

Minutes

Nevada State Emergency Response Commission (SERC)

Radiological Committee Meeting

Thursday, June 30 2022 at 9:00am

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jon Bakkedahl called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

2. ROLL CALL, CONFIRM QUORUM, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roll was taken of the members and a quorum was present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bakkedahl called for public comment. There was none.

4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 29, 2021, MINUTES

Richard Brenner made a motion to approve the June 29, 2021 Radiological Committee meeting minutes. Eric Santos seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS WITHIN THE STATE

Mr. Bakkedahl stated there was an incident in Southern Nevada involving a family of eight and the potential of Thallium poisoning. Mr. Bakkedahl noted there was an extremely intensive investigation with regards to how the individuals may have been exposed to the poison, including if their travel outside of the country had anything to do with it. Mr. Bakkedahl advised the family has been moved to California and they are being treated to remove the heavy metal from their bodies and that the Thallium was found in candy laced with the poison.

Mr. Bakkedahl stated there was an incident where an individual was able to find a density gauge on eBay, which is used for moisture in density construction based testing. Mr. Bakkedahl noted the device was from California and stolen in 2018. Mr. Bakkedahl added people are constantly scouring Craigs List, eBay and newspapers looking to see if items are being sold that should not be. Mr. Bakkedahl also added the individual selling the density gauge was not the party who stole it, as he bought a pallet of items to resell and has become one of the victims in this process since he paid for the items and now those items will go back to the right full owners. Mr. Bakkedahl stated Las Vegas Metro Police Department (LVMPD) Armor took possession of the item which was sent to the Las Vegas Radiation Control Program office.

Mr. Bakkedahl stated there was an incident which involved Carlito Rayos calling the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) advising there were two large drums parked by a casino a week before the NFL draft which had labels of explosive uranium soil, drawing concern with the waste disposal company when they came to pick them up, so they called 911. Mr. Rayos added there were no placards on the drums, the labels on them were handwritten and the location was adjacent to the Wynns corporate office. Mr. Rayos stated the drums had been x-rayed and were thought to be from a remediation project and had been there for several days. Mr. Rayos also noted there was a gas station down the street doing some remediation on an underground storage tank, but the drums did not belong to them. Mr. Rayos stated this event brought up another question of when facilities are doing remediation and digging up dirt to have it tested allowing the drums holding the dirt remain on site with no requirement for security until the analysis is completed; meaning anyone could take the drums at any time. Mr. Rayos added they are trying to figure out a better way to address the above noted scenario.

Mr. Bakkedahl noted in the above instances, the Concept of Operations (Con Ops) and Sustainment Guidance Plan; notifications were made between Radiation Control and DEM; the correct federal and local partners had been notified. Mr. Bakkedahl stated the documents worked; a lot of different coordination by DEM is taken to help Radiation Control. Mr. Bakkedahl advised NRS 459 is a combined regulation statute with the top third being radiation control for DEM, the middle third being hazardous waste for Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the bottom third being hazardous materials for SERC.

Mr. Rayos also added there were two training exercises going on in the city during the drum situation, and responders were wondering if the drums were a training aide, making the situation even more confusing.

Mr. Brenner stated he is glad the program and documents are working as it took a few years to get this committee up and running. Mr. Brenner questioned if DEM was involved in the recent Washoe County dirty bomb exercise. Mr. Bakkedahl stated there were two exercises that DEM was involved in, one in the north and one in south. Mr. Bakkedahl noted the Washoe County exercise was a three day event and watching the professionals at work during the exercise was impressive to see. Mr. Bakkedahl also added there was US Department of Energy (DOE) exercise in southern Nevada that was two days.

6. STATEWIDE CALIBRATIONS

Mr. Bakkedahl noted 2022 is the first year two DEM contractors went into the field to do all the on-site calibrations with the two calibration devices received from the State Radiation Control program at no cost; a trailer was modified for their use, and they calibrated every instrument they could find, saving state agencies a lot of money. Mr. Bakkedahl stated a bunch of devices are life cycling out and would like to replace them with model numbers 26-1 or 26-3, using two different funding streams of DOE money. Mr. Bakkedahl added the idea is to have everybody using the same device throughout the state with sixty machines being replaced leaving sixty to still be replaced. Mr. Bakkedahl also noted DEM has purchased ten devices to put in hospitals along the I-80 corridor with end of year funds and new year funds will buy ten more devices and counties will use their own funds to buy devices that are the same models .

Mr. Bakkedahl reiterated the future plan is to replace the hospital devices with new devices owned by DEM who will own, maintain and calibrate. Mr. Bakkedahl also noted DEM is continually working to replace the Victoreen models throughout the state; every county has two devices equaling thirty-four just in the counties and there are devices used by the hospitals, Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) and the larger counties will have multiple devices.

Mr. Bakkedahl asked the committee for their thoughts on the plan.

