



Homeland
Security

Science and Technology

Integrated Chemical, Biological,
Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Program



TRANSCRIPT FROM WEBCAST 3/22/2011

DESCRIPTION: The Future of ICBRNE (panel)

WHO: Moderator:

John Verrico, DHS S&T

Panel:

David Lamensdorf

President, Safe Environment Engineering

Chief Bob Cramer (Ret.)

City Of LA Fire Department

Jeff Waters

Scientist, SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific

Cass Kaufman (Ret.)

Director of Radiation Management

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Teresa Lustig,

ICBRNE Program Manager, DHS Science & Technology Directorate



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David Lamensdorf is back with us from Safe Environment Engineering. Jeff Waters is here from SPAWAR. We've got Chief Bob Kramer from the fire--the Los Angeles Fire Department, thank you again for joining us. We have Cass Kaufman from the Public Health Department, and of course Teresa Lustig who's our program manager with Department Homeland Security science and Technology Directorate. What we're gonna do is just kind of had--have a free 4 minutes. If you have any questions on the chat, we will try to get to them. But we're just going to have a little discussion about where we're going from here and kind of the important things that we need to take away from all of this. So we'll start off with whoever wants to go first and just talk about some of the lessons we've learned, where this goes from here as far as grant funds, standards requirements. I know, Chief, you are very responsible for making sure the standards requirements got into your procurement actions, those kinds of things. So, where do you wanna go from here? Let's start with you, David.

>> So I think--

>> That misdirection--

[Laughter]

>> I would like to state that this is very much been a regional project and it's been with help of all the different organizations throughout the region as Cass Kaufman was talking about. We've had participants from law and fire, military, health departments, all that are contributing together. Now, one of the things that we've been trying to do as this evolved is from some organizations that will help perpetuate that--that information, developed the policies and the use profiles and there's been two organizations that we've--that I'll certainly gonna encourage this within other regions as well too. We have a one group called the Consortium of Technical Responders that meets once a month to [inaudible] discusses incidents that occurred, technologies, information sharing policies and programs, and that has been enormously helpful. We also formed another group called the Los Angeles Regional CBRNE Network that is really helping create the ConOps, the policies necessary to drive information sharing of who gets what and under what circumstances, and then also working with us as the vendors to help make sure those policies get into the products that we've been developing as well too. So I do



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wanna make sure that Los Angeles region is, you know, mentioned here as all working together as one group and all these.

>> That's terrific, and we wanna try to talk about too as how people can get involved moving forward from here if they wanted to try to replicate this in their municipality, in their metropolitan area or anywhere, so what--

>> Again, part of what we've done with this project is put together a template. What did we learn, what would it take to put the project together and, you know, please use this as a template, modify it. We've done other programs. Cass, your department has put together what's called the [inaudible] which is another radiological response plan that helps brings the policies necessary for a response together. So we've been trying to put together the documentation to hand to others to be able to use as part of this growth process. And we're trying to grow it not--obviously not only up and down, but also horizontally to get other organizations participate from all different types of jurisdictions.

>> Chief, if you had to say something to folks out there about how to get involved or when you were really a key factor in getting things started here.

>> Well, I spoke earlier about the challenges that we enjoyed at the beginning of this effort. Quite frankly, I think that other agencies that are contemplating getting involved can now leverage all of this experience and background we've acquired and the improvements in the system quite frankly.

>> You're talking about the policy challenges?

[Laughter]



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>> That's--that's probably gonna be more of a challenge in some areas than others. I know that I can only speak for Los Angeles. However, in Los Angeles, I think we have a unique situation where the hazardous materials response community and their associated agencies are very close. We've had that ongoing for quite some time. That gave us an advantage locally at giving something like this, promulgated through those agencies quite frankly. And the other mechanism, I should point out once again was the funding mechanism. In a perfect world, I think based on my experience, we'd see this promulgated to all the urban areas as a start. You asked earlier what we, you know, thought about what would happen going forward. I think the momentum here locally is something now can't be overcome. It's a tide that's gonna sweep through this area and it's here to stay. I am pretty sure. The benefits have been demonstrated pretty [inaudible]. But for other agencies contemplating clearly funding is an issue. And so, that's something they're gonna have to address locally. But I would hope that at least the urban areas would consider this type of system. I can testify it to the fact that it is very enabling for the agencies that participate.

