Nationwide Response Issues after an Improvised Nuclear Device Attack: Medical and Public Health Considerations for Neighboring Jurisdictions
An Institute of Medicine Workshop

January 23-24, 2013

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC 20008
The Blue Room

Background:

International intelligence and US government sources suggest that our nation faces the distinct possibility of a catastrophic terrorist attack using an improvised nuclear device (IND). This could result in tens of thousands of victims and overwhelm our public health, emergency response, and healthcare system, not to mention create unprecedented social and economic challenges. While preparing for an IND may seem futile, thousands of lives can be saved by informed planning and decision-making prior to and following an incident. Recently, significant attention has been paid to the effects of an IND and the response issues in the immediate area of the detonation, but neighboring communities, as well as regional and national receiving cities, will also be deeply impacted by an unparalleled number of evacuees requiring medical care, shelter resources, and general support.

Though relatively robust federal guidance exists regarding local response to an IND event, planning and resource limitations prevent easy translation to operational plans at the state and local level. Additionally, many jurisdictions are unaware of the magnitude of the evacuation influx and medical surge they may experience due to their proximity to the detonation; and do not realize the planning implications for this type of event. The indirect effect of tens of thousands of displaced victims from this type of incident will require dedicated command, control and resource capabilities from across the region and the nation to affect a successful response. In collaboration with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), this workshop will identify specific challenges and potential solutions for key response requirements faced by public health and healthcare systems in the regional response to an IND detonation.

Meeting Objectives:

- Understand the differences between types of radiation incidents and implications of an IND attack on neighboring jurisdictions.
- Highlight current planning efforts at the federal, state and local level, and challenges to the implementation of operational plans.
• Examine gaps in planning efforts and possible challenges and solutions.
• Discuss considerations for public health reception centers.
  o How will public health and healthcare interface with functions and staffing?
  o How will radiological assessments and triage be handled?
• Discuss possibilities and benefits of integration of disaster transport systems.
• Explore roles of regional healthcare coalitions in coordination of healthcare response.
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January 23, 2013

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8:00am Welcome and Introductions

JACK HERRMANN, Workshop Co-Chair
Sr. Advisor & Chief, Public Health Preparedness
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
Washington, DC

JOHN L. HICK, Workshop Co-Chair
Associate Medical Director for EMS
Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness
Hennepin County Medical Center
Minneapolis, MN

SESSION I: INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AFTER AN IND INCIDENT

Session Objective:
- Understand the differences between types of nuclear incidents and implications of an IND attack on comprehensive planning and public health morbidity and mortality for neighboring jurisdictions.

8:10am Planning and Response Considerations to Optimize Survivability in Neighboring Jurisdictions and Important Response Priority Differences

BROOKE BUDDEMEIER
Health Physicist
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
Key Response Planning Factors for the Aftermath of Nuclear Terrorism

8:45am White Paper Presentation: The Impact of Mass Evacuations on Host Communities Following Nuclear Terrorism

IRWIN REDLENER
Director
National Center for Public Health Preparedness
9:15am Discussion with Attendees

9:30am BREAK

SESSION II: FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE AND EXISTING PLANNING EFFORTS FOR PREPARING NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS

Session Objective:
- Discuss what resources and tools already exist at federal level.
- Examine differences and issues for requesting federal assets to neighboring communities.
- Understand barriers to interactions and exchanging of information.
- Discuss what fundamental regional planning has been done at the federal level, and their methods of inclusion for communities outside of detonation site.

9:45am Panel Discussion: Existing Federal Guidance on INDs and Challenges to Operations in Communities Outside Detonation Site

GEORGE KORCH  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
Department of Health and Human Services

ROBERT C. WHITCOMB  
Lead Physical Scientist  
Radiation Studies Branch  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

ROBERT FARMER  
Director, Operations Division  
Response Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

JODY WIREMAN, Forum member  
Director  
Force Health Protection Division  
US Northern Command

. 10:45am Discussion with Attendees

11:05am Panel Discussion: Planning for an IND Detonation: Local, State, and Regional Perspectives

Moderator:

MITCH STRIPLING  
Director of Emergency Planning  
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Panelists:

**ANDREW VELASQUEZ III**  
Regional Administrator, Region V  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

**ALONZO PLOUGH**  
Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

**ROBERT LEVIN**  
Medical Director and Health Officer  
Ventura County Public Health, California

**MORDECHAI GOLDFEDER**  
Senior Health & Medical Planner  
NYC Office of Emergency Management

12:15pm   Discussion with Attendees

12:30pm   LUNCH

**SESSION III: RESPONSE CHALLENGES FOR NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES AFTER AN IND DETONATION**

Session Objectives:

- Consider responsibilities of agencies and frameworks for command, control and communications.
- Emphasize continuity of operations planning with spillover to adjacent jurisdictions or states and other actions or supports.
- Explore opportunities to increase collaboration and cooperation between and within states and regions to support affected areas.
- Consider mechanisms of coordinating concise, coherent and consistent messaging across agencies for the public to follow.

