



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection December 2015

Message from Chairperson William Irwin, Sc.D., CHP



Jared Thompson, Ruth McBurney and I just returned from Washington, DC, where we visited our federal partners. In four very full days we met with folks from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Department of Energy (DOE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We also met with a few of our support organizations for radiation protection: the American College of Radiology (ACR), American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI).

We had great conversations throughout the week.

- **With the NRC**, we expressed our deep appreciation for the NRC sponsored training for Agreement States, state interests in reactor decommissioning, revising funding requirements for sealed source financial assurance, and how we can reinforce the security requirements of 10 CFR Part 37.
- Early in the week, we discussed how source owners will need to share more of the cost of disposal in the future with the **DOE's global threat reduction staff**. Later in the week, we discussed next year's Northern Lights exercise as an example of how work

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Message from Chairperson *(continued)*

Conversations with Organizations

NRC
DOE
EPA
FEMA
ACR
ASTRO
ISRI
FDA

with the states and within their organization the focus will be on scientific skills enhancement when **we met with the DOE consequence management staff.**

- **When we met with the EPA,** it was great to talk about the success of our partnership on radon exposure, as well as future work on inventorying radiochemistry laboratory capabilities, and strengthening the link between state radiation control programs and those labs.
- **With the folks from FEMA,** we expressed our appreciation for their support of the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) and RadResponder projects, and how we hope both can be reinforced in more exercises like the richly rewarding Southern Exposure last summer.
- **At ACR, ASTRO and ISRI,** we discussed x-ray training needs, support of medical incident reporting, and support of an amendment of US Department of Transportation regulations on return shipments of individual pieces of contaminated scrap metal, respectively.

I want to focus a bit more on two issues we discussed in **our meeting with several scientists from the FDA:**

- the future development of diagnostic and therapeutic radiology inspection procedures and training; and
- heightened concerns about easy access to dangerous lasers.

Both issues will benefit from additional collaboration between the states and the folks from the Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

Many of you may know that the **FDA is adopting International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards for performance and safety testing of radiology devices.** This is a significant development, so the FDA has committed to drafting inspection procedures and implementing training on those procedures that both for FDA and state inspectors to use. **This is very important because good x-ray training is very valuable.** Our Board, and especially, the Healing Arts Council, will be following this process closely to ensure we can do all that is needed to succeed.

Message from Chairperson *(continued)*

FDA Concerns

dangerous
illuminations with
lasers

lasers obtained by
children

laser light show
over-exposures

With regard to lasers, **we learned from the folks at the FDA that the worries of the past – people misusing lasers may be worse than ever.**

- First, they told us that **thousands of dangerous illuminations, many with Class 3b and Class 4 lasers, occur annually.** Too many of these are illuminations of aircraft cockpits.
- **They are also worried about the ease with which dangerous lasers can be obtained, too often by children.** Sadly, numerous children have been blinded by these lasers.
- **Another concern the FDA folks shared with us was about laser light shows.** There are some where the audience may be over-exposed, and the FDA would like to work with states to inspect the shows.



Sherrie Flaherty, Organization of
Agreement States Chairperson

Bill Irwin, CRCPD
Chairperson

Jared Thompson, CRCPD
Chairperson-Elect



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

Accomplishments

“A lot has happened, just in the past couple of months, due to the extra year-end push of our hard-working volunteers on the Board and working groups, our staff, and other organizational and federal agency partners.”

Ruth E. McBurney

As we are busy wrapping up holiday presents at the end of December, we are also wrapping up a busy year at CRCPD. A lot has happened, just in the past couple of months, **due to the extra year-end push of our hard-working volunteers on the Board and working groups, our staff, and other organizational and federal agency partners.**

Here are just a few of the latest accomplishments:

- The Board met in Little Rock, Arkansas, on November 3-4, 2015, **to review the working group structure and activities and to approve the CRCPD 2016 budget** and other matters.
- Planning has begun for the upcoming **48th National Conference on Radiation Control**, which will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, May 16-19, 2016. Both mammography and computed tomography (CT) training are being planned in conjunction with the meeting, so it's a great opportunity for networking, getting updates from other states and federal agencies, and training.
- **The Tabulation and Graphical Summary of the 2005-2006 Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends (NEXT) Survey of Computed Tomography was published in November 2015** and has been posted to the CRCPD website.
- In December, Bill Irwin, Chairperson; Jared Thompson, Chair-Elect; and I visited several of CRCPD's federal partners as well as some of the organizations with whom we have a great working relationship. While we were there, **Bill presented the CRCPD Public Servant Award to Captain Sean Boyd of US Food and Drug Administration** for his dedication and work with the Board and several healing arts committees over the years. **We also were able present a Retirement Resolution to Pam Wilcox**, a long-time supporter from the American College of Radiology (ACR), right before her retirement from ACR.



