



DRAFT

Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Meeting (Anchorage, State Public Health Lab – August 23, 2006)

Meeting Notes

August 24, 2006

1. **Participants:** See attached.
2. **Agenda:** See attached.
3. **Safety Moment:** Dave Verbrugge 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 May 31, 2006 in Fairbanks.
 - a. **Annual O&M Budget Data:** The work group agreed to provide annual O&M cost data to Geoff by July 1, 2006. *This item remains open. Remaining Hazmat Teams will need to provide funding requests to Geoff no later than September 30, 2006. (Open – carried forward)*
 - b. **Statewide Hazmat Comms Plan:** Once the ALMR radios are issued, Hazmat team members should review the list of available frequencies to determine common frequencies that can be used/shared by the deployed Hazmat teams. *This item is closed and will be re-opened at the appropriate time. (Closed)*
 - c. **Hazmat Instrumentation Work Group:** Larry will be assembling a small work group to discuss Hazmat detection instruments. The purpose of the work group will be to determine which instruments have outlived their usefulness as well as determine new instruments which may be identified for future purchase. The work group will also address any cost-saving measures for equipment calibration and maintenance. Lastly, the work group will decide on whether Area Rae interoperability is a necessity for the Statewide Hazmat Team and, if so, the best way to proceed. Larry will provide the past inventory of detection equipment to the work group members for review and update prior to the meeting. *An updated inventory list was provided to work group members at this meeting. Members were asked to provide further updates to Larry as necessary. (Open – carried forward)*

- d. **Alaska State Firefighters Association/Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association Conference (Fairbanks September 25-26, 2006).** Jim Maltby will check with Tyler Bones and determine the need for any assistance from the Statewide Hazmat Team at this event. Jim indicated that Hazmat response may be a preferred topic of interest at the conference. *Wade Strahan indicated that there did not appear to be a Hazmat-specific block for this conference. (Closed)*

- e. **Law Enforcement Participation at Hazmat Work Group meetings:** The group expressed a need for law enforcement personnel to be represented at future work group meetings. Larry indicated that he would make an effort to invite the Alaska State Troopers to future meetings. The FBI is currently a member of the work group. Local law enforcement participation will need to be solicited at the local level by each Hazmat team. While attendance at work group meetings is probably not necessary at the local law enforcement level, active dialog between Hazmat teams and local law enforcement personnel is deemed essential. *The Alaska State Troopers were invited to the meeting but were unable to attend. The FBI had planned to attend, but was unable to due to scheduling conflicts. (Closed)*

6. Hazmat Team Updates:

- a. **Anchorage Hazmat Team:** Wade Strahan briefed the work group on recent activities which includes a WMD biological response exercise on August 24th at the Airport Post Office. Wade also mentioned that a load of salt was being offloaded at the Port of Anchorage, and there may be protests at the port (load will be offloaded by non-union workers). The Anchorage Hazmat Team responded to several carbon monoxide calls, normally associated with forced air heating systems. They also responded to an oil spill at Ship Creek and deployed boom. They were called out to a white powder incident at Providence Hospital's emergency room that turned out to be a non-event. Meth lab responses are handled by a different organization in the Municipality of Anchorage.

- b. **Fairbanks Hazmat Team:** No report. Jim Maltby had planned on attending the meeting, but was unable to attend due to an emergency.

- c. **103rd Civil Support Team:** Myles Tenbroeck and Jim Yeo briefed on recent activities. They were asked to respond to the Taku Gardens and Hangar 6 incidents at Ft Wainwright. They provided technical support at for the Taku Gardens response, but were directed not to respond to the Hangar 6 incident (beyond their defined mission). At Taku Gardens, the munition was determined to be an aerial bomb, possibly an early prototype for delivery of mustard agent or napalm. The Army's Tech Escort Unit arrived and secured the bomb for shipment and disposal. Per Jim Yeo, the Army's Tech Escort unit has limited analytical capability, and their expertise is primarily at removal, packaging, and shipment of munitions. The 103rd CST will be on standby for the month of September for any callouts nationwide.

