



EP on the Move



Spring 2001

U.S. Department of Energy, Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program

Four TEPP Regions Host Seminar and Training

Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Regions 4, 6, 7, and 8 hosted a successful joint regional seminar which ended with two training sessions. Deborah Monette, DOE Assistant Manager for National Security-Nevada Operations Office, welcomed the 59 stakeholders, DOE representatives, and contractor personnel to the Las Vegas area. DOE representatives for TEPP, the Radiological Assistance Program (RAP), the National Transportation Program (NTP), and others delivered overview presentations that provided a baseline for the audience, on TEPP activities and related program interfaces. This set the stage for consideration of planning, implementation, and path-forward activities during the regional breakout sessions.

Ron Ross, Western Governors' Association (WGA), provided insight into the western states' regional planning process. Mr. Ross acknowledged that in order to clean up western DOE sites waste must be moved to treatment and disposal facilities, most of which are located in the West. The regional planning process accomplishes three objectives; allows states to resolve interstate issues between themselves, to address perception and political risks as well as the physical and operating issues, and to adopt uniform planning and preparedness procedures in support of DOE shipments. WGA's technical advisory group has been conducting cooperative planning and preparing emergency responders in partnership with DOE for 15 years. WGA believes the adoption of high performance standards and strong preparedness activities has resulted in the shipment of nuclear waste with little or no incidents and with public confidence. The WGA supports the safe and uneventful transport of radiological materials through the West and wants to assure the public the shipments are necessary and are being conducted at the highest level of safety.

Informative presentations from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) completed activities for the first day. NNSA reviewed safeguards and security responsibilities for ground transportation of nuclear weapons and components. This was followed by an overview of the DOT HAZMAT Safety Outreach Program. This program is designed to enhance regulatory compliance, enforcement uniformity, and emergency preparedness through development and dissemination of training, technical assistance, and information initiatives that address hazardous materials transportation safety concerns of management, technical, and operations personnel. DOT has initiated work with communities, schools, agencies, and stakeholders to provide resource materials.

The second day began with an outline of the roles and responsibilities of the shipper, carrier, and state or tribal response



Pat Romero, DOT Research and Special Programs Administration, makes presentation at Joint Regional Seminar.

agencies in terms of transporting radiological material. Rick Bassi, Emergency Management Director, City of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, followed with a discussion of liability issues in emergency management. Mr. Bassi explained how the theory of 'deep pockets' contributed to lawsuits filed against organizations, agencies, governments, and individuals. Mr. Bassi discussed the process of showing liability: (1) Prove a duty was established, (2) Prove a breach of the established duty occurred, and (3) Prove failure to perform the duty caused measurable harm. He explained that liability arises from issues related to planning (or failure to plan), training, providing notice, performing a duty to warn, and conducting negligent operations.

Rick Fawcett, NTP Integration and Planning Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), wrapped up the presentations with a discussion of 'Integrated Community Safety.' Mr. Fawcett defined community broadly as industry and its neighbors including facilities; government/regulators; stockholders; customers; suppliers; towns, cities, counties, and states; the environment; families; people/commodity flow systems; and news media/special interest groups. Since many of these community members may be unaware of their part in the community's safety, the three major activities of the integrated community safety approach are to define the community, facilitate the sense of community, and address the needs of the community. An integrated community safety approach better assures the viability and safety of industry and its neighbors while maintaining, or improving, the overall quality of life.

The general seminar culminated with regional breakout sessions. Each TEPP Coordinator met with representatives from his/her region to discuss planning, implementation, and path-forward activities. Reports from these breakout sessions were recorded by Region 6 for use in future planning and implementation activities. After the seminar, two training sessions – the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) First Responder (modules 1-6) and the MERRTT Train-the-Trainer were conducted. ♦

Topic Group Meets During TEC

The Transportation External Coordination (TEC) Working Group held its winter meeting in February 2001 in Portland, Oregon. The Training and Medical Issues Topic Group, which is a part of TEC, met during this time. In summary, the topic group reviewed the FEMA pre-hospital training video, received copies of the Compendium of Federal Radiological Training, discussed the benefits and problems associated with merging the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) training with MERRTT, reviewed the proposed MERRTT certificates and the draft model decontamination procedure. The group examined several approaches to obtaining continuing education units for MERRTT and decided more input is needed from each represented organization before reaching a decision. The complete meeting overview for TEC, as well as, notes from the Training and Medical Issues Topic Group meeting can be viewed at <http://twilight.saic.com/newtec/>. ♦



*Tom Hughes,
Pennsylvania
Emergency
Management Agency,
addresses topic
group.*

MERRTT Featured at FEMA Region IV Meeting

Region 3 is coordinating with FEMA to conduct two MERRTT training sessions at the FEMA Region IV Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program meeting in Biloxi, Mississippi. The first session will cover basic radiological concepts and initial emergency response actions, and provide an overview of the tabletop exercise. The second session will address advanced radiological concepts and specific responder functions (e.g., incident commander, public information officer) then describe briefly the available practical materials (go-kits, etc.). Time will be allotted for following up on the tabletop exercise discussion from the first session, as needed. ♦

EMI SIG Showcases Transportation Emergency Preparedness

The annual Training Resources and Data Exchange (TRADE) Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group Meeting (EMI SIG) will be held in Denver, Colorado on April 30-May 3, 2001. Transportation emergency preparedness topics will be discussed in two of the sessions and culminate in a tabletop drill. TEPP Regional Coordinators will present the benefits of TEPP and outline useful lessons learned. The Subcommittee on Transportation Emergency Preparedness (STEP), as part of the EMI-SIG, will meet to review progress made by the working groups. STEP assists the DOE in identifying problems/issues affecting both emergency preparedness and transportation program activities and developing solutions to them. For more information about STEP, visit www.ora.gov/emi/step/ or contact Ella McNeil. ♦

MERRTT TRAIN-THE-TRAINER SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Point of Contact
April 26-29, 2001 (2 Sessions)	Tuscaloosa, AL	Region 3, Christina Edwards
May 22-23, 2001	Phoenix, AZ	Region 4, Anna Bachicha
Aug. 20, 2001	New Mexico	Region 4, Anna Bachicha
May 14-18, 2001	Bluemont, VA	www.fema.gov/ emi/rc/elist2001.htm #mweac



TEPP Region 2

At the request of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), TEPP Region 2 conducted a meeting in January in Chattanooga, Tennessee, to discuss the possibility of conducting a radioactive material transportation emergency exercise. Agencies attending the meeting were as follows: Hamilton County Emergency Services, Chattanooga Emergency Management Agency, Hamilton County Fire Department, Chattanooga Fire Department, TEMA, Chattanooga Police Department, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Georgia Department of Transportation, Tennessee Valley Authority, DOE Radiological Assistance Program Region 2, TEPP Region 3, Georgia Emergency Management Agency, Federal

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Regional Activities *continued from previous page*

Emergency Management Agency Region 4, and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education's Emergency Management Laboratory.

The group decided to conduct the exercise in October 2001. Exercise design will begin during Region 2's conduct of the Exercise Design Course March 27-28, 2001, at Hamilton County Emergency Service's Emergency Operations Center in Chattanooga.

TEPP Region 3

Region 3 continues to interact frequently with state and local officials. Monthly meetings with the South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division and county officials from Aiken and Barnwell County have been held since July 2000 to prepare for a dual-county exercise with the DOE Savannah River Site. The exercise, referred to as the ABTEPP, will involve the transport of radioactive material (spent nuclear fuel) and the operation of local buses. An overall planning schedule as well as minutes from the planning meetings can be accessed at [//www.hazmatteam.com](http://www.hazmatteam.com) under "Activities."

On February 1-4, 2001, TEPP and RAP representatives attended and staffed a booth at the Fire Rescue East Conference and Exposition sponsored by the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association held in Jacksonville, Florida. Booth presentations included RAP team information, the TEPP planning tools, and MERRTT program information. Approximately 7,000 emergency service responders attended the conference.

During February 2001, Region 3 supported various state and county agencies in conducting MERRTT sessions. A total of eight MERRTT sessions trained 162 responders in North and South Carolina. Of the eight MERRTT sessions conducted, four sessions presented the radiation basics modules (1-6), one session covered the more advanced modules (1-10), and three sessions presented all 16 modules. In addition to the MERRTT sessions, Region 3 coordinated training in Incident Command System, Mass Casualty, and Bus Extrication in support of the ABTEPP exercise effort. A total of 53 responders participated in these training sessions.

TEPP Region 4

Region 4 led a breakout session during the joint TEPP western regions meeting. The session covered the states' need for risk communication training, the MERRTT training along Interstate 70 in Kansas, and the need for an additional public education program about radiation. The extensive risk communication bibliography and the DOE National Transportation Program educational materials available on the Transportation Resource Exchange website: www.trex-center.org were highlighted.

The TEPP Needs Assessment was discussed as being the first step in determining emergency response program strengths and weaknesses. By using this document, agencies will determine the need for other TEPP tools or training. Region 4 is ready to provide technical assistance to state and tribal emergency response organizations in using the TEPP tools. Region 4 plans to discuss training needs with Kansas state officials.

TEPP Region 5

TEPP Region 5 and RAP Region 5 participated as exhibitors at the 2001 Fire Department Instructor Conference (FDIC) March 2-4, 2001, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The FDIC is the largest and most comprehensive fire service training/education conference and trade show in North America. FDIC provides hands on training, general sessions, classroom sessions and exhibits to over 28,000 people every year.

