



DRAFT

Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Meeting

(Anchorage – State Public Health Lab)

February 20, 2007)

Meeting Notes

February 21, 2007

1. **Participants:** See attached.
2. **Agenda:** See attached.
3. **Safety Moment:** Dave Verbrugge welcomed the group and briefed on 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 November 16, 2006 in Anchorage.
 - a. **Mercury Fact Sheet:** Young Ha will provide an updated draft to the work group members for review and comment. Once comments are received, the document will be finalized and distributed (plus posted on the DEC website). (**Closed**) The fact sheet has been finalized and posted on the Hazmat Work Group website at:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/hazmat.htm>
 - b. **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. (**Open:** Recommend a presentation on the different communications options at the next Hazmat Work Group meeting)
 - c. **Statewide Hazmat Response Team Website:** DEC will activate a website on the DEC PERP Internet website. The website will be used initially to post past meeting notes and informational items of interest as well as operational protocols. A private chat room will be explored, but basic email communications may also serve this purpose, plus provide some degree of privacy. (**Closed.** The website has been activated. Comments are requested from work group members to improve the contents)
 - d. **Technical Advisor to DMVA ODP Grant Committee:** Larry Iwamoto will check with Michelle Heun (DMVA/DHSEM) to determine the

feasibility of adding a member of the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group to the ODP Grant committee. The individual will serve as a technical advisor on Hazmat equipment purchases and provide information on equipment capabilities/limitations as well as projected annual O&M costs. **(Closed)**

- 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. **(Open:** Mark Wagner will check with Rick Janelle to determine the status of this item).

6. Hazmat Team Updates:

- a. **Anchorage Hazmat Team:** Wade Strahan briefed the work group on recent activities. They experienced a three-alarm call for a gasoline tractor trailer rig that was struck by a small passenger vehicle at 6th and A Streets. The tractor trailer rig was nearly empty except for residual fuel. The engine compartment was on fire, but the driver of the rig extinguished the blaze, and rescued the driver of the other vehicle. The area was cleaned up by a contractor. They also responded to the routine small fuel spills and carbon monoxide incidents. Wade summarized the EPA 40-hour Hazwoper technician course held on December 4-8 in Anchorage. It was an excellent course, though not well attended by first responders.
- b. **Fairbanks Hazmat Team:** Jim Maltby noted that two Fairbanks Hazmat Team members attended the Hazmat Incident Command course held in January at the Anchorage Fire Training Facility. Tom Wells (formerly with the Anchorage Fire Department) was the primary instructor for the course. The Fairbanks Hazmat Team also received HazCat training from the EPA START contractor last month. The team participated in an exercise at Flint Hills Refinery and worked with the Fairbanks North Star Borough staff and the North Pole fire department. They also participated in a cold weather decon exercise facilitated by the 103rd CST. Jim noted that there is an increased interest amongst the Borough and local fire departments in acquiring Hazmat and decon training.

Jim informed the work group that the Fairbanks Hazmat Team has gained approval to use the Steese Fire Station to store the Hazmat team response assets. This arrangement will be effective July 1, 2007.

- c. **103rd Civil Support Team:** Chris Van Alstine briefed the work group on a recent incident at Elmendorf Air Force Base involving liquid titanium in marker rounds. The 103CST provided technical assistance to the EAFB Hazmat Team. They also responded to a small incident in Palmer where a youth was manufacturing timing devices, supposedly for use with bleach and ammonia. One issue of note is an unknown substance was later diagnosed to be water. Chris also mentioned the cold weather decon exercise in Fairbanks and noted that several CSTs from the lower 48

attended the drill as well. The 103CST is currently coordinating with the Ketchikan Fire Department (Jim Hill) and two Emergency Response to Hazmat Incidents (ERTHMI) courses are planned for late July/early August. The 103CST is also planning a meeting of CSTs at about the same time in Ketchikan, and the Statewide Hazmat Team is invited to attend this meeting. He noted that the 103CST is involved in the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge exercise, and will also be on call for the upcoming Alaska Whaling Commission meeting in Anchorage. The 103CST is also planning a 40-hour course in Kodiak during the September timeframe.