- d. **Kodiak Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.
- e. **Valdez Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.
- f. **Elmendorf AFB:** A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.
- g. **Ketchikan Hazmat Team:** Jim Hill was unable to attend the meeting but did provide an email update to Larry. Larry briefed the work group on recent activities in Ketchikan. The Southeast Alaska Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) group will be providing \$25,000 to the Ketchikan Hazmat Team for the purchase of Area Rae equipment. Large Shelters are also being purchased for several cities in Southeast Alaska. Pharmaceuticals also being purchased by the MMRS work group. On October 6-7, an evacuation/ alternate care (EVAC/ALT-2006) site exercise will be conducted in Ketchikan in cooperation with Public Health, the Hospital, and Ketchikan Indian Community. They will evacuate an area and provide alternate care for evacuees stricken with Pandemic Influenza and/or injured parties because of a flood. The exercise will last +/- 20 Hrs. On October 21, they will be holding a "Mass-Immunization" clinic at the Mall, and will provide actual Flu shots for 1,500+ citizens. On September 21, NIMS/EOC Training will be held for City and Borough Department heads and other officials that could/should be part of the EOC. Jim has contacted the local fish processors and they are interested in the November ammonia training. Jim informed the work group that an incident involving Fiesta Ware was an interesting "non-response". The materials provide very hot readings on radiation detection gear. They also responded to several routine fuel spills, and are currently dealing with a response to ether as well.
- h. **EPA:** Matt Carr informed the work group that EPA has been busy with North Slope spills, specifically spills at Gathering Center-2 and Flow Station-2. Matt also mentioned an interesting incident in Oregon where an individual had stored incompatible chemicals in two storage units, and was selling the items on EBay. EPA will also be purchasing an off-road personnel and equipment carrier to enhance their response capability. Michele Sherwood noted that three of their Data Ram 4 instruments will be back in Anchorage (after supporting the Katrina recovery efforts).
- i. **Coast Guard:** Meredith Gillman represented the Coast Guard and summarized several responses for the work group including the recent response to the Cougar Ace vessel, other vessel incidents, and responses to abandoned drums. Meredith also mentioned an ammonia nitrite release.
- j. **DEC:** Young Ha briefed the work group on a recent, residential response involving spilled mercury. A local resident (pregnant female) had called DEC requesting assistance with mercury from a broken thermometer. DEC coordinated with EPA (EPA does not respond to private residences) and determined that the local Hazmat section of the Anchorage landfill will

accept mercury. The Anchorage Fire Department responded and handled the incident. Per Wade Strahan, such calls are not unusual and they are more than willing to respond to these incidents.

- k. DHSS:** Lori discussed the Ft Wainwright Hangar 6 response and expressed her concerns. The incident occurred about seven weeks ago and three of the 19 individuals remain in poor condition in a Seattle hospital. Matt provided a point of contact for EPA (Jack Guzman, 271-3083). Environmental field screening proved inconclusive thus far. The incident has been turned over to DEC's Contaminated Sites program. In retrospect, had the hospital in Fairbanks been directed to take clinical specimens immediately upon arrival of the patients, there may have been an opportunity to determine the cause of illness fairly quickly. The patients displayed multiple symptoms including nausea, vomiting, and nervous disorders. A standard protocol may be useful for cases such as these to remind hospitals of the need to acquire clinical samples for analysis by the State Public Health Lab.
- l. Federal OSHA:** Doug Wooten briefed the work group on his agency's responsibilities. They have no jurisdiction over the active duty military, reserves, and some contractors on military bases. They do have exclusive oversight through agreements for several military facilities (Ft Greely and Eareckson Air Force Base at Shemya), but no jurisdiction over the other military facilities in Alaska (except for DOD civilian employees). The remaining Civilian contractors are the responsibility of State OSHA. Doug mentioned that they receive lots of calls regarding Hazwoper training (under 29 CFR) from consultants, but very few from government agency response organizations. He also noted that they may have training quotas for an excellent two-week training course in Chicago. The course provides instruction in ICS, Hazmat, and includes a Level B Hazmat response exercise. His training coordinator is located in Seattle and anyone interested in attending should contact Doug for more information. Doug also mentioned ammonia issues in the State of Alaska. There is quite a bit of ammonia at seafood processing facilities. Floating seafood processors also maintain large volumes of ammonia and represent a potential hazard when making port calls in Alaska.
- 8. Statewide Decontamination Status Update:** Jim Yeo briefed the work group on his efforts to plan and conduct a mass decontamination exercise next year. He has contacted the hospitals in Anchorage and requested preferred dates for the June/July 2007 timeframe. He will also plan on attending the annual hospital preparedness conference at Homer in September. If he cannot attend, Eileen Nickoloff will be there from the State Public Health Lab. Jim plans to enlist the aid of numerous volunteers and run the decon systems to a failure point. This should provide everyone with realistic data for determining maximum operating capabilities for the decon systems. Regarding the issue of patient redress kits, Larry has been in contact with DMVA/DHSEM and they are still reviewing the ODP grants from FY03 and later to determine if residual funding is available.
- 9. Drills and Training:** Larry provided an updated Hazmat Activity Schedule for the group to review. The group provided additional information and a revised

update is attached to these notes. Wade Strahan inquired about pre-requisite training for Hazmat Team members to attend advanced courses. The 103rd CST will review the training requirements and provide clarification for the group.

