WMD Training Materials for Health Physicists and Responders

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Chair, Training Sub-committee of the HPS
Homeland Security Committee

Visit http://hps.org/hsc/

Health Physics Society

Homeland Security Committee, Training Subcommittee

Radiological/nuclear emergency training materials for:

- Health physicists
- Responders
- Media and the public

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Health Physicists—

There are several avenues for health physicists who would like to volunteer their time to support the Homeland Security effort.
Some Advice for Health Physicists

• Radiological emergency response is not routine health physics
• Patience and tenacity
• Don’t reinvent the wheel
• Do your homework & Speak their language

First Responder Training Objectives

• Keep the messages simple! Focus on what you want them to remember a year later.
• At the awareness level this should be;
  • Medical emergencies take precedent over radiological monitoring,
  • Used correctly, their instruments and protocols ensure their safety, and
  • The difference between contamination and radiation.
• The overall objective when training first responders is to increase their confidence and lower their anxiety about radiation
Effective Training Methods

• “Hands On” training with the tools used by the responders.
  - Demonstrate the principles of radiation (types of radiation, distance & shielding effects, etc..)
  - Utilize the responders own equipment with actual radiation sources.

• Trainers need to be able to address the radiological concerns of the students.

• Leave training materials that are interesting and can be used as a reference.

Important Considerations When Selecting Radiological/Nuclear Training

• Excellent radiological training programs exist both in the government and private sector.

• These programs are offered locally at little or no cost. There are also grant programs to help with the cost.

• A knowledgeable instructor is key to effective radiological training.
DOE's Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP)

Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT)
- Modular (18 modules)
- Multimedia presentation materials,
- Instructor guides,
- Student workbooks,
- Response Protocol Templates,
- Exercise Materials, &
- Tests.

Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program

- Provides Equipment and Training to the First Responder Community
- Partnership between
  - US Department of Homeland Security
  - US Department of Energy
  - Health Physics Society

“A partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Energy serving the emergency responder community.”

A foot in the door for the Health Physicist who wants to get involved in helping their community!
Got Training?

Today's Students are Tomorrow's responders!
Give presentations at your local schools or host Science Teacher Seminars so they can spread the word!
Conclusions

• Lots of opportunities for interested HPs to get engaged
• Lots of training tools and materials to support you
• Check out the HPS Homeland Security Committee’s Training Webpage www.hps.org/hsc
• Join the HPS HSC Training Subcommittee

{blatant plug}