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The National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (NARR)

- Genesis
- Key Concerns
- Partners
- Roundtable/Follow-up Workshop
- Membership
- Current Activities
- Website
Genesis

• The Polonium-210 Russian Spy poisoning incident in London in 2006.
• International impact.
• Recognition by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of *an opportunity to better prepare the nation for a public health threat involving nuclear/radiological incidents.*
Key Issues

• Identifying impacted U.S. travelers was challenging*

• State/local health departments not always aware of state/local radiation control agencies with responsibility for their jurisdictions

This was also an issue during following the Fukushima accident in Japan
• Response to this event highlighted the need to:
  – *Increase awareness* of mutual responsibilities for preparing and responding to radiological incidents;
  – *Strengthen communication* and working relationships among participating organizations;
  – *Share information* on available resources; and
  – Increase awareness of *emerging roles and responsibilities regarding radiological events*. 
Activities Leading to the “Alliance”

• **June 2008** CDC-CRCPD Sponsored the “**Roundtable** on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Emergency Response.”

• **April 2009** CDC-CRCPD Sponsored a follow-up **Workshop** “Alliance to Expand Radiological Emergency Preparedness in Public Health.”

• **May 2009** the first **Steering Committee Meeting** took place during the CRCPD Annual Meeting.

• **June 2009-May 2010** – An **exploratory committee** concluded that a National Alliance for Radiation Readiness was a **necessary and viable undertaking**.

The committee drafted a mission, vision, purpose, structure, governance, business and communications/marketing plans.
Roundtable Outcome

• Identified:
  – **Gaps, capabilities and strategies** to our mutual ability to respond to a radiological emergency.
  – Need to **coordinate and build relationships** among participating agencies.
  – Need for **consistent radiological capabilities**.
  – Need for Multi-agency **training and exercising**, and
  – Need for **funding specifically allocated for radiological emergency preparedness**.
Roundtable Participants

Over 30 experts in the broad fields of:

- Health physics,
- Hospital preparedness,
- Epidemiology,
- Public health preparedness,
- Risk communication,
- Psychology and
- Emergency medicine.

Representing federal agencies, state and local agencies, and professional organizations.
Suggested Initiatives

• Follow-up expanded roundtable, to include more medical and public health organizations, first receivers (EMTs, hospital staff).
• Form an alliance of the partner organizations that participated in roundtable.
• Create tools to raise awareness of local health agencies to their broader role in radiation and other emergencies.
• Incorporate population monitoring in grants and other funding opportunities.
• Tabletop exercises that focus on recovery, not just response.
So how can we do that?

Well, one step at a time...
Roundtable - June 2008

Workshop - April 2009

Steering Committee

Founding Partners

• Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
• Association of Public Health Laboratories
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
• Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
• Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
• National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
Proposed Path Forward

• Develop alliance of various organizations with shared objective of expanding radiological emergency preparedness capabilities nationwide.

• Work within alliance to elevate recognition of the roles and responsibilities of public health agencies in a radiological emergency.
Action Plan

Develop a plan that identifies actionable objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely) and provides a mechanism for monitoring progress, to enable the alliance partners to realize their central goal:

To expand radiological preparedness in public health agencies, nationwide.
NARR Vision

To become a more protected, resilient nation through a comprehensive and integrated approach to radiological emergencies.
NARR Mission

Enhance radiological preparedness capability and capacity in public health and health care systems through a coalition of organizations committed to improving the nation’s ability to prepare, respond, and recover from radiological emergencies at the local, state, and national levels.
NARR Purpose

- To build radiological emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity and capabilities by supporting the:
  - Development of mechanisms for **sharing resources and tools**, including technical methods and information.
  - Identification and dissemination of **best practices**.
  - Definition of and education on the **roles and responsibilities of different levels of government** and different governmental agencies in radiological emergencies.
  - Establishment of **performance measures and guidelines**.
  - Building and sustaining of long-term competencies.
NARR Purpose

- To serve as the collective “voice of health” in radiological preparedness through the:
  - Participation in national dialogues on radiological emergency issues.
  - Provision of thoughtful feedback on documents, policies, and guidelines.
  - Convening of partners to raise awareness of and resolve radiological emergency issues.
Charter Membership of Exploratory Committee

- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
For the 2010-2012 period, a steering committee oversaw the establishment of the NARR and the development of products and services.

**The NARR Steering Committee:**
- Charter member organizations
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)

**The Steering Committee is governed by three chairpersons:**
- John Erickson, Washington State Department of Health (ASTHO)
- Adela Salame-Alfie, Ph.D., New York State Department of Health (CRCPD)
- William Stephens, Tarrant County Public Health, Texas (NACCHO)
Official Launch – March 25, 2011
Current NARR Administration

Administered by ASTHO.

