



DRAFT

Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Meeting (Fairbanks, Alaska West Express – May 31, 2006)

Meeting Notes

June 1, 2006

1. **Participants:** See attached.
2. **Agenda:** See attached.
3. **Introductions:** Larry opened the meeting with an overall welcome followed by introductions. A sign-in sheet was also circulated (see the attached participant list).
4. **Safety Moment:** Jim Maltby (Alaska West Express) briefed the group on the building evacuation procedures, primary mustering points, and general facility layout and accommodations.
5. **Action Items from the Previous Meeting:** The group reviewed the action items from the previous meeting held on March 8, 2006.
 - a. **Field/Hospital Decontamination:** A work group meeting was held between Hazmat work group members and hospital staff on May 9, 2006 at the State Public Health Lab. Hazmat work group members were in general agreement that the hospitals had progressed significantly in the area of patient decontamination. The draft meeting notes were circulated via email to the entire Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group. See additional discussion on this topic in the notes which follow. This item is closed. Additional actions are planned to further improve the overall decon capability.
 - b. **Purchase of Patient Re-Dress Kits:** Larry informed the work group that action on this item remains pending, and will occur after ODP grant closure, per Michelle Heun. Any surplus funding will be applied towards the purchase of patient re-dress kits. The overall purchase plan (depending on available funds) is provided as an attachment to this document. **(Action: Open)**
 - c. **Area Rae Inter-operability:** The Rae representative visited Anchorage in March, and also attended this meeting. See the discussion on this topic later in this document, and updated action item. **(Action: Detection Instrument Work Group)**
 - 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. **(Action: Work Group)**

6. Sodium Cyanide Training: Don Whitworth (DuPont) provided work group members with a presentation on sodium cyanide. The chemical is currently used at Fort Know and Pogo mines in Alaska, and will also be used in the near future at mining operations in Nome and at Donlon Creek. The chemical is transported via barge to Whittier, then by rail to Fairbanks, where it is offloaded at Alaska West Express for truck delivery to the user. The presentation covered proper PPE, emergency response procedures, general characteristics of sodium cyanide and hydrogen cyanide, and emergency contacts for technical information. Antidotes are available at the mines and include amyl nitrite and sodium nitrite. The complete presentation is available through Larry.

7. Hazmat Team Updates:

- a. Anchorage Hazmat Team:** Wade Strahan and Jake Bender briefed the work group on recent activities which included a radiological response to the airport. Federal officials had noted radiation emitting from an L-39 Security Aviation aircraft. The 103CST also responded and determined that the radiation was emitted from several instruments on board the aircraft, and did not present a hazard. The Anchorage Hazmat Team has not responded to any white powder calls recently. Responses to abandoned drums have kept them busy over the past several months.
- b. Fairbanks Hazmat Team:** Jim Maltby and Tyler Bones provided a summary of recent activities. The team responded to several meth lab busts. Due to limited local law enforcement staffing, the team also performed joint entries on several meth labs. Jim and Tyler also mentioned a response to a truck rollover near Ester with a fatality involved. The team provided diking and damming to minimize the spill to a water body. The team also responded to another truck accident resulting in a spill from a saddle tank. However, the RP responded quickly and efficiently and no assistance was necessary from the Hazmat team. The team also responded to a white powder incident involving a letter. It was later determined that the adhesive on the envelope caused the rash on the individual reporting the incident, and no further action was taken.
- c. 103rd Civil Support Team:** Myles Tenbroeck also mentioned the 103CST's response to the L39 aircraft out at Anchorage International Airport.
- d. Kodiak Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to provide an update.
- e. Valdez Hazmat Team:** A representative was not available to provide an update.
- f. Elmendorf AFB:** A representative was not available to provide an update.
- g. EPA:** Matt Carr informed the work group of EPA's involvement in Katrina recovery efforts and on the North Slope spill response at Gathering Center 2. For Hurricane Katrina, EPA staff were tasked with many things which they don't normally do. In terms of Hazmat capabilities, Matt indicated that EPA has seven Level A responders, including their contractor. EPA will be hosting a major WMD response exercise on June 27-29 out at the Navy Supervisor of Salvage facility on Fort Richardson. EPA has several radio systems being installed, one of which will be capable of providing long distance radio comms with the Lower 48. EPA

is also actively pursuing procurement of a satellite-based, wireless Internet system which will be portable. The unit cost is approximately \$12,000 with additional monthly service fees.