11. Statewide Hazmat Budget Status:

Geoff Harben provided an update on the current status of State funding for the Statewide Hazmat response program. He briefed the work group that he still needs annual O&M funding requests in order to provide funding to the Hazmat teams.

Geoff also mentioned a recent Federal notice indicating that \$32 million will be available through the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). Applications need to be submitted by September 15, 2006. Larry had previously sent an email to work group members advising them of this funding opportunity.

12. Additional Items of Discussion:

SAFER Systems Presentation. Marc Wonder informed the work group on the background for this initiative and introduced Bob Gerow who provided a presentation on the system. The Safer STAR system provides real-time plume modeling and integrates weather stations for immediate weather updates, plus readings from monitoring instruments (both static and handheld, or field deployed such as the AreaRae system) can be loaded into the system to provide an accurate assessment of the impacted area. The system also provides an assessment of the hazard concentrations for those sheltered in place during a release. The overall proposal is to purchase the host system for the Municipality of Anchorage and other users can then purchase licenses to operate off of the basic system. The proposed funding source is federal funding provided by the Office of Domestic Preparedness. A separate presentation was provided in the afternoon to accommodate non-Hazmat work group personnel.

13. Action Items:

- a. **Annual O&M Budget Data:** Hazmat team representatives were directed to provide annual O&M cost data to Geoff by September 30, 2006.
- b. **Hazmat Instrumentation Work Group:** The work group did not convene due to schedules. An updated inventory list was provided to work group members at this meeting. Members were asked to provide further updates to Larry as necessary. The work group will also need to address the AreaRae interoperability issue.
- c. **Field/Hospital Decontamination Exercise:** Jim Yeo will continue to coordinate the exercise. Jim and/or Eileen Nickoloff will be attending the Annual Hospital Preparedness Conference and seeking additional information and commitment from the hospital representatives.

- d. Purchase of Patient Re-Dress Kits:** Larry informed the work group that action on this item remains pending, and will occur after ODP grant review by DMVA/DHSEM.

- e. Three-Year Exercise Plan:** Develop a 3-year training / exercise plan in order for systematically address / improve response capabilities rather than exercising the same things over and over. This item was tabled for a future meeting. Rick Janelle will lead the discussion on this topic.

- f. Mercury Response Fact Sheet/Protocol:** Young Ha will develop a draft fact sheet/protocol documenting the proper procedures for responding to a mercury release.

- g. Protocols for Clinical Sampling of Patients Suspected of Being Exposed to Chemical/Biological Substances:** DEC (Larry Iwamoto) will work with DHSS (Lori Verbrugge) to develop a standard protocol for DEC-PERP to include DHSS (Epidemiology and the Public Health Lab) for any incidents involving people who are taken ill. DHSS, in turn, can advise/remind the local hospital to acquire clinical samples from the patients in order to determine the cause of their illness (whether chemical or biological).

14. Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 2006 in Anchorage, meeting location to be determined. Larry will be polling the work group for an acceptable date for the meeting.

Encl: Agenda
Attendee Listing
Updated Schedule of Activities



STATEWIDE HAZMAT WORK GROUP MEETING

State Public Health Lab - Anchorage

August 23, 2006

Agenda

9:00 am

- Introductions
- Safety Moment
- Review Agenda for any Additions/Changes
- Review Status of Action Items from Previous Meeting (See attached)
- Team Updates/Lessons Learned from Any Recent Responses/
Team Capability Enhancements
 - Anchorage Hazmat Team
 - Fairbanks Hazmat Team
 - 103rd Civil Support Team
 - Kodiak Hazmat Team
 - Valdez Hazmat Team
 - Elmendorf AFB/Fort Richardson Hazmat Team
 - Ketchikan Hazmat Team
 - EPA
 - Coast Guard
 - Ft Wainwright Responses
 - Other Work Group Member Comments
- Statewide Decontamination Status Update
 - Mass Decon Exercise
 - Patient Re-Dress Kit Purchase Plan
- Drills and Training
 - Schedule of Hazmat Activities
- Statewide Hazmat Budget Status
 - DEC CIP Funding Status for Hazmat Teams
 - Federal Office of Domestic Preparedness Grant - Status of Funding
- Additional Items for Discussion
 - Alaska State Firefighters Association/Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association Conference (Fairbanks - September 25-26, 2006)
- Presentation by SAFER Systems
- Recap Action Items
- Next Meeting Date and Location
- Adjourn

