to explore the possibility of conducting courses in their local jurisdiction. Anchorage, Kodiak, and Central MatSu expressed interest in hosting a course. The information on EPA-certified contractors is provided in the meeting notes. Additionally, funding may be available through DMVA/DHSEM (Wanice Cowles).
- c. **Hazmat Response Standard Operating Guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures:** Group members were tasked to provide a list of existing SOGs/SOPs to Larry for consolidation. Once the list is compiled, a smaller work group will be convened to discuss and prioritize the development of new and/or updated guidelines.

11. Informational Items:

- a. **WMD/Hazmat Response Courses:** The following information was provided by Jim Vignola. Course information may be obtained at the following website (Note: you may need to follow instructions initially to gain access, as there are basic security measures for this website): <https://cdp.dhs.gov/>

As noted previously, these courses are free for qualified applicants. Applications also need to be coordinated with the State Training Officer (DMVA/DHSEM).
- b. **WMD Sampling Course:** Work group members should provide a list of their attendees to Pat Ryan or Larry Iwamoto. Additionally, any further recommendations for possible training venues should likewise be provided to Pat or Larry.
- c. **Continuing Challenge Hazmat Conference:** The following information was also provided by Jim Vignola. Information on the conference can be found at the following website: <http://www.hazmat.org/>
- d. **National Response Framework:** The following information was provided by Tom Burgess. To view and download the NRF Core Document as well as the Emergency Support Function, Incident, and Support Annexes, please go to the NRF Resources Center web-site at www.fema.gov/NRF
- e. **Lessons Learned Information Sharing:** Tom Burgess provided the following weblink. Jim Vignola mentioned this as a possible source for improving the existing SOGs/SOPs. <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/index.do>
- f. **2008 Emergency Response Guides:** Available thru DMVA/DHSEM. Contact Wanice Cowles (428-7042) to obtain copies of the ERG.

12. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for August 13,, 2008 in Anchorage. The BP Energy Center has tentatively been reserved for the meeting.

Encl: Agenda
Attendee Listing
Schedule of Activities



STATEWIDE HAZMAT WORK GROUP MEETING

**BP Energy Center– 900 E. Benson Blvd
Anchorage, Alaska**

**May 8, 2008
Final Agenda**

- 9:00 am**
- **Introductions**
 - **Safety Moment (BP Energy Center)**
 - **Review Agenda for any Additions/Changes**
 - **Review Status of Action Items from Previous Meeting**
 - **Team Updates/Lessons Learned from Any Recent Responses/
Team Capability Enhancements**
 - **Anchorage Hazmat Team**
 - **Fairbanks Hazmat Team**
 - **103rd Civil Support Team**
 - **Kodiak Hazmat Team (unable to attend due to weather)**
 - **Valdez Hazmat Team (unable to attend)**
 - **Elmendorf AFB/Fort Richardson Hazmat Team**
 - **Ketchikan Hazmat Team**
 - **Juneau Hazmat Team**
 - **EPA**
 - **Coast Guard**
 - **Others (BP Hazmat, ConocoPhillips Hazmat, ARRC, FBI, DHSS, others)**
 - **Drills and Training**
 - **Schedule of Hazmat Activities**
 - **Alaska Railroad Whistlestop Tour - Summary**
 - **Alaska Hazmat Symposium – Summary**
 - **WMD Sampling Course –**
 - **Other Training Opportunities**
 - **Marine Firefighting Symposium**
 - **Statewide Hazmat Budget Status**
 - **DEC CIP Funding Status for Hazmat Teams**
 - **Federal Funding (ODP, MMRS, HMEP Funding)**
 - **Additional Items for Discussion**
 - **Standard Operating Guidelines for the Statewide Hazmat Team**
 - **Tier Two Summary Report**
 - **Recap Action Items**
 - **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - **Adjourn**

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP MEETING – Participant List (May 8, 2008)

