

# WMD Training Materials for Health Physicists and Responders

50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society  
July 14, 2005

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

Visit <http://hps.org/hsc/>

## Health Physics Society

Specialists in Radiation Safety • Founded 1956 • <http://hps.org/>

### 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

3

## 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***

4

# 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



5

## 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.

6

## 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.

7

## Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program



*"A partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Energy serving the emergency responder community."*

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

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

8

**Got  
Training  
?**

The screenshot shows a Netscape browser window displaying the FEMA Compendium of Federal Terrorism Training website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.fema.gov/compendium/index.jsp>. The page features the Department of Homeland Security logo and a navigation menu with categories: DHS Organization, Emergencies & Disasters, Travel & Transportation, Immigration & Borders, Research & Technology, Threats & Protection, Working with DHS, and Press Room. The main content area is titled "Compendium of Federal Terrorism Training" and includes a "Table of Contents" sidebar with links for "Search For Courses", "Printable Version", and "Acronym List". The main text area contains the following information:

- Compendium of Federal Terrorism Training For State and Local Audiences
- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute manages this site.
- Course Table of Contents:
  - [Alphabetical Course List](#)
  - [Federal Department/Agency Course Offerings](#)
  - [Courses Listed By Function/Area](#)
- [Search For Courses](#)
- [Printable Version of the Compendium](#)
- [Acronym List](#)
- For questions and comments or to report erroneous course information, please contact [cftt@dhs.gov](mailto:cftt@dhs.gov).

The footer contains links for Home, FAQs, Contact Us, Privacy Policy, FOIA, Linking to DHS.gov, Terms of Use, FirstGov, Accessibility, and Site Map, along with the text "DHS Agencies". The browser status bar at the bottom indicates "Document: Done (20.937 secs)".

**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](http://www.hps.org/hsc)
- Join the HPS HSC Training Subcommittee

**{blatant plug}**