Bill Irwin, Pam Wilcox,
Ruth McBurney

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Executive Director

Greetings *(continued)*

Upcoming Activities

Upcoming activities planned for CRCPD in the next few months of 2016, include:

Website Update
Online Tools
Work with NCRP
Collaborations

The end of December is only a time to put a bow on the current year, but also to look forward to the coming new year. **There are several upcoming activities that we are planning for CRCPD in the next few months of 2016.** These include:

- **A new look to the website**—we are working toward updating the look and feel of the site.
- **New online tools** for members and working groups to communicate and share resources.
- **Working with the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) on issues related to technologically enhanced naturally-occurring radioactive material (TENORM).** A new NCRP committee is being formed that will work to provide a scientific basis for future suggested regulations for TENORM. To start off the new year, NCRP is sponsoring a TENORM workshop in conjunction with the Midyear Health Physics Society Meeting February 1-3, 2016. More about this can be found in this issue of the *Newsbrief*.
- **Greater collaboration with other organizations**—we have found in our discussions with the organizations with whom we have liaisons that we can accomplish quite a bit more if we work together on common issues, whether they be TENORM, as mentioned above, which NEXT surveys should take priority, radioactivity in scrap, medical events, and many others.

2016 should be an exciting year—

I wish you health and happiness as we enter it!



Image Gently Alliance Meeting

RSNA, November 30, 2015

by Mary Ann Spohrer

Image Gently Alliance

Once again the **Image Gently Alliance** held an annual meeting at the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). This year's meeting was led by Donald Frush, MD, who has taken over as the Alliance Chair since the retirement of longtime Chair Marilyn Goske, MD.

This year's meeting provided a quick update on the year's activities and explained what efforts would be carried out in 2016. Dr. Frush quoted a recent statistic appearing in an August *Radiology Journal* article that said **1 in 300 children who**

get CT scan of the abdomen, chest or spine will eventually develop a tumor as a result of the radiation. This statement continues to show the unbalanced media content that still exists and further indicates that the Alliance is still needed so that the correct explanation/information can get out to the public – both laymen as well as the medical community. **In this regard the Alliance functions as an “assurance” organization.**

As many know, Image Gently has rolled out a number of big campaigns over recent years that provide extensive knowledge for both healthcare professionals, patients and the general public. **The most recent campaign has focused on Dental which was rolled out in 2014 and had the 3rd highest number of hits of all of the campaign launches.** Information on all the previous campaigns can be found on the Imagen Gently website (www.imagegently.org). During the next couple of years the Alliance will be focusing more on “mini-campaigns.” The idea behind this is that there is a lot of information already on the website regarding a number of topics and in some cases has been there for a while. The concept of a “mini-campaign” will focus on a particular topic of interest and provide an informational update and address any needed changes. The larger focused areas include:

- Computed Tomography;
- Interventional Fluoroscopy;
- General Fluoroscopy;
- General Radiology;
- Nuclear Medicine; and
- Dentistry.

Image Gently Alliance Meeting

RSNA, November 30, 2015 - *continued*

Image Gently Alliance

New areas that will be addressed include Cardiology and Head Trauma as they apply to the pediatric community. **The Alliance has asked that if anyone has any ideas or suggestions for future mini-campaigns that they send an email with their thoughts.**

The final area that was discussed included some ideas for the future direction of the Alliance. **It was noted that 40 of the 100 organizations involved with Image Gently are international.** International programs include:

- Euro Safe;
- Afro Safe;
- Japan Safe;
- Latin Safe;
- Canada Safe; and, of course,
- US programs of Image Gently and Image Wisely.

There was some discussion about combining both Image Gently and Image Wisely into one group and possibly calling it “Ameri Safe.” At this point these were just ideas that were presented and more work to gain support is needed. Many feel that Image Gently has been so successful and losing that “logo” would be detrimental to the efforts that have been made.

I would again like to thank CRCPD for the opportunity to attend this meeting and interact with the various professionals involved with this cause.



**PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD
CRCPD 2015**



presented to

**Captain Sean M. Boyd, M.P.H.
U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

For his significant contributions to radiation protection, particularly for his leadership in the field of the safe use of machine-based radiation. His support of the mission and goals of the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors by serving as FDA's liaison to the Board of Directors and several CRCPD working groups demonstrates his exemplary commitment to assuring high standards of quality in radiation protection throughout the United States.

signed

William E. Irwin, Sc.D., CHP

Chairperson

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

December 2015

National Radon Plan

a strategy for preventing 3,200 lung cancer deaths annually by 2020 through radon exposure reduction strategies

EPA and Partners Announce National Radon Plan

Source: EPA Press Release with Contributions from Pat Daniels, Chair

CRCPD E-25 Committee on Radon

In November 2015, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), American Lung Association, and other partners announced **a strategy for preventing 3,200 lung cancer deaths annually by 2020 through radon exposure reduction strategies**. Exposure to radon causes an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths annually. According to the Center for Disease Control, radon is the leading cause of death in homes in the US.

