



DRAFT

Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Meeting

(Fairbanks – Alaska West Express Training Facility)

May 22, 2007

Meeting Notes

May 23, 2007

1. **Participants:** See attached.
2. **Agenda:** See attached.
3. **Safety Moment:** Jim Maltby briefed the group on the general hazards within the industrial complex, 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 20, 2007 in Anchorage.
 - a. **ALMR Frequency/Dedicated Channel for the Statewide Hazmat Response Team:** DEC will explore the existing DEC channels on the ALMR channel listing and determine if an appropriate channel exists for use by the Hazmat team. DEC will also consider requests to load the DEC talk group package on community radios. DEC will provide a short summary of ALMR comms available for the Statewide Hazmat Team, and the different options that may be available for an emergency response. (**Closed** - See follow-on discussion in these notes.)
 - b. **Statewide Hazmat Response Team Website:** DEC has activated the website and it is available at:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>

Work group members were asked to review the website and provide any format and content recommendations to Larry. (**Closed**)
 - c. **APD 2000 Transfer from Valdez to Fairbanks:** Michelle Heun and Larry will check with the Valdez Hazmat Team to determine the status of this item. Dave Lawson (Valdez Hazmat) had previously stated that they have four APD 2000 instruments in their inventory. They have offered two of the instruments for use by other Hazmat teams in the State. Fairbanks indicated that they would like to have an additional instrument as they currently have only one APD 2000. Larry Iwamoto subsequently checked with DMVA/DHSEM (Michelle Heun) and provided the proper procedure for initiating this transfer of ODP grant-purchased equipment. (**Open** – Larry to check with Valdez on the status of this item)
 - d. **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. Mark Wagner will check with Rick Janelle and determine the status of this action item. **(Open)**

- e. **Radiological Detection Instruments:** Jim Maltby and Wade Strahan will provide Michelle Heun with better cost estimates for upgrading the Area Rae instruments and purchasing mini-radiacs, respectively. Michelle will prepare an initial grant package and request comments from the Statewide Hazmat Team. **(Open** – Larry to check with Michelle to see if any additional information is necessary)
- f. **WMD Sampling Course:** Vivian Kinnaird (EPA START Contractor) will check on the duration of this course, and possibly on the prerequisites for attending other related courses. **(Closed** – course will be conducted September 25-27, 2007 in Anchorage)

6. Hazmat Team Updates:

- a. **Anchorage Hazmat Team:** Wade Strahan and Jake Bender briefed the work group on recent activities. They responded to several natural gas leaks and several carbon monoxide calls (one fatality involved in one of the incidents). The team also responded to a 747 cargo jet at the Anchorage International Airport. The pilot had noted an odor of mercaptan. The cargo area was surveyed but the source was not located. The team did not respond to any white powder incidents since the last Hazmat Work Group meeting. The team is also on increased alert due to the on-going International Whaling Commission meeting in Anchorage.

Wade informed the group that they froze the heater core of one of the decon units. Apparently when they winterized the units, they did not use a sufficient amount of RV antifreeze in the system.

The mobile air cascade system is being used extensively in Anchorage to support the SCBA refill capability at several fire stations. Wade noted that once the system is initially operated for the very first time, condensation will remain in the lower lines which make it susceptible to freezing from then on. Once thawed, the system can be used again. The 103CST system is enclosed and has operated successfully under winter conditions. The system is available to support the Anchorage Fire Department if the need occurs.

The Anchorage Hazmat Team has received the Raid-M detection equipment. They have also converted their three-gas meters to ammonia detection devices. They have also purchased the MSA Orion detectors, and advised other Hazmat teams that the units can be costly to maintain, but good warranty support is also provided.

- b. **Fairbanks Hazmat Team:** Jim Maltby noted that Barry Jennings has replaced Dave Tyler as the Fairbanks North Star Borough Emergency Services Director. The team is in the process of accepting three additional trailers from Flint Hills Refinery (as a result of a settlement with EPA). Flint Hills will keep one of the

trailers at the refinery, while the other two trailers will be managed by the Hazmat team. Two of the trailers will be outfitted for spill response, while the other unit will be used as a command trailer.