Mr. Brenner agreed with the plan and asked about looking at survey meters and dosimeters.

Mr. Rayos asked about the yellow Canberra, as he is trying to get his devices calibrated one last time. Mr. Rayos stated the Canberra only track gamma rays and is questioning if the first responders should have equipment which would increase their ability to track more than just gamma rays. Mr. Bakkedahl stated there are fifty Canberra in the DEM warehouse and will check to see if they can be sent to Clark County. Mr. Bakkedahl noted the machines being used do only detect gamma rays which travel the longest distance, are easy to use, friendly, universal and any device fire would use to track alpha and beta rays is very fragile. Mr. Bakkedahl suggested only the individuals trained in using the specialized equipment have the dosimeters machines. Mr. Rayos agreed with Mr. Bakkedahl points. Mr. Bakkedahl also advised there are rad watches dosimeters in the DEM warehouse. Mr. Rayos noted this equipment is for operations level responders. Mr. Bakkedahl stated the pelican case holds the Canberra and four rad watchers, covering everyone in the first out engine.

Mr. Bakkedahl summarized the 2023 plan is to replace the old machines in the hospitals, replace twenty-six machines in the field and work with the counties to replace all the Canberra machines.

7. RADIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Bakkedahl stated this committee must have three SERC members which needs to be maintained and at this time there seems to be good representation. Mr. Bakkedahl added he would like to add someone from the Reno Triad area. Mr. Bakkedahl asked if everyone is comfortable with the committee membership.

Mr. Rayos asked about John Fansler with DEM or be replaced with the Civil Support Team (CST) members. Mr. Bakkedahl stated Mr. Fansler will stay on. Mr. Rayos questioned if the federal partners are being left out of the committee. Mr. Bakkedahl stated there is a DOE member, Tiffany Gamero. Mr. Bakkedahl advised he hasn't reached out to others like from the Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) but has no problem adding more committee members but it's important to keep the numbers manageable.

Mr. Rayos asked about the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Nevada National Security Site Fire and Rescue Department (NNSFRD) and adding hazmat transporting into the Con Ops. Mr. Bakkedahl advised he will look at the Con Ops, go through and make notes before this committee reviews it later this year.

Mr. Brenner believes someone from the quad counties and the Washoe County Hazmat Coordinator from Reno Fire should be added to the committee or least added to the Con Ops.

Mr. Bakkedahl will reach out to Mr. Brenner and Mr. Rayos for names that he can contact.

Mr. Rayos made a motion to approve the suggested individuals to the committee; quad county hazmat, triad hazmat, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) coordinator, DOE, RSL and USEPA radiological emergency response team. Mr. Brenner seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

8. RADIOLOGICAL COMMITTEE MISSION

Mr. Bakkedahl asked for feedback from the committee on the direction this committee. In the two previous actions this committee is helping DEM decide on the calibration processes, equipment and expanding capabilities of the membership. Mr. Bakkedahl asked if there is anything anyone can think of, they feel this committee should be taking on to make sure we are doing the best for the state of Nevada.

Mr. Rayos stated he received from the Public Health Preparedness Coalition their Radiological Response Annex and was wondering if Mr. Bakkedahl also received is. Mr. Bakkedahl noted he has received their annex every year, except during COVID. Mr. Rayos made the comment that it's incumbent on this committee to make sure all the rad response annexes throughout the state correlate with this Con Ops. Mr. Bakkedahl stated this is a great idea and suggested adding any county with radiological transport inside their Hazmat Response Plan to also be reviewed by this Committee. Mr. Rayos suggested this Con Ops be provided for those writing the rad response plans.

Mr. Rayos made a motion to have this Committee be responsible for serving as the clearing house and deconflicting auditor for regional and municipal plans, as well as special districts which have radioactive material plans. Mr. Santos seconded the motion. Mr. Brenner advised the SERC has the Planning and Training Subcommittee which could be used to assist this committee, if needed. Mr. Rayos added the takeaway from the Planning and Training Subcommittee is that they have perfected the process of reviewing the Hazmat Response Plans and this committee should templatize their format which would streamline the review process, making sure all the different plans support each other. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bakkedahl called for public comment.

Mr. Santos asked if there were any forthcoming exercises within the DEM that the SERC will be involved in, and Mr. Bakkedahl stated there are none. Mr. Bakkedahl stated DEM has a lot of upcoming exercises and will share those with Tami Beauregard who can then share with the SERC members, to see if they are interested in participating in any way.

Mr. Santos stated he is interested in participating and representing the SERC.

Mr. Rayos asked that any radiological historical incidents in Clark County be sent to him. Mr. Rayos also requested this committee take up the implementation of PRISM and the training thereof as US Health and Human Services (HHS) has recommended this is way to conduct

mass decon.

Mr. Bakkedahl thanked everyone for their participation in this committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brenner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50am. Mr. Santos seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

DRAFT