HPS Homeland Security Section (HSS)
First Response Work Group Charter

**Background:**
Nuclear and radiological weapons may be used in terrorist attacks on the United States or other countries. The Mission of the HSS is to develop and conduct an ongoing Society program to educate and inform HPS members and to achieve a greater degree of homeland security against an attack using radiological or nuclear weapons.

The majority of the work of the HSS is performed by the various subspecialty work groups who report to the President of the HSS and the Executive Board. Each work group has a Charter which describes the Mission, Membership, Stakeholders, Timeframe of Activities, Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes of that work group.

The First Response Group was developed when the Section was formed to provide a forum for that topic area at the HPS HSS website and the attract individuals with expertise to be able to meet and share experience and knowledge.

**Work Group Mission:** The Health Physics Society HSS First Response Group supports the efforts of federal, state, regional, tribal, and local responding agencies in developing a framework for interoperability and compatibility across disciplines that would ensure an efficient and a common operating approach for a response to radiological or nuclear incidents.

**Work Group Members:**
- Thomas (Tom) F. O’Connell, Chair
- Rick Hansen
- Charles “Gus” Potter
- Mark Linsley
- Scottie Walker

**Stakeholders:**
- Health Physics Society membership
- Local and State Level First Responders
- State Radiation Control Programs
- Federal Response Agencies
- HSS Members

**Timeframe:**
August 1 – July 31

**Goals:**
1. To disseminate information related to Homeland Security Programs in the US and internationally.
2. To promote professional development within HSS-related programs.
3. Develop presentations for response to nuclear and radiological incidents for first responder

**Objectives:**
1. To update the work group website at least quarterly or more often as information becomes available.
2. To recruit new work group members, as necessary, to bring subject matter expertise to the group.
3. To develop at least one Position/Position Statement in the

**Outcomes:**
1. A work group website that is up-to-date and reflects the current knowledge of this topic area.
2. A work group with sufficient staff to assist the chair in completing the mission of the group.
3. The work group would have a

5. To provide open lines of communication between HSS members and other scientific, first responder and professional groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>work groups operating timeframe.</th>
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<td>4. To write a paragraph on work group activities for the HPS News Letter at least once during the work groups timeframe of operations.</td>
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<td>5. Develop suggested guidance for first responders and other agencies responding to response to a radiological/nuclear incident.</td>
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<td>Position/Position Statement ready for submittal to the HSS Board Liaison prior to the HPS mid-year or annual meeting. If one exists, the group will review and revise the statement as needed.</td>
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<td>4. The work group activities are documented in HPS news articles for access by those interested in Homeland Security issues.</td>
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