Jim informed the work group that the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital has been undergoing extensive remodeling, and has sought the advice of the Hazmat Team with regard to a decon area in the hospital. The mass decon units can also be staged immediately adjacent to the hospital, and work off of hospital utility systems.

Jim briefed on a recent response to the local landfill where the team responded to an unknown substance that was highly reactive to water. Testing of the soil revealed a pH of 13 in the immediate area. There were three possible chemicals as well as sugar involved. The team has not responded to any white powder calls or meth lab busts in recent months.

- c. **103rd Civil Support Team:** Paul Darling and Myles Tenbroeck briefed the work group on their recent activities. They participated in the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge Exercise earlier this month. There were no actual responses over the past six months or so. They discovered that Cordova has a Hazmat rig during their recent deployment during Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.

They recently received their HazCat kit. They also obtained six Rad pagers and two gamma spectrometers. Due to on-going, active duty military deployments overseas, they are encountering increasing lag times in getting their military issue equipment calibrated.

They have received several new trucks, and five intrinsically safe ALMR radios (400 series). The team recently purchased new Level A suits to replace the older suits with an expired shelf life. The new commander for the 103rd CST (Kevin Pederman) is currently attending school and will be assuming command soon.

The next cold weather decon exercise is scheduled for Fairbanks in January-February 2008. The team plans to provide training to the local volunteer fire departments during the same period.

In terms of rapid response capability, the 103CST is now organized into two, 12-man Strike Teams, with each team capable of being deployed by two helicopters (six team members per helo).

- d. **EPA:** Len Marcus (EPA START Contractor) noted that they have not had any recent responses to any actual Hazmat releases. They have not received any new response equipment items of note since the last work group meeting. They will be participating in the TOPOFF exercise scheduled for Portland, OR this fall.
- e. **Ketchikan Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.
- f. **Coast Guard:** A representative was not available to attend and provide an

update.

g. Kodiak Hazmat Team: A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.

h. Valdez Hazmat Team: A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.

i. Alaska Railroad: A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.

7. Statewide Decontamination Status Update: Paul Darling provided an update on the mass decontamination exercise scheduled for June 7th this year in Anchorage. The exercise will take place at Fire Station 3, and will involve several local hospitals. Simulated victims will be processed thru the decon system. The 103CST will be performing roles as exercise control, training and overall decon management during the event.

Jim Maltby noted that the Reeves representative is scheduled to go out to Unalaska to provide training on the mass decon unit. The work group stated that the concept of operation during the initial purchase and delivery of these systems was to have select members of the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group provide training at the local communities. Geoff Harben will provide a list of contacts at the local level, and the team will determine if there is any interest at the local level to receive free training on the decon units.

The City of Nome received a non-standard decon unit several years ago, and the system is currently non-operational due to structural problems.

8. 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.

9. Statewide Hazmat Budget Status:

Geoff Harben provided an update on the current status of State funding for the Statewide Hazmat response program. Approximately \$150,500 remains in the State Hazmat Capital Improvement Project (CIP), subject to recent travel expenses incurred by the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group.

Larry addressed the federal funding situation, both past and present. The Federal HMEP Grant funds provided by DMVA/DHSEM will be used to offset the costs for the Ammonia Training in Ketchikan and the WMD Sampling Course as well.

10. Additional Items of Discussion:

a. Communications for Hazmat Emergency Response Operations: The group discussed the emergency communications available to the Statewide Hazmat Team, specifically the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system. Larry provided the group with the DEC list of communications frequencies available on their

ALMR radios. Geoff Harben noted that in a large event, DEC would be bringing their cache of radios to support emergency communications. The work group noted that the entry teams would continue to use their own in-suit radio systems for communications between the entry team and the on-scene Hazmat Group Supervisor. ALMR radio comms would be used from the on-scene command post back to the supporting EOC or command post, and elsewhere. The group generally agreed that the ALMR system does provide an enhanced capability in some respects, specifically the long range comms capability. However, the older radio systems also had distinct advantages as well, and some of these unique capabilities were lost with the adoption of ALMR.

