

# **EXTERNAL EVENTS**

**The  
WILDCARD  
of  
EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT**

## **Report on the EMI-SIG Biosafety Session**

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# The Session Agenda

- *Introduction to Biosafety* – Bettina Stopford (SAIC)
- *Overview of the New Biosafety EMG* – Dr. Jim Powