



# The Creation of the National Alliance for Radiation Readiness (NARR)

## Bringing Together Public Health and Radiation Control



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### ABSTRACT

In June 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) sponsored a roundtable entitled "Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Emergency Response", which recommended the development of an alliance of organizations to expand the nation's radiological emergency preparedness capabilities, and to elevate recognition of the roles and responsibilities of public health agencies in a radiological emergency. In April 2009, the roundtable was followed by a workshop entitled "Alliance to Expand Radiological Emergency Preparedness in Public Health" with the aim of building an alliance among professional organizations for sharing radiological emergency preparedness resources, tools and information. An exploratory committee concluded that a National Alliance for Radiation Readiness was a necessary and viable undertaking, and drafted a mission, vision, purpose, structure, governance, and business plan. The NARR was launched in March 2001.

A Steering Committee consisting of representatives from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; the National Association of County and City Health Officials; the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists; the Association of Public Health Laboratories and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors with support and technical assistance from CDC drafted the vision, mission and primary objectives.

The vision is to become a more protected, resilient nation through a comprehensive and integrated approach to radiological emergencies. Our mission is to enhance radiological preparedness capability and capacity in public health and health care systems through a coalition of organizations committed to improving the nation's ability to prepare, respond, and recover from radiological emergencies at the local, state, and national levels.

The primary objectives of the NARR are:

- To build radiological emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity and capabilities by supporting the development of mechanisms for sharing resources, tools, training, and performance measures and guidelines; and
- To serve as the unified "voice of health" in radiological preparedness in national dialogues on radiological emergency issues, provide input to governmental policy development, and raise awareness as needed to resolve radiological emergency preparedness and response issues.

The NARR was formally launched in the midst of the response to the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Membership in NARR facilitated the collaboration among the various agencies and organizations that traditionally do not collaborate and resulted in the preparation of several products including the passenger radiation screening protocols to be used at the ports of entry.

### GENESIS

- The Polonium-210 Russian Spy poisoning incident in London in 2006.
- International impact.
- Recognition by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of *an opportunity to better prepare the nation for a public health threat involving nuclear/radiological incidents.*



#### Key Issues

- Identifying impacted U.S. travelers was challenging \*
- State/local health departments not always aware of state/local radiation control agencies with responsibility for their jurisdictions
- \*Also an issue post-Fukushima event

#### Response to this event highlighted the need to:

- **Increase awareness** of mutual responsibilities for preparing and responding to radiological incidents;
- **Strengthen communication** and working relationships among participating organizations;
- **Share information** on available resources; and
- Increase awareness of **emerging roles and responsibilities regarding radiological events.**

### Activities Leading to the "Alliance"



- **June 2008** CDC-CRCPD Sponsored the "Roundtable on Communication and Teamwork: Keys to Successful Radiological Emergency Response."
- **April 2009** CDC-CRCPD Sponsored a follow-up **Workshop** "Alliance to Expand Radiological Emergency Preparedness in Public Health."
- **May 2009** the first **Steering Committee Meeting** took place during the CRCPD Annual Meeting.



➤ **June 2009-May 2010** – An **exploratory committee** concluded that a National Alliance for Radiation Readiness was a **necessary and viable undertaking.**



➤ The committee drafted a mission, vision, purpose, structure, governance, business and communications/marketing plans.

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**NARR OFFICIAL LAUNCH**  
**March 2011**



### NARR PURPOSE

To serve as the **collective "voice of health"** in radiological preparedness through the:

- Participation in national dialogues on radiological emergency issues
- Provision of thoughtful feedback on documents, policies, and guidelines
- Convening of partners to raise awareness of and resolve radiological emergency issues

To **build radiological emergency preparedness, response and recovery capacity and capabilities** by supporting the:

- Development of mechanisms for sharing resources and tools, including technical methods and information
- Identification and dissemination of best practices
- Definition of and education on the roles and responsibilities of different levels of government and different governmental agencies in radiological emergencies
- Establishment of performance measures and guidelines
- Building and sustaining of long-term competencies

### VISION AND MISSION

**Vision:** To become a more protected, resilient nation through a comprehensive and integrated approach to radiological emergencies

**Mission:** Enhancing radiological preparedness capability and capacity in public health and health care systems through a coalition of organizations committed to improving the nation's ability to prepare, respond, and recover from radiological emergencies at the local, state, and national levels.