- b. NFPA 472:** Alan Wien, on behalf of the SERC Training Committee, asked the work group if there were any concerns regarding the proposed changes to NFPA 472. The proposal has been generally well-received by the Hazmat community, and will be undergoing a vote at the national meeting to be held from June 3-7. Specific competencies for response to terrorism incidents have been added. There are no major changes to the Hazmat Technician standards; however, the requirements for the Awareness level have changed. Currently, there are no funding requirements tied directly to NFPA 472.
- c. 6 CFR Part 27, Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards:** Alan also informed the work group of this proposed federal regulation. The proposal will require facilities to report on lower threshold levels of chemicals stored at their facility, and a site security plan will also be required.
- d. Statewide Hazmat Symposium:** Jim Maltby recommended a Statewide Hazmat Symposium be held in the near future. The symposium would be open to members of the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group, and would be held over several days. One thought was to host it in conjunction with the cold weather decon exercise scheduled for Fairbanks in January-February 2008. The work group members agreed that this was a good initiative to pursue, and a draft schedule of events/topics will be developed. A large-scale, joint Hazmat response exercise could also be included as part of the overall event.
- e. Statewide Hazmat Work Group Meetings:** The group discussed the venue for the meetings and agreed that it would be beneficial to hold the meetings at different communities in the State, specifically those with a Hazmat response capability (e.g., Valdez, Kodiak, Ketchikan, Anchorage, and Fairbanks). This will provide the Statewide Hazmat Team with an opportunity to view first-hand the existing capabilities at different locations in the State.
- f. Alaska Shield/Northern Edge Exercise:** Work group members summarized their roles and any lessons learned during this recent exercise.

The 103CST observed that in several cases, no one wanted to assume the role of Incident Commander, while in other cases there was more than one entity willing to fill that role. This caused several problems as to the “who’s in charge” issue, and several incident commanders appeared to be independently managing the response (as opposed to forming a Unified Command and jointly managing the incident).

Barry Jennings indicated that things went well at the Fairbanks NSB EOC and

the follow of information was good at all levels, both internally and externally. The use of the ALMR radio system continues to be a learning situation as well.

11. Action Items:

- a. **APD 2000 Transfer from Valdez to Fairbanks:** Michelle Heun and Larry will check with the Valdez Hazmat Team to determine the status of this item. Dave Lawson (Valdez Hazmat) had previously stated that they have four APD 2000 instruments in their inventory. They have offered two of the instruments for use by other Hazmat teams in the State. Fairbanks indicated that they would like to have an additional instrument as they currently have only one APD 2000. Larry Iwamoto subsequently checked with DMVA/DHSEM (Michelle Heun) and provided the proper procedure for initiating this transfer of ODP grant-purchased equipment. (**Open – Carried Forward.** Larry to check with Valdez on the status of this item)
- b. **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. Mark Wagner will check with Rick Janelle and determine the status of this action item. (**Open - Carried Forward**)
- c. **Radiological Detection Instruments:** Jim Maltby and Wade Strahan will provide Michelle Heun with better cost estimates for upgrading the Area Rae instruments and purchasing mini-radiacs, respectively. Michelle will prepare an initial grant package and request comments from the Statewide Hazmat Team. (**Open – Carried Forward.** Larry to check with Michelle to see if any additional information is necessary)
- d. **Mobile Decon Units – Support and Training:** DEC (Geoff and/or Larry will provide a list of contacts for those communities that received decon units several years ago. The work group will contact the communities and offer support and hands-on training with the systems.
- e. **Statewide Hazmat Symposium:** Work group members will be asked to provide inputs to the overall schedule and agenda items for this proposed symposium, tentatively scheduled for Fairbanks in the January-February 2008 timeframe. The symposium may also include a large scale, joint Hazmat response exercise for the Statewide Hazmat Team.

12. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2007 in Anchorage (exact location to be determined).