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP (August 23, 2006)

Individual	Agency	Email Address	Phone /Fax
Matt Carr	EPA	Carr.matthew@epa.gov	271-3616/271-3424
Henry Gallagher	AK DOTPF	Chip_Gallagher@dot.state.ak.us	266-2415/
Bob Gerow	Safer Systems	bgerow@safer-system.com	800-621-7237
Meredith Gillman	USCG Sector Anchorage	Meredith.S.Gillman@uscg.mil	271-6700/271-6751
Mary Goolie	EPA	goolie.mary@epa.gov	271-3414/271-3424
Young Ha	DEC	Young_ha@dec.state.ak.us	
Geoff Harben	DEC	Geoff_harben@dec.state.ak.us	465-5234/465-5244
Larry Iwamoto	DEC PERP (Anc)	Larry_iwamoto@dec.state.ak.us	269-7683/269-7648
Scott Karner	AK DOTPF	Scott_karner@dot.state.ak.us	365-3216/365-1220
Eileen Nickoloff	DHSS	Eileen_Nickoloff@health.state.ak.us	334-2114/
Michele Sherwood	EPA START Contractor	msherwood@ene.com	257-5000/257-5007
Jim Stevenson	DEC PERP (Anc)	Jim_stevenson@dec.state.ak.us	344-7380/344-8647
Wade Strahan	Anchorage Fire Dept	strahanwc@ci.anchorage.ak.us	267-5052/
Myles Tenbroeck	103 rd CST (AKNG)	myles.tenbroeck@us.army.mil	384-9403/384-9414
Lori Verbrugge	DHSS	Lori_verbrugge@health.state.ak.us	269-8086/562-7802
Jeff Warner	ADEC Food Safety & Sanitation	Jeff_warner@dec.state.ak.us	269-3097/269-
Marc Wonder	103 rd CST (AKNG)	Paul.wonder@us.army.mil	384-9404/866-699-8136
Doug Wootten	U.S. Dept of Labor	Wootten.douglas@dol.gov	271-3538/
Jim Yeo	103 rd CST (AKNG)	william.yeo@us.army.mil	866-699-8141/384-9413

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP – ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (as of: August 24, 2006)

Activity	Type of Event	Date	Location	Sponsor/ Coordinator	Point of Contact	Participating Agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	August 23	Anchorage DHSS PHL	DEC & DHSS PHL	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
8 hour Radiation Refresher (Ludlum Equipment)	Training	August 31	EPA Warehouse	EPA/E&E	Michele Sherwood	First responders, Federal and State agencies
Annual Hospital Preparedness Conference	Conference	Sept 11-12	Homer	ASHNHA	Megan Wilmoth	First responders, Hospital staff
AK State Firefighters Assn/ AK State Fire Chiefs Assn	Conference	September 25-26	Fairbanks	ASFA/ASFCA	Tyler Bones	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Radiological Response Procedures	Training	September 25-29	Ft Richardson	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, Federal and State agencies
HazCat Training	TBD	TBD	Fairbanks	TBD	Michele Sherwood	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	November (TBD)	Anchorage	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
Emergency Response to Ammonia Training	Classroom	TBD	Ketchikan	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Emergency Preparedness and Prevention and Hazmat Spills Conference	Training, Conference	December 3-6	Valley Forge, PA	EPA Region III	www.2006conference.org	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Hazmat Chemistry Course (Part 1-Refresher)	Training	Jan-Feb 2007	TBD	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
TOPOFF IV	Exercise	April 2007	Portland, OR	DHS	Carr/Goolie (EPA)	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Alaska Shield/ Northern Edge 07	Statewide Exercise	May	Statewide	DOD	Wien/Iwamoto (DEC)	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Hospital Emergency Decon Training/Exercise	Field Exercise	June-July 2007	Anchorage	103 rd CST, JMEPG	Jim Yeo	Hospital staff, local Hazmat Teams
WMD Sampling Course	Training	TBD	Fairbanks	TBD	Michele Sherwood	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies

■ = Past Activity

ASHNHA – Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association

DHSS PHL = Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Public Health Lab

TBD = To be determined