### MEMBERSHIP

- American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
- Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)
- Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Health Physics Society (HPS)
- International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
- National Disaster Life Support Foundation (NDSLFF)
- National Emergency Management Association (NEMA)
- National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC)

### FEDERAL PARTNER AGENCIES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response/US Department of Health and Human Services (ASPR/HHS)
- US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- US Department of Energy (DOE)
- US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

### PAST AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

"A National Assessment of the Status of Planning for Public Health Preparedness for Chemical and Radiological Contaminating Terrorism." Prepared by the Council of State and Territorial Health Officials (CSTE) on behalf of NARR

#### Review & Comment:

- Project Public Health Ready criteria
- "Public Health Response to Radiological Accidents: A Guide for State and Local Public Health Departments," a CDC-developed planning guide.
- Capabilities for the CDC 2011-2016 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement
- FEMA's "Nuclear Detonation Preparedness: Communicating in the Immediate Aftermath"

#### Development of:

- Population monitoring tool kit
- Disaster epidemiology tracking tools
- Model radiological preparedness plan
- Online clearinghouse to disseminate and evaluate tools

### IN RESPONSE TO FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI EVENT



#### Collaboration

- Nationwide Conference calls – bringing together Public Health and Radiation Control Programs
- Preparation of Passenger Screening Protocol
  - Multi-agency collaboration - Expertise in Radiation Protection, Epidemiology, Public Health, Customs and Border Protection, Quarantine, etc.
  - Journal Article pending publication
- **U.S. Screening of International Travelers for Radioactive Contamination following the Japanese Nuclear Plant Disaster in March 2011**

Wilson, Todd, MS;<sup>1</sup> Chang, Arthur, MD;<sup>1</sup>Berro, Andre, MPH;<sup>1</sup> Donnachie, John, MEPC;<sup>2</sup> Still, Aaron, MS;<sup>2</sup>Brown, Clive, MD;<sup>1</sup>Demma, Andrew, MS;<sup>1</sup>Nemhauser, Jeffrey, MD;<sup>1</sup>Martin, Colleen, MSPH;<sup>1</sup>Salame-Alfie, Adela, PhD;<sup>1</sup> Fisher-Tyler, Frieda, MHS;<sup>1</sup> Smith, Lee, MS;<sup>1</sup> Grady-Erickson, Onalee;<sup>1</sup> Alvarado-Ramy, Francisco, MD;<sup>1</sup> Brunette, Gary, MD;<sup>1</sup> Ansari, Armin, PhD;
- Form for Follow-Up of Travelers Identified at US Points of Entry with Radioactive Material on their Bodies Associated with the Incident at Fukushima Daiichi, Japan
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- Epidemiologic Assessment (To be completed by officials interviewing travelers)
- Radiation Assessment (To be completed by officials conducting radiation assessment)
- Laboratory Assessment (To be completed by officials collecting specimens for laboratory analysis)
- Instructions: Form for Follow-Up of Travelers Identified at US Points of Entry with Radioactive Material on their Bodies Associated with the Incident at Fukushima Daiichi, Japan

#### Purpose of Epidemiologic Assessment Form:

- ✓ Describe the characteristics of the affected population, including vulnerable and special populations, for improved understanding about the situation in Japan.
- ✓ Identify risk factors associated with particular environments or activities (for example, proximity to incident, not sheltering in place, working in the affected area) for more effective public health messaging.
- ✓ Provide context for radiation assessment data.
- ✓ If a urine bioassay is requested for CDC analysis, the accuracy of dose assessment will be increased by collecting information about personal variables needed in dose calculations

#### Sample Consent Language provided

- Preparation of After Action Report
  - Includes input from multiple organizations
  - Highlighted issues with communication, collaboration, laboratory analyses
  - Final report being reviewed

### WEBSITE AND CLEARINGHOUSE

[www.radiationready.org](http://www.radiationready.org)



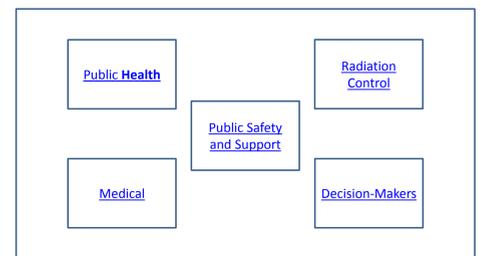
### CLEARINGHOUSE TOOLS



### IMPORTANT LINKS AND EVENTS



### SAMPLE PRODUCT POPULATION MONITORING TOOLKIT



Radiation Community Resources			
Just in Time Training	Public Messages	Job Aids	References and Guides
Screening for External Contamination	Los Angeles County Templates	Example Community Reception Center Sample Forms	Radiation Response Tables
Community Reception Center Video	Environmental Protection Agency Templates	Example Community Reception Center Facility Diagrams	Population Monitoring Guide
Job Action Sheets	CDC Messages		RDD Handbook
			Guidelines for Handling Deceaseds

Public Health Community Resources			
Just in Time Training	Public Messages	Job Aids	References and Guides
Screening for External Contamination	Los Angeles County Templates	Example Community Reception Center Sample Forms	Population Monitoring Guide
Community Reception Center Video	Environmental Protection Agency Templates	Example Community Reception Center Facility Diagrams	RDD Handbook
Basic Radiation 101	CDC Messages		Guidelines for Handling Deceaseds
Job Action Sheets	Instructions		Standard Operating Guidelines

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