1:30pm   White Paper: Implications of an Improvised Nuclear Device Detonation on Command and Control for Surrounding Regions at the Local, State and Federal Levels

**DAVE PASQUALE**  
Senior Operations Specialist

**RICK HANSEN**  
Senior Scientist

Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS)
Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS)  
National Security Technologies (NSTec), LLC

2:00pm Discussion with Attendees

2:20pm Panel Discussion: Maintaining Command and Control after an IND Detonation

ROBERT FARMER  
Director, Operations Division  
Response Directorate  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

JONATHON MONKEN  
Director  
Illinois Emergency Management Agency

JOHN F. KOERNER  
Chief, CBRNE Branch  
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

3:00pm Discussion with Attendees

3:20pm BREAK

3:35pm Panel Discussion: Risk Communication Strategies in the Aftermath of a Nuclear Terrorist Attack; Getting the Public’s Attention

CHARLES MILLER  
Chief, Radiation Studies Branch  
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

STEVEN M. BECKER  
Professor of Community and Environmental Health  
College of Health Sciences, Old Dominion University  
Norfolk, Virginia

BRUCE FOREMAN  
Radiation Communication Specialist  
CBRNE Branch  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

ED MCDONOUGH  
Public Information Officer  
Maryland Emergency Management Agency
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January 24, 2013

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8:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

JACK HERRMANN, Workshop Co-Chair
Sr. Advisor & Chief, Public Health Preparedness
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
Washington, DC

JOHN L. HICK, Workshop Co-Chair
Associate Medical Director for EMS
Medical Director of Emergency Preparedness
Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN

SESSION IV: CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH SHELTERING AND MASS MANAGEMENT ROLE

Session Objective:
- Discuss added challenges of sheltering evacuees related to an IND attack compared to routine emergency sheltering.
- Examine roles of Community Reception Centers and Family Assistance Centers in neighboring areas.
- Examine radiological assessment tools being researched and developed for future use.
- Consider the integration and operation of the Radiation Injury Treatment Network, National Disaster Medical System, and Emergency Medical Services, into the healthcare system after an incident.
8:10am Session Introduction and Objectives

ARMIN ANSARI
Radiation Studies Branch, EHHE, NCEH
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

8:20am Panel Discussion: Operationalizing Community Reception Centers for Evacuees after a Nuclear Incident at Various Distances from Detonation Site

JOHN WILLIAMSON
Administrator, Environmental Radiation Programs
Bureau of Radiation Control
Florida Department of health

RUTH MCBURNEY
Executive Director
Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors

ONORA LIEN
Health System Planning Manager
Northwest Healthcare Response Network
Public Health Seattle & King County

RODNEY WALLACE
Chief, CBRN Diagnostics
Division of CBRN Countermeasures
Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
US Department of Health and Human Services

9:20am Discussion with Attendees

9:45am BREAK

10:00am Panel Discussion: Opportunities for Integration Between Disaster Transport Systems

Moderator:
GAMUNU WIJETUNGE, Forum member
Office of Emergency Medical Services
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Panel:

**DAN WEISDORF**
Executive Committee
Radiation Injury Treatment Network

**ANDY GARRETT**
National Disaster Medical System & JPATS
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
Department of Health and Human Services

**DONALD DONAHUE**
Member, American Board of Disaster Medicine
Managing Partner, Diogenec Group, LLP

11:00am Discussion with Attendees

11:30am LUNCH

**SESSION V: CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN NEIGHBORING AREAS TO THE INCIDENT**

Session Objective:
- Examine systems available for guidance of reception centers and involvement with the larger radiation injury healthcare network.
- Discuss immediate needs of patients and victims including mental health and ongoing patient tracking.
- Discuss best practices for adapting guidance to the public health field and managing mass medical centers and incidents
- Explore issues of healthcare workforce protection after an IND incident

12:30pm Panel Discussion: Challenges and Guidance Associated with Hospitals/Mass Medical Care Sites in Neighboring Jurisdictions

**NORM COLEMAN**
Senior Medical Advisor and Chief, CBRN Team
Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

**ANN NORWOOD**
Senior Associate
Center for Biosecurity of UPMC

**THOMAS LANGER**
Director, Bureau of Environmental Health
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
CAPT. JIM SPAHR
Associate Director
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1:30pm Discussion with Attendees

SESSION VI: NEXT STEPS – THE ROLE OF REGIONAL HEALTHCARE COALITIONS IN RESPONSE

Session Objective:
- Discuss benefits of regional health care coalitions and their potential to coordinate clinical care guidance and triage decisions.
- Understand the special needs of exposed or irradiated patients presenting at hospitals.

2:00 pm Session Introduction

DAVID MARCOZZI, Forum member
Director, National Healthcare Preparedness Programs
Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response
Department of Health and Human Services

2:10pm White Paper: Role of Regional Healthcare Coalitions in Managing and Coordinating Disaster Response

DAN HANFLING, Forum member
Special Advisor
Emergency Preparedness and Response
Inova Health Systems

2:40pm Discussion with Attendees

3:00pm BREAK

3:15pm Panel Presentation: Roles and Potential for Healthcare Coalitions

ERIC TONER, Forum member
Senior Associate
Center for Biosecurity of UPMC

DAVID WEINSTOCK
Medical Advisor
Radiation Injury Treatment Network
JENNY ATAS  
Medical Director  
Region 2 South Healthcare Coalition, Michigan

4:00pm  Discussion with Attendees

4:20pm  Next Steps: Report from Session Chairs on Key Takeaway Messages  
- What issues have not been addressed?  
- How can people engage their communities to pass on lessons learned?

4:45pm  ADJOURN