The goal to save lives will be achieved by reducing high radon levels in five million homes, apartments, schools and childcare centers. The partnership includes three federal departments and agencies, and nine national organizations. **Many state radon programs, independently and through the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program funded by EPA, provide outreach, education, public information, and technical assistance in some cases in support of the goals expressed in the plan.** See “Latest Blog Posts” on <http://www.radonleaders.org> for stories about how state programs are addressing radon issues in their jurisdictions. CRCPD E-25 Committee on Radon, Chair Patrick Daniel of Illinois Emergency Management Agency, commented on the plan, saying:

“The success of the Federal Radon Action Plan led to the partners working together with industry and non-for-profit organizations to look at where we can connect with new partners continue our efforts to reduce unnecessary exposures. We recognize the critical importance of supporting strong and effective state and tribal radon programs that can engage with and support other partners to implement this Plan.”

The ***National Radon Action Plan: A Strategy for Saving Lives*** sets out strategies to drive the changes needed to reduce exposure to radon. Strategies include requiring radon testing and reduction systems as a standard practice in housing finance and insurance programs, and institutionalizing radon risk reduction through building code requirements.

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National Radon Plan

The collaborative strategy aligns federal efforts with those of other national organizations.

EPA and Partners Announce National Radon Plan - *continued*

The collaborative strategy aligns federal efforts with those of other national organizations dedicated to lowering radon exposure, including:

- American Lung Association (ALA);
- American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST);
- American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI);
- Cancer Survivors Against Radon (CanSAR);
- Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN);
- Citizens for Radioactive Radon Reduction;
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD);
- Environmental Law Institute (ELI); and
- National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH).

In addition to EPA, the federal partners are the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The 2015 National Radon Action Plan can be found through a link on the CRCPD website at <http://www.crcpd.org>.



TENORM Workshop Opportunity at HPS Midyear Meeting

TENORM Workshop HPS & NCRP

The Health Physics Society Midyear Meeting in Austin, Texas, January 31 through February 3, 2016, will include a **one-day workshop on Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM), sponsored by the National Council on Radiation Protection (NCRP).**

This will be a workshop focused on TENORM in the Oil & Gas Sector, and will be conducted February 1 – 2, 2016.

The tentative agenda features a variety of topics, including:

- hydraulic fracturing;
- TENORM issues in the petroleum industry;
- overview of state activities;
- litigation issues;
- impacts in Pennsylvania and Colorado;
- waste issues; and
- other radiation issues.

CRCPD E-42 Task Force to Review the TENORM Aspects of the Oil and Gas Industry recommended referral of certain scientific and technical issues to NCRP. Based on the recommendation, **NCRP has established Committee 5-2 to work on these issues in ways that will assist CRCPD in providing sound scientifically based suggested regulations and guidance on TENORM to the states.** As a part of this effort, NCRP will be holding the workshop in Austin to gather information from the states, consultants, and industry representatives for development of further guidance. A second phase will involve developing a comprehensive report on the topic.

For more information, on the conference, see http://hps.org/documents/Health_Physics_Society_49th_Midyear_Meeting_Announcement.pdf.

For information on the meeting, see <http://hps.org/meetings/meeting44.html>.

For those of you involved in TENORM, this will be another good opportunity to network and learn more on this topic.



HS/ER-5 Committee on Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

By Ken Evans, HS/ER-5 Committee Chair

Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

Board Report

On November 17, I attended a meeting of the Advisory Team in Chicago, Illinois. The two-day meeting agenda included updates from all participating federal agencies and the re-development of working groups within the Advisory Team. Because of schedule conflicts, I was unable to attend the second day of the meeting. The following pages give highlights of the meeting discussion. Acronyms used in this report follow.