There were several benefits of exhibiting at the FDIC. Information on the TEPP and RAP programs was discussed with numerous state and local jurisdictions. This interface proved extremely effective as many of the attendees were unaware that DOE provides both training and radiological assistance. Program literature was distributed to interested attendees (pinwheels, Q&A books, winter edition of EP on the Move, TEPP fact sheet, etc.). In addition, the MERRTT CD-ROM was demonstrated to highlight available TEPP training.

TEPP Region 5 launched a LISTSERV® for the more than 100 emergency management points of contact within the ten state region.

A LISTSERV® is a mailing list management system that allows Region 5 to manage its electronic mailing list of regional points of contact. A "closed list" design controls the membership integrity and communication



Noelle Kostecki, Region 5 TEPP Coordinator, talks to fireman as Ron Edmond, ORISE, observes.

activities. Information on TEPP tools and products, TEPP Newsletters, conferences, training, and updates are sent periodically to the members of the LISTSERV®. Each member subscribed to the Region 5 mailing list receives a copy of every message sent to the list. The LISTSERV® also allows emergency management professionals to send electronic messages directly to peers on the distribution list and to retrieve and reply to messages archived within the system.

TEPP Region 6

On January 26, 2001, Region 6 presented a MERRTT train-the-trainer to Fort Hall Fire Department personnel of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Region 6 has coordinated with the State of Idaho and the Shoshone-Bannock tribes to develop a grant application for an EMPACT (EPA sponsored) grant. The grant would support translation of radiological monitoring information into cultural based language.

Region 6 continues to integrate the DOE transportation baseline schedules, baseline report and disposition maps into TEPP planning and implementation activities. Disposition maps were provided to INEEL Offsite Program (consisting of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation and the five counties surrounding the INEEL) and Idaho State Police in various stakeholder meetings.

The revised interactive television video, 'Navigating the MERRTT CD ROM', is being produced, and will be available in March 2001. Copies will be sent to all TEPP Coordinators for use and distribution within their regions.

TEPP Region 8

Region 8 will participate as a vendor in the annual Pacific Northwest Regional Hazardous Materials Workshop sponsored by the Washington State Association of Fire Chiefs (WSAFC). The WSAFC mission is to be a source of information, services, and education to its members and to take the lead role in influencing issues affecting the fire service. The workshop will be held in Wentachee, Washington, from May 23-25, 2001. ♦



Upcoming Events

April 22-26, 2001 • Bloomington, MN
Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development Spring Conference

Contact: Robert Wright at (202)366-4448 or Robert.Wright@rspa.dot.gov.

April 23-24, 2001 • Bloomington, MN
National Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant Program Assistance Workshop

Contact: Jan Axson at (202)366-4339 or jan.axson@rspa.dot.gov.

April 29-May 3, 2001 • Las Vegas, NV
9th International High Level Radioactive Waste Conference

View <http://www.ans.org/meetings/ihlrwm/> or email meetings@ans.org.

April 29-May 2, 2001 • Anchorage, AK
Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, 33rd National Conference on Radiation Control

Contact Sue Smith ssmith@rcrpd.org or 502-227-4543.

April 30-May 3, 2001 • Denver, CO
DOE Emergency Management Issues Special Interest Group

Contact: Dorothy Manning (865) 576-2007 or manningd@orau.gov.

April 30-May 6, 2001 • Sacramento, CA
Fire Departments Instructor Conference West 2001

Contact genep@pennwell.com or call 1-888-835-3342.

June 5-6, 2001 • Idaho Falls, ID
Midwestern High Level Radioactive Waste Committee

Contact Lisa Sattler at 920-803-9976 or lsattler@csg.org.

June 23-27, 2001 • Fort Lauderdale, FL
National Sheriffs' Association Conference
 View http://www.sheriffs.org/annual_conf.htm or email rossmir@sheriffs.org.

June 2001 • Biloxi, MS
Contractor's Transportation Management Association Meeting

Contact: Jim Portsmouth at (509) 376-7164

July 17-18, 2001 • Location TBD
Transportation External Coordination Working Group Meeting

Call Sue Martindale (301) 353-8319.

July 17-18, 2001 • Detroit, MI
DOT Multimodal Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Seminar

View <http://hazmat.dot.gov/training.htm>.

July 24-29 2001 • Baltimore, MD
Firehouse Emergency Services Expo
 Call 800-827-8009.

September 3-7, 2001 • Chicago, IL
13th International Symposium on Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material

Contact rairth@inmm.org or visit www.patram.org.

November 8-11, 2001 • Reno, NV
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
 Call 1-800- 346-2368.

November 2001 • Biloxi, MS
FEMA Region IV REP Meeting

U.S. Department of Energy Regional Coordinating Offices



TEPP Coordinators

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