Individual	Agency	Email Address	Phone /Fax	Status/Other
Ken Barkley	Central Mat-Su Fire Dept	Ken.Barkley@matsugov.us	373-8805/355-8626	
Tom Burgess	U.S. DHS	thomas.burgess@dhs.gov	271-5149/271-2737	
Matt Carr	EPA	Carr.matthew@epa.gov	271-3616/271-3424	
Mike Carruthers	103 rd CST	Michael.carruthers@us.army.mil	980-6086	
Wanice Cowles	DMVA-DHSEM	Wanice.cowles@alaska.gov	428-7000, ext 7042	
Doug Frey	BP Hazmat Team	GPBEmergencySvcChief@BP.com	659-5646	
Matt Goers	EPA Criminal Investigation Division	Goers.matt@epa.gov		382-2185 (cell)
Young Ha	DEC PERP	Young.ha@alaska.gov	269-7544/269-7648	230-8242 (cell)
Geoff Harben	DEC PERP	Geoff.harben@alaska.gov	465-5234/465-2237	321-3426 (cell)
Larry Iwamoto	DEC PERP (Anc)	Larry.iwamoto@alaska.gov	269-7683/269-7648	440-0812 (cell)
Rome Kamai	Kodiak Hazmat	rkamai@city.kodiak.ak.us	486-8040/486-8048	654-8250 (cell)
Jim Maltby	Fairbanks Hazmat	maltby@awe.lynden.com	456-2223/456-2266	388-7633 (cell)
Len Marcus	EPA START Contractor	lmarcus@ene.com	257-5000/257-5007	
Stephanie Massay	DHSS Public Health Lab	Stephanie.massay@alaska.gov	334-2118	
Eric Mohrmann	Capitol City Fire & Rescue	Eric.Mohrmann@ci.juneau.ak.us	586-0261/586-8323	723-8190 (cell)
Eileen Nickoloff	DHSS	Eileen.Nickoloff@alaska.gov	334-2114/	
Kevin Peterman	103 rd CST AKNG	Kevin.peterman@us.army.mil	428-7330	980-6075 (cell)
Zane Reser	USCG Sector Anchorage	Zane.A.Reser@uscg.mil	271-6724	
Patrick Ryan	EAFB Hospital, Bio-Env Engr	Patrick.ryan@elmendorf.af.mil	552-3985/552-3866	
Jim Seeberger	Alaska Railroad	Seebergerj@akrr.com	265-2476/242-2406	
Mark Sielaff	DEC PERP	Mark.sielaff@alaska.gov	269-7532/269-7648	240-2517 (cell)
Wade Strahan	Anchorage Fire Dept	strahanwc@ci.anchorage.ak.us	267-5088/	223-1870 (cell)
Myles Tenbroeck	103 rd CST (AKNG)	myles.tenbroeck@us.army.mil	384-9418/384-9414	980-6087 (cell)
Jim Vignola	Anchorage Fire Dept	VignolaJF@muni.org	267-5052/	

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP – ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (as of: May 8, 2008)

Activity	Type of Event	Date	Location	Sponsor/ Coordinator	Point of Contact	Participating Agencies
CIA Recognition of Small Scale Bio Lab Setup	Training	Feb 19-22	Anchorage	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, Local, Federal and State agencies
Alaska Railroad Whistlestop Tour	Training	March 31 - April 12	Railbelt Communities	Alaska Railroad	Marc Peterson	First responders, community representatives
Emergency Response To Hazardous Materials Incidents (EPA 165.5)	Training	April 9-13	Juneau	Capital City Fire & Rescue	Eric Mohrmann	Hazmat Team Members
Alaska Hazmat Symposium	Training, Exercise	April 25-27	Anchorage Fire Training Ctr	Statewide Hazmat Wk Gp	Maltby, Vignola, Bender, Barkley, Larson, Hill, Seeberger, Carruthers, Wien, Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Marine Firefighting Symposium	Conference	May 5-7	Valdez	PWS RCAC	PWS RCAC	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	May 8, 2008	Anchorage BP Energy Ctr	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
National Governor's Association Target Capabilities List (WMD/ Hazmat Rescue and Decon)	Meeting	June 5-6 July 29-30	Seattle Boston	DMVA/ DHSEM	Bryan Fisher	Statewide Hazmat Team Member (contingent on funding)
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	Aug 13	Anchorage BP Energy Ctr	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
Continuing Challenge Hazmat Conference	Conference	Sep 2-5	Sacramento	----	http://www.hazmat.org/index.cfm?section=1	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Firefighter's Conference	Conference	Sept 22-27	Juneau	Capital City Fire & Rescue	Eric Mohrmann	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
WMD Sampling Course	Training	Oct 14-16	Anchorage (TBD)	Elmendorf AFB Bio Env Engr	Patrick Ryan Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Emergency Preparedness and Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference	Conference	Oct 26-29	Richmond, VA	www.2008conference.org	www.2008conference.org	Hazmat Team Members
Emergency Response To Hazardous Materials Incidents (EPA 165.5)	Training	(requested) TBD	Kodiak	Kodiak Fire Department	Rome Kamai	Hazmat Team Members
DOE Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Training	Training	TBD	Anchorage	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Emergency Response To Hazardous Materials Incidents (EPA 165.5)	Training	TBD	Anchorage	Anchorage Fire Department	Jim Vignola	Hazmat Team Members

= Past Event