

FIRST & FIELD RESPONDERS WORKING GROUP

The annual EMI-SIG meetings are very informative, well organized and provide an excellent format for information sharing in the emergency management discipline. Numerous field responders also attend the annual sessions and gain valuable knowledge from emergency management topics that normally would not be presented at responder specific conferences. However, a significant piece of emergency response organization functional areas are not represented at the EMI-SIG meetings. Based upon the quality and success of the annual meetings and positive comments from field responder attendees, formation of a responders working group to coordinate expansion of the annual meeting to include topics, presentations, training in the following functional areas of emergency response organizations;

- Fire department operations during operational emergencies
- Emergency medical services
- Incident command functions
- Hazardous materials emergency incident stabilization and mitigation
- 9-1-1, dispatch, emergency notification, information coordination functions
- Integration of multiple field response disciplines during mitigation of operational emergencies (Rad techs, fire department ops, hazmat teams, facility personnel, etc.)

Adding these venues to the annual meeting will provide a forum to share information on response methodologies, current and evolving technologies, communication methods, mutual-aid systems, training methods, response challenges and changing standards of operation (CFR, NFPA, standard of care, etc). There are vast differences in response methods and systems across the DOE complex and a benefit of sharing information and methods may develop into a standard model of those field activities and a more consistent emergency response organization across the complex.

The expansion of annual meeting to include the field elements could be phased in over several years based upon a prioritization of interest across the complex. Concepts and topics under the above functional areas could include;

- Fire department operations during site operational emergencies
 - Nuclear facility fire response methods & challenges
 - Fire department emergency medical / rescue / fire response challenges in a Nuclear explosives safety environment
 - Technical rescue considerations, response methods, standardized systems, etc.
 - Wildland firefighting
 - Mutual-aid agreements
 - Staffing issues
 - Evolving technologies, both for field response and administration
 - Training challenges

- Emergency medical services;
 - Levels of service, transport capabilities
 - Medical control systems (on-site medical director vs. off-site medical director)
 - Ambulance-to-emergency room communication technologies
 - Chelation protocols
 - Contaminated patient handling, transport and hospital emergency room interface
 - Expanded scope of practice (clinical realm)

- Incident Command functions;
 - Organizational leads in the IC role
 - Unified command methodologies
 - Command support staffing (Chief's Aid, Command Support Units, etc.)
 - Incident management tools for the field
 - Incident communication techniques (radios, cell, satellite, asset tracking, etc.)

- Hazardous materials emergency incident stabilization and mitigation;
 - Organizational leads for response to HAZMAT incidents (radiological & chemical)
 - Supporting organization functions
 - Off-site mutual-aid support
 - Chemical detection equipment
 - Radiological detection equipment
 - Contamination reduction zone (decon line) configuration and equipment
 - Downwind protective action habitability survey methods (radiological & chemical)
 - Entry & back-up team procedures

- 9-1-1, dispatch, emergency notification, information coordination functions;
 - Digital radio system challenges
 - CAD dispatch systems
 - Fire Alarm system and CAD interface
 - Emergency personnel off-duty notification and call-back methods and challenges
 - Interoperability between on-site and off-site resources

- Integration of multiple field response disciplines during mitigation of operational emergencies;
 - On-site capabilities for multi-discipline field response assets
 - On-site supporting organizations integration into the unified command structure

- Use of facility-based emergency action teams in both insipient actions and integration into expanded mitigation efforts
- Training challenges. Joint training versus individual organizational training with reliance on drills and exercises for validation of competency
- Firefighter / RCT interface during field operations

The first meeting to be held in May of 2009 will focus on interest in the various categories, and possible development of a draft charter for the working group, and appointment of a chairperson to lead subsequent efforts for the 2010 meeting.