>> Great, thank you very much. Cass.

>> Oh, thank you. Just piggyback a little bit on what Chief Kramer and David said, one very positive outcome of this system was it helped us integrate our various agencies and operations even more than we had done before. And we were fairly well integrated before. But the telemetry system has definitely pulled us all into even a more combined response effort. And I think that it ensures good communication lines between the different agencies when something happens like this Japan incident or--not but a larger incident. The fire department, the public health department, the law enforcement, we are going to need to work together. And having all of us in this system I think improves our--our communication and integration efforts.

>> Thank you. Jeff.

>> You know, one thing I think about is--is people in the audience may feel that, you know, can they do the same sort of thing, you know, in their jurisdiction. Maybe they're not Los Angeles, you know. But I think what's key first of all is the leadership of the individuals in the city and county. And I know that there are people with--they can do that in other jurisdictions as well. But another thing is that we've tried to do this in a



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lightweight manner using standards that can be well understood and simple. So for example we've done web based displays so you can just bring up your browser and you can see the feeds just like we do with no extra tools or installation. At the same time, the standards that we used, you can--you could find out about them in the documentation and they are ones that you can understand and utilize as well in the challenged times that we're in. There isn't really an opportunity to go out and make big investments and things. But this is something that can be done now. Steps can be taken now I think at every jurisdiction to walk down this path. And we certainly have things to learn as well from things that are going on elsewhere.

>> And so sometimes just picking up the phone and giving a call to any--any of the folks here, the wonderful folks here on Los Angeles and folks who have been participating in this program would be happy to get a call and just chat if you have any questions, concerns, issues about how you can replicate this in your jurisdiction. Am I saying that correctly?

>> Yes.

>> Thank you very much. Now, Teresa, just wrap up 'cause we're quickly running out of time but I did wanna point out from the Science and Technology Directorate's perspective, this portion of a project is over.

>> That's right. We feel that we successfully demonstrated--and I wanna emphasize a process. Not exactly, I mean we--we showed how an example of how you can take some tools that we've discussed here and put a system together. But what we really wanna emphasize is the standards and the process so that whatever existing equipment and existing systems you have in place, you can do the same thing with those. I mean it doesn't have to be this particular system but whatever you already have in place.

>> And that's critical. And that's--that's really probably the one big take home point is it doesn't matter what equipments you have, it's just a matter of putting it all together and making it talk to each other.



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>> And our final report really emphasize that the lessons learned, all we went through, and all of the experience we gained from this pilot.

[Inaudible Remark]

[Laughter]

>> It's all there.

>> [Inaudible] on the final report.

>> The final report. This is sort of the template, or for those who are interested could take and duplicate where they are.

>> And all of these reports, all of the lessons learned documents and the final report are all gonna be on the ICBRNE website which is www.icbrne.org. Everything's gonna be posted there. Many of them are already there. I think it's just the final report that's not quite up yet, but probably around the end of the month we think it's going to arrive there. For your reference, once again, this entire webcast is gonna be archived and it's at the same URL you are on now watching this live webcast. You can come back and view segments over again and listen to the interviews, watch the videos, anything that you wanted to come back to for reference, that is all going to be there. Given a few days, probably about a week for us to get it all rendered and put up but it will be on this website in the near future. And the whole thing will be archived. I wanna thank all of you for joining us today and for helping us to get this message out to our important folks out there on the webcast, and thank all of you for spending your day with us. It was quite a



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bit of time to spend but I think we had to talk about some really important things. It's an essential application of standards to support integration of the emergency communication and critical data. So, with that, I'm John Verrico. I was happy to be your host today. You have a nice day.

[Music]