- h. Coast Guard:** Mark Wagner represented USCG District 17 and informed the group that the Coast Guard was actively supporting the Katrina recovery efforts as well. Mark cited recent incidents involving floating drums. The Coast Guard uses a drum retention system to capture the drum, then proceeds to anchor the drum in roughly 60 feet of water. A contractor is then activated to retrieve and dispose of the drum and its contents.
- i. Ketchikan Hazmat Team:** Jim Hill briefed the work group on recent activities in Ketchikan. They responded to the L39 aircraft crash and dealt with the ejection seat and the radiological issues as well. The radioactive sensors were packaged and taken to the landfill. Support from military EOD in response to the ejection seat was very slow (4 days) due to a number of issues including weather and politics. The ejection seat was eventually rendered safe and taken to the landfill where it was detonated by EOD. Jim indicated that they have been busy participating in a number of exercises with the 103CST and the Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Team. They continue to work on the regional Hazmat Team issue, and Jim noted that MMRS is a good ally for them in terms of working enhancements in Hazmat response capabilities.
- 8. Statewide Decontamination Status Update:** Jim Yeo briefed the work group on the recent decon work group meeting with hospital staff. The hospitals have made significant progress towards improving their decon capability. Jim mentioned that there was general agreement on the need for a secondary assessment center for decontamination and initial triage of the patients and the general public. Jim indicated that there will be a significant exercise in the near future involving hospitals and Hazmat teams to promote general awareness of decon capabilities.
- 9. Law Enforcement and Security Support During Hazmat Incidents:** This was a topic of concern expressed by work group members. The hospitals are short-handed when it comes to having staff available to secure the hospital. Likewise, security at the scene of a Hazmat incident may also be lacking due to limited staffing or a general lack of understanding by local law enforcement and the Alaska State Troopers.
- 10. 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. The group agreed that additional training is necessary, plus more joint training and exercises involving the different Hazmat Teams.
- 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 on the general process for providing funding to the Hazmat teams to offset annual O&M costs. Geoff mentioned the need for detailed invoices to be provided to the State for subsequent reimbursement to the community.

Bryan Fisher mentioned the new process applied for seeking Federal Office of

Domestic Preparedness funding. The new approach is risk-based and the distribution of funds will not follow previous patterns. Alaskan communities have applied for ODP grant funding and we should know within the next few months what Alaska's funding increment will be. The national news had announced the selection of 46 cities identified for receipt of homeland security funding. It appears Alaska was not on the initial list. The following article addresses the initial increment to selected US cities: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/13053317/>

12. Additional Items of Discussion:

Alaska Railroad Whistle Stop Tour: Larry Iwamoto informed the work group that the tour was completed in mid-April and the general public showing was less than anticipated. The Alaska Railroad is considering conducting another tour next year and planning will begin soon.

Alaska Land Mobile Radio System: Bryan Fisher provided the work group with a presentation on this topic. The complete presentation is available upon request from Larry. The ALMR system is not officially operational at this point, and build-out continues. The primary coverage is the major highway system and railbelt as well as Southeast Alaska, but does not include rural Alaska. DMVA will maintain two transportable units which can be activated through a request to the State Emergency Coordination Center. The general concern is the need for interoperable comms amongst Hazmat teams arriving on scene at a major incident. The Hazmat work group will need to determine the common frequencies used by each of the member agencies and develop a comms plan for use during Hazmat incidents.

Bryan also mentioned that GlobalStar has built a new facility in Wasilla, with improved coverage throughout Alaska. The State of Alaska has now approved the use of GlobalStar for State agencies. The State is also planning to purchase 250 Sat phones for distribution to each community in Alaska.

RAID XP Presentation. Frank Thibodeau (Daltonics) provided an overview of the detection instruments available through their company. Per Scott Karner, State DOTPF has purchased several of the RAID XP instruments for use at their weigh stations. Handouts were also provided to the work group members. The complete presentation is available upon request from Larry. Frank will be providing training to DOTPF staff later during the week.

RAE Systems Presentation: Paul Zuccaro briefed the work group on options for linking Area Raes from different Hazmat teams upon arrival at a major Hazmat incident. The simplest method is to issue new unit ID numbers upon arrival at the scene, establish a master console computer, and any number of slave computers. Up to 32 Area Rae systems can be linked through this process. The approximate cost to upgrade each system is approximately \$2,300 per using agency. Paul also briefed the work group on several other innovations within his company, including a palm-based system which provides a ready reference guide for determining the proper response to an exhaustive list of chemicals.