Chris has also accepted a position as the Deputy Commander at the Army Chemical School at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri. He will be departing for his new assignment next week. Capt Myles Tenbroeck will be the primary point of contact for 103CST matters, pending the selection of a new commander. The work group expressed their appreciation for the efforts put forth by Chris in advancing the Statewide Hazmat Response program.

- d. Ketchikan Hazmat Team:** Bob Mattson briefed on current activities at Ketchikan based on a summary from Jim Hill. Items briefed included the following: update to the Marine Firefighting Plan for Southeast Alaska; Basic Shipboard firefighting is now taught in Ketchikan; the Ketchikan EOP is being re-written; although cancelled this Spring, the EOD/Hazmat Course is still being pursued; two EPA Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents courses will be held in Ketchikan on July 23-27 and July 30-August 3; the MMRS Grant has purchased a 900+ sq. ft "Gatekeeper II" along with 2 more of the same style and design for Juneau and Sitka and 3 or 4 smaller units for Petersburg/Wrangell, Skagway, Prince of Wales Island and other locations; the MMRS is also purchasing the Area Rae system for KFD Hazmat; and, grant funding has made it possible to establish the first "Dive/ Rescue/ Recovery" team for the City of Ketchikan.
- e. EPA:** Vivian Kinnaird (EPA START Contractor) noted that they continue with their bi-monthly drills at the EPA Warehouse. They also conducted an 8-hour Hazwoper Refresher in conjunction with the Alaska Forum on the Environment last week and approximately 70 people attended the training. They are planning a 24-hour Hazwoper course for Kodiak and are coordinating the event with DEC. They are also coordinating a HazCat course with the Anchorage Hazmat Team.
- f. Coast Guard:** Mark Wagner stated that they have been busy conducting first responder training for all Coast Guard units in Alaska. The training will be made available to local communities and Federal/State agencies on a space available basis. Mark also noted that they purchased Hazmat Smart strips for their vessel boarding teams. Currently, the Coast Guard does not have any exercises scheduled, except for the CANUSDIX exercise in Ketchikan in September.
- 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: Jim Seeberger noted that the ARRC Whistle-stop Tour was cancelled this year due to higher priorities, specifically the collision avoidance testing project. The railroad is also rebuilding their training tanks cars, and purchasing new equipment as well.

Jim deferred to Jeff Deitz (FAA) to inform the work group of the upcoming Hazmat Transportation Training Course. The course will be offered in Anchorage on April 24 at the Bill Sheffield Depot (Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport). The course is free and folks can register on line. The Fairbanks course will be held at the Alaska General Contractors facility on April 26. Jeff noted that Alaska Airlines and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration are jointly sponsoring the course. Students will be given a test to complete on line for their training certificate. Jeff also noted that there may also be a two-day seminar the week after the scheduled training.

j. Elmendorf AFB: A representative was not available to attend and provide an update.

k. Federal OSHA: Doug Wootten informed the work group of Fed OSHA's jurisdictional responsibilities in Alaska. He noted the high level of interest in Fort Greely with the movement of missiles and the need for tech escorts. Fed OSHA emergency response is launched from Seattle and they are responsible for a four-state area including Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

Doug encouraged work group members to contact him (271-5152) with any questions on 29 CFR Hazwoper training requirements. He specifically related an incident at Fort Wainwright where workers were exposed to floating coal dust (an explosive hazard) at the coal plant. Several workers were injured and Fed OSHA intervened to improve safety and work practices at the facility. The facility underwent repair and migrant fugitive coal dust was minimized.

7. Statewide Decontamination Status Update: Jim Yeo provided an update on the mass decontamination exercise scheduled for June 7th this year in Anchorage. The exercise has taken on a larger scope and Rob Fitch with the Municipality of Anchorage is now the exercise coordinator. The 103CST will be performing roles as exercise control, training and overall decon management during the event.

He noted that the specific venue for the drill has not yet been finalized. There is a meeting tomorrow (February 21) to further flesh out the details of the drill. Jim stressed that this is a no fault exercise, and the primary intent is to review and learn about existing capabilities. The work group noted that this would a wonderful opportunity for hospitals from other areas to observe the exercise and benefit from the overall event.