Funding from:

• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health, Radiation Studies Branch.
NARR Current Membership

- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Health Physics Society (HPS)
- International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
- National Disaster Life Support Foundation (NDSL)
- National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)

Each member organization nominates two representatives, one of which must be a practitioner. The second representative may be an additional practitioner or an organization staff person.
Federal agencies participate as ex-officio members. Current representation includes:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response/US Department of Health and Human Services (ASPR/HHS)
- US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- US Department of Energy (DOE)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
To address the problems of *limited visibility* for radiation preparedness, confusion about *roles and responsibilities* in a radiological incident among partners, and the need for *robust tools for practitioners* in the field, NARR builds radiological emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity and capabilities by:

- Sharing resources and tools, including technical methods and information;
- Identifying and disseminating best practices;
- Educating government agencies and officials about their roles in radiological emergencies;
- Establishing performance measures and guidelines;
- Building and sustaining long-term competencies.
Examples of Past Activities

• **CSTE follow-up assessment to 2004 report**, “A National Assessment of the Status of Planning for Public Health Preparedness for Chemical and Radiological Contaminating Terrorism.”

• **Reviewed & commented on:**
  – Project Public Health Ready criteria.
  – Capabilities for the CDC 2011-2016 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement.
  – FEMA’s “Nuclear Detonation Preparedness: Communicating in the Immediate Aftermath.”
Examples of Recent Activities

• Development of:
  – Population monitoring tool kit.
  – Disaster epidemiology tracking tools.
  – Model radiological preparedness plan.
  – Online clearinghouse to disseminate and evaluate tools (ongoing) – a.k.a. “The NARR Website”
  – And much more...
NARR Involvement During Response to Fukushima

- Developed Passenger Screening Protocol to address potentially contaminated passengers (multi-agency activity, involved “new” players)
- Participated in daily conference calls sponsored by CDC/ASPR/ASTHO
- Submitted comments to HHS for submission to the White House: what worked, what didn’t work and what can we do to fix it
- Will hold an After Action conference in November, 2011 to prepare an After Action Report
• Website
• Clearinghouse
• Document Review
• Development of Protocols
• And much more…
OUR VISION

To become a more protected nation through an integrated approach to radiological emergencies.

FEATURED TOOL

Rad Resilient City Preparedness Checklist
The Rad Resilient City Preparedness Checklist is a local planning tool that converts the latest federal guidance and technical reports into seven clear, actionable steps for communities to take to protect their residents from radioactive fallout. The checklist was prepared by the Center for Bioscience of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center with guidance from the Nuclear Resilience Expert Advisory Group (NREAG).

RESEARCH

Labs need new investment to be rad ready
In 2007, federal experts estimated it would take more than 4 years to screen 100,000 individuals for radiation exposure and 6 years to test environmental samples from a large-scale radiological emergency, relying on existing laboratory assets. Although some progress has been made since 2007, public health laboratories radiological test capabilities and capacities remain insufficient to respond to a major event.

Tools

Submit A Tool »

SORT BY: NEWEST TO OLDEST OLDEST TO NEWEST ALPHABETICALLY HIGHEST RATED

☐ Community Reception Center Screening Form (58.02 KB)
Submitted by: sellott
Date Submitted: 08 September 2011
Source: Florida Department of Health
Rating: ★★★★★

About this Tool
This form was used by the Florida Department of Health during a radiation exercise of the Community Reception Center concept and flow. This form was modified specifically toward use of a new screening tool, the Gamma Emitter Contamination Assessment Tool (GECAT), and may need to be modified to reflect screening tools used in other jurisdictions and to reflect...

Tags: Content Type, Data management, Epidemiology/Surveillance professionals, Exercise, General population, Government, Jurisdiction, Local, Planners and Responders, Population, Public Health, Special populations, Stake, Surveillancen/Results, Tribal

☐ Form for Follow-Up of Travelers Identified at US Points of Entry with Radioactive Material on their Bodies Associated with the Incident at Fukushima Daiichi, Japan: Purpose and Sample Consent Language
Submitted by: sellott
Date Submitted: 08 September 2011
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Rating: ★★★★★

About this Tool
This document is a set of instructions and forms that may be customized for use in any radiological event. The forms collect information that would describe the characteristics of the affected population, including vulnerable and special populations, for improved understanding about the situation; identify risk factors associated with particular environments or activities for more effective public health messaging; provide...

Tags: CDC, Content Type, Data management, Emergency Preparedness/Security
Started with the Roundtable – June 2008

Continued with the Workshop – April 2009

“Official Launch” - March 2011

Kick-off Steering Committee – May 2009
The Roundtable, Workshop and Action Plan were documented in a Report published by CRCPD and CDC

Available at www.crcpd.org
“It’s not what you know... it’s who you know.”