Acronyms

CDC - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

DOE - Department of Energy

FDA - Food and Drug Administration

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

EPZ - Emergency Planning Zone

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

FRMAC - Federal Radiological Monitoring and
Assessment Center

HSEEP - Homeland Security Exercise and
Evaluation Program

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

PAG - Protective Action Guidelines

REP - Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Program

SEOC - State Emergency Operations Center

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HS/ER-5 Committee on Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

By Ken Evans, HS/ER-5 Committee Chair

Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

Highlights

- With all of the Hostile Action Based Exercises completed in 2015, there will be six Ingestion Pathway Exercises each in 2016 and 2017.
- The Advisory Team has been using this time off from Nuclear Plant Exercises to work on the training and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for Team members. This has worked out well, since looking ahead to 2016 there will not be much time with the schedule of exercises. In fact, this was why the Advisory meeting for 2016 was scheduled early and held in November of this year.
- There was an interesting discussion of what the outside partners expect from the Advisory Team. I explained that my participation in this was critical as CRCPD represents the states, which are the principal partners and customers for the Advisory Team. I used the opportunity to point out that unfortunately a number of states are still not aware of just what assistance the Advisory Team is able to provide. This was one of my key observations at Southern Exposure. I was asked to elaborate on what is expected from the "A" Team. A number of ideas for increasing the visibility of the "A" Team were presented. One idea I suggested was to produce brochures such as those FRMAC uses. I also stated that having procedures for the "A" Team would be good. Karen Smallwood of FDA did state that the "A" Team is working on distributing brochures and procedures. Another idea for outreach was to get on the agenda of the FEMA Regional Scheduling conferences.
- There was also a related discussion of branding the "A" Team with the hope that this will help distinguish and identify the products and services the "A" Team brings to bear.

HS/ER-5 Committee on Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

By Ken Evans, HS/ER-5 Committee Chair

Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

Highlights *- continued*

- Updates were provided on recent exercises at Vibrant Response and Southern Exposure. Sara DeCair provided the single point of contact at Vibrant Response for the "A" Team. This worked very well. Unfortunately at Southern Exposure the "A" Team was split between the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) facility where FRMAC was located and the SEOC. In addition, despite the extensive outreach conducted prior to Southern Exposure, there were many problems getting the right individuals involved and there were also conflicts among participants. One specific problem noted by Karen Smallwood was that the key management personnel did not attend the outreach and as a result were not aware of what the "A" Team could provide.
- Sara DeCair provided an update on the new EPA PAG Manual. It is still estimated that this will be completed by the end of the year and that after its final publication, implementation will take another year to be completed. They have decided on water PAG but still have to get administration approval. It will be 500 millirem except for pregnant women and those under 15. For this population group it will be 100 millirem.
- John Dixon of the CDC stated that the CDC is working on HSEEP compliant table top exercises. CDC is also working with morticians on how to document deaths caused by radiation.
- Ken Evans provided the Advisory Team with a summary of the work that has been completed by the HS/ER-5 Committee. The focus was on reviewing and providing comments on the draft of Revision 2 to NUREG-0654 and the Radiological Survey of the States.

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HS/ER-5 Committee on Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

By Ken Evans, HS/ER-5 Committee Chair

Emergency Response Planning Advisory Team Meeting

Highlights *- continued*

- Mike Howe of FEMA provided an update of FEMA training. There are new courses planned, such as REP Decision Makers, REP Emergency Managers and REP Basic Radiation. He also mentioned that 44 CFR 350 and the FEMA-NRC MOU are being updated. The only significant change noted was that it may include EPZ size for small modular reactors.
- Gordon Cleveland is chairing a committee to help develop techniques for animal decontamination.
- During the FRMAC presentation it was mentioned that FRMAC will be doing monthly Consequence Management drills. I asked the question as to whether the states might be able to participate in these drills. Alan Remick of DOE checked and said that he thought that would be a good idea. In addition FRMAC thought it might be a good idea for some of the CRCPD staff to travel to Las Vegas to evaluate some of these drills.





December

CRCPD Welcomes New Members

Director Member

Kim Steves (KS)

Associate Members

Derek Bailey (CA)

Gabriel Chavez (CA)

Danielle Conley (PA)

Charles Cox (MD)

Alexander Damiani (NY)

Yoshika Eason (GA)

Show-Hwa Fong (GA)

Shawn Garza (TX)

Amanda Gregorio (CA)

Joann Harthcock (TX)

Rick Hughes (PA)

Monica Johnson (GA)

Krista Kuhlman (WI)

Carl Livermore (PA)

Luther Loehrke (WI)

Dania Navarro (NY)

Kimloan Nguyen (NY)

Maria Oestreich (KS)

Joseph Ross (WI)

Tracy Swinger (PA)

Dave Stradinger (ND)

James Uhlemeyer(KS)

Affiliate Members

Laura Pring (CT)

Diana Thompson (WA)



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Homeland Security/Emergency Response Council	P. Mulligan (NJ) 609/984-7700 Patrick.mulligan@dep.nj.gov
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The Newsbrief is written to address the needs of all radiation control program personnel. Readers are encouraged to contribute newsworthy or informative items for the Newsbrief, with neither charges nor stipends for the items that are selected. News of state radiation control programs is especially sought.

Articles should be sent to CRCPD, Attn: Sue Smith, 1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-7862; email: <ssmith@crcpd.org>). The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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