Jim also noted that the hospitals are fairly proficient in terms of patient tracking once they arrive at the hospital. However, the field decon and personal effects tracking of patients becomes another issue. The scenario may also involve a deliberate release, which then keys law enforcement officials towards evidence preservation and apprehending the perpetrators. The group also noted that use of the patient re-dress kits would be advantageous, especially since the kits were purchased for this training event. Jim Maltby asked if signage had been purchased to support field decon operations. Wade also noted the need for multi-lingual capability to support decon operations.

- 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 update is attached to these notes.

Several work group members asked about the WMD Sampling Course. Vivian Kinnaird will check with the course providers and determine the length of the course. An offering in Fairbanks and Anchorage would be ideal to support training requirements. There was also a question whether this course is a pre-requisite to attend other training courses offered in the lower 48.

- 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). A proposal to seek additional funding this year was not approved by DEC management, and the funds will need to provide O&M support to Hazmat teams until FY2009 (assuming a CIP proposal is approved by the legislature). Wade indicated that Anchorage Hazmat has completed their purchases and the MOA purchasing department will be contacting Geoff for reimbursement. The funding for the Fairbanks Hazmat Team should have been approved by the Assembly last week and purchasing will proceed soon.

Michelle Heun briefed the work group on Office of Domestic Preparedness grants and funding. She noted that there are five interconnected programs: Citizen Corps Program, MMRS, Law Enforcement/Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), and the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). Michelle noted that funding is shifting from the SHSP program to the UASI program, and the upcoming grant funding for Alaska could be reduced to a baseline amount, or possibly less.

Michelle noted that the funding priorities will be risk-based investments and stressed the need for regional coordination. Michelle is the primary focal point for the CBRNE funds and noted that ODP is encouraging states to work with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) to identify priority planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs. Michelle requested input from the Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group to help identify needs both at the community level, and for the Statewide Hazmat Response Team. The priority focus should be on radiological detection needs and training and exercises.

Michelle also noted that the State of Alaska has received an extension to commit FY05 funding to FY08. There is approximately \$500,000 pending in local projects.

A small work group met after the formal meeting to discuss this topic and the following preliminary inputs were provided to Michelle.

- For communities without a Level A/B Hazmat response capability, the mini-radiac instrument was recommended. The instrument is a personal pager/dosimeter and provides an alarm to low levels of radiation, thus alerting the first responder to depart the area and call for assistance. The approximate price of a mini-radiac is \$400-500, and a calibration instrument would also be required (approximate cost is \$3,000).
- For the Statewide Hazmat Team, two preliminary recommendations were provided. The first recommendation is to upgrade Area Raes to include gamma radiation detection capability. Jim Maltby will provide Michelle with an approximate cost (per instrument) to accomplish this. The second recommendation was directed at joint training and exercises for the Statewide Hazmat Team. Each team would be required to submit a grant proposal (to include travel, per diem, overtime, and personnel backfill costs) to participate in joint training and exercises with the other Hazmat teams in the State that comprise the overall Statewide Hazmat Team.

10. Additional Items of Discussion:

Saint-Gobain Presentation. David Clark provided the work group with a short demonstration of his company's new Level A suit. The suit is certified for the flash fire requirement, will not burn, and is made of pliable material, thus reducing any permanent creases. The suit is lightweight (12 pounds) and is NFPA certified for fire abrasion. It is equipped with Kevlar kneepads and the outer visor is replaceable. The suit has no shelf life and can be serviceable for up to 15 years, with testing required on an annual basis. Arctic Fire (Fairbanks) is the local vendor in Alaska and the suit lists at \$2,100 per item. The suit is capable of performing well in cold weather (-60 degrees).

12. Action Items:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 13. Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2007 in Fairbanks at the Alaska West Training facility. Larry will entertain requests to retain the meeting in Anchorage if a significant number of work group members cannot attend due to travel budget restrictions.