Encl: Agenda
Attendee Listing
Updated Schedule of Activities



STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP MEETING

(Alaska West Training Facility– Fairbanks, Alaska)

May 22, 2007

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**
 - **Statewide Decontamination Status Update**
 - **Mass Decon Exercise – June 7, 2007**
 - **Drills and Training**
 - **Schedule of Hazmat Activities**
 - **Alaska Shield/Northern Edge – Recap of Actions**
 - **WMD Sampling Course (September 25-27, 2007)**
 - **Ammonia Training – Ketchikan (September 11-13, 2007)**
 - **Statewide Hazmat Budget Status**
 - **DEC CIP Funding Status for Hazmat Teams**
 - **Federal Funding (ODP, HMEP Funding)**
 - **Additional Items for Discussion**
 - **Communications for Hazmat Emergency Response Operations**
 - **NFPA 472**
 - **6 CFR Part 27, Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards**
 - **Recap Action Items**
 - **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - **Adjourn**

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP - Sign-In Sheet (May 22, 2007 Meeting - Fairbanks)

Individual	Agency	Email Address	Phone /Fax/Other
Jake Bender	Anchorage Hazmat	benderjl@muni.org	267-5001/
Paul Darling	103 rd CST (AKNG)	Paul.darling@us.army.mil	384-9418
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
Barry Jennings	FNSB Emergency Operations Director	bjennings@co.fairbanks.ak.us	459-1219/460-1350 (cell)
Jim Maltby	Alaska West	maltby@awe.lynden.com	456-2223/456-2266
Len Marcus	EPA START Contractor	lmarcus@ene.com	257-5000/257-5007
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	384-9403/384-9414
Alan Wien	DEC PERP (Wasilla)	Alan_wien@dec.state.ak.us	376-1865/376-2382

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP – ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (as of: May 23, 2007)

Activity	Type of Event	Date	Location	Sponsor/ Coordinator	Point of Contact	Participating Agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	May 22	Fairbanks	AK West Express, DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
Hospital Emergency Decon Training/Exercise	Field Exercise	June 7	Anchorage	MOA, 103 rd CST, JMEPG	Rob Fitch, Jim Yeo	Hospital staff, local Hazmat Teams
Emergency Response to Hazmat Incidents (EPA 165.15)	Training	July 23-27	Ketchikan	Ketchikan Fire/Hazmat	Jim Hill	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Maritime Hazmat Conference, CST Workshop	Conference	July 23-27	Ketchikan	103 rd CST	Paul Darling/ Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Emergency Response to Hazmat Incidents (EPA 165.15)	Training	July 30-Aug 3	Ketchikan	Ketchikan Fire/Hazmat	Jim Hill	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	August 15	Anchorage	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
Continuing Challenge Hazmat Workshop	Conference	Sept 4-7	Sacramento	Numerous	http://www.hazmat.org	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Safe Handling and Emergency Response to Anhydrous Ammonia	Classroom, Exercise	Sept 11-13	Ketchikan	DEC	Jim Hill Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Alaska State Fire Conference	Conference	September	Valdez	Valdez Fire Dept	George Keeney	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
WMD Sampling Course	Training	Sept 25-27	Anchorage Fire Tng Ctr	DEC, AFD, DMVA/DHSEM	Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Specialized Radiation Training	Training	TBD	Anchorage	EPA E&E	Len Marcus	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
DOE Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Training	Training	TBD	Anchorage	103 rd CST	Paul Darling/ Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
TOPOFF IV	Exercise	October 2007	Portland, OR	DHS	Matt Carr/ Mary Goolie (EPA)	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	TBD	TBD	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
Hazmat Spills Conference	Conference	Dec 2-5	Pittsburgh, PA	EPA Region III	www.2007conference.org	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Cold Weather Decon Exercise	Exercise	Jan-Feb 2008	Fairbanks	103 rd CST	Paul Darling/ Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	Jan-Feb 2008	Anchorage	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Wk Gp Members
Alaska Hazmat Symposium	Conference	Jan-Feb 2008	Fairbanks	Statewide Hazmat Work Group	TBD	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Marine Firefighting Symposium	Conference	TBD	Valdez	PWS RCAC	PWS RCAC	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies

= Past Activity