13. Action Items:

- a. **Annual O&M Budget Data:** The work group agreed to provide annual O&M cost data to Geoff by July 1, 2006.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

14. Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 23, 2006 in Anchorage, meeting location to be determined.

Encl: Agenda
Attendee Listing
Updated Schedule of Activities



STATEWIDE HAZMAT WORK GROUP MEETING

Alaska West Training Facility - Fairbanks, Alaska

May 31, 2006

Agenda

- 9:00 am
 - Introductions
 - Safety Moment
- 9:15 am
 - Sodium Cyanide Training (Don Whitworth - DuPont)
- 10:15 am
 - Break then Commence with Formal Meeting
- 10:30 am
 - 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
 - Decon Meeting with Hospital Representatives
 - 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 Railroad Whistle Stop Tour
 - Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) System
 - Rae Systems Presentation (Paul Zuccaro)
 - RAID-XP Presentation (Frank Thibodeau)
 - Alaska State Firefighters Association/Alaska State Fire Chiefs Association Conference (Fairbanks September 25-26, 2006)
 - Recap Action Items
 - Next Meeting Date and Location
 - Adjourn

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP (May 31, 2006)

Individual	Agency	Email Address	Phone /Fax
Jake Bender	Anchorage Hazmat	benderjl@muni.org	267-5001/
Tyler Bones	Fairbanks Hazmat	tyler.bones@fhr.com	488-5180/488-0095
Matt Carr	EPA	Carr.matthew@epa.gov	271-3616/271-3424
Bryan Fisher	DMVA-DHSEM	B_fisher@ak-prepared.com	428-7096
Mary Goolie	EPA	goolie.mary@epa.gov	271-3414/271-3424
Geoff Harben	DEC	Geoff_harben@dec.state.ak.us	465-5234/465-5244
Jennifer Henderson	DEC	Jennifer_Henderson@dec.state.ak.us	269-7532/269-7648
Jim Hill	Ketchikan Hazmat	JIMH@city.ketchikan.ak.us	225-5940/ 617-1291(cell)
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	365-3216/365-3220
Jim Maltby	Alaska West	maltby@awe.lynden.com	456-2223/456-2266
Tom Richardson	Fairbanks Hazmat	richardsont@alyeska-pipeline.com	450-4842/
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
Frank Thibodeau	RAID-XP	fnt@bdal.com	(978) 663-3660 X1308
Mark Wagner	USCG District 17	Mark.C.Wagner@uscg.mil	463-2807/463-2256
Don Whitworth	DuPont		
Jim Yeo	103 rd CST (AKNG)	william.yeo@us.army.mil	866-699-8141/384-9413
Paul Zuccaro	Rae Systems	pzuccaro@raesystems.com	(425) 458-4337

STATEWIDE HAZMAT RESPONSE WORK GROUP – ACTIVITY SCHEDULE (as of: June 1, 2006)

Activity	Type of Event	Date	Location	Sponsor/ Coordinator	Point of Contact	Participating Agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	May 31	Fairbanks	DEC	Jim Maltby Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
Sodium Cyanide Training	Training	May 31 June 1	Fairbanks Anchorage	ARRC	Jim Seeberger	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
HazCat Training	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
EPA WMD Response Exercise	TBD	June 27-29	Fort Richardson	EPA	Matt Carr Michele Sherwood	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Hazmat Chemistry Course for First Responders (Part 2)	Training	2 nd Week in October	Fort Richardson	103 rd CST	Myles Tenbroeck	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Hospital Emergency Decon Training	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Hospital staff, local Hazmat Teams
Emergency Response to Ammonia Training	Classroom	Week of November 6	Ketchikan	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Sampling Course	Training	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	First responders, industry, Federal and State agencies
Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Mtg	Meeting	Aug 23	Anchorage	DEC	Larry Iwamoto	All Statewide Hazmat Response Work Group Members
Decontamination Exercise	Field Exercise	TBD	TBD	SW Hazmat Work Group	Work Group Members	Hazmat Teams and Hospital Staff at communities TBD
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

☐ = Past Activity

TBD = To be determined