Encl: Agenda

Attendee Listing

Updated Schedule of Activities



STATEWIDE HAZMAT WORK GROUP MEETING

(State Public Health Lab– 4500 Boniface Parkway)
Anchorage, Alaska

February 20, 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 – Summer 2007**
 - **Drills and Training**
 - **Schedule of Hazmat Activities**
 - **Statewide Hazmat Budget Status**
 - **DEC CIP Funding Status for Hazmat Teams**
 - **Federal Funding (ODP, HMEP Funding)**
 - **Additional Items for Discussion**
 - **Recap Action Items**
 - **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - **Adjourn**

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP Sign-In Sheet (February 20, 2007 Meeting - Anchorage)

Individual	Agency	Email Address	Phone /Fax
Tom Burgess	US Dept of Homeland Security	Thomas.burgess@dhs.gov	271-5149/271-2737
David Clark	Saint Gobain (vendor)	David.j.clark@saint-gobain.com	(603) 738-2955/343-2232
Jeff Deitz	FAA	Jeff.deitz@faa.gov	271-5003/271-4933
Henry 'Chip' Gallagher	DOTPF Anchorage Airport Police/Fire	Chip_Gallagher@dot.state.ak.us	266-2411/
Geoff Harben	DEC	Geoff_harben@dec.state.ak.us	465-5234/465-5244
Michelle Heun	DMVA/DHSEM	michelle_heun@ak-prepared.com	428-7089/428-7009
Larry Iwamoto	DEC PERP (Anc)	Larry_iwamoto@dec.state.ak.us	269-7683/269-7648
Vivian Kinnaird	EPA START Contractor	vkinnaird@ene.com	257-5000/257-5007
Kevin Loader	FBI	Kloader1@leo.gov	748-3022/265-8400
Jim Maltby	Alaska West	maltby@awe.lynden.com	456-2223/456-2266
Bob Mattson	ADEC	Bob_mattson@dec.state.ak.us	465-5349/465-2237
Eileen Nickoloff	DHSS	Eileen_Nickoloff@health.state.ak.us	334-2114/
Jim Seeberger	Alaska Railroad	Seebergerj@akrr.com	265-2476/242-2406
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/
Chris Van Alstine	103 rd CST (AKNG)	Christian.VanAlstine@us.army.mil	384-9406/384-9414
Mark Wagner	USCG District 17	Mark.C.Wagner@uscg.mil	463-2807/463-2256
Alan Wien	DEC PERP (Wasilla)	Alan_wien@dec.state.ak.us	376-1865/376-2382
Doug Wootten	U.S. Dept of Labor	Wootten.douglas@dol.gov	271-3538/
Jim Yeo	103 rd CST (AKNG)	william.yeo@us.army.mil	384-9413/866-699-8141

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP – ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (as of: February 20, 2007)

Activity	Type of Event	Date	Location	Sponsor/ Coordinator	Point of Contact	Participating Agencies
Instrument Work Group Mtg	Meeting	November 16	Anchorage	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	Interested Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
HazCat Training	Training	January 20-21	UAF Fairbanks	EPA START	Michele Sherwood	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Alaska Cruise Ship Pre-Season Workshop	Meeting	January 22-23	Anchorage (Capt Cook)	USCG D17	Rick Janelle	Industry, Federal and State agencies
Hazmat Incident Management Course	Training	January 22-26	Anchorage	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Cold Weather Decon Exercise	Training, Exercise	January 29 – February 2	Fairbanks	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	February 20	DHSS PHL	DHSS/PHL DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
Hazmat Chemistry 1 Class (Dieter Heinz)	Training	Feb 19-23	Anchorage Fire Tng Ctr	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Hazmat Transportation Workshop	Training	April 24 April 26	Anchorage Fairbanks	ARRC	Jim Seeberger	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Alaska Shield/ Northern Edge 07	Statewide Exercise	May 7-18	Statewide	DOD	Wien/Iwamoto (DEC)	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	May 22	Fairbanks	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
Hospital Emergency Decon Training/Exercise	Field Exercise	June 7	Anchorage	103 rd CST, JMEPG	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
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
WMD Sampling Course	Training	TBD	Fairbanks	TBD	Michele Sherwood	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
TOPOFF IV	Exercise	October 2007	Portland, OR	DHS	Carr/Goolie (EPA)	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Emergency Response to Ammonia Training	Classroom, Exercise	Fall 2007	Ketchikan	DEC	Jim Hill Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies

■ = Past Activity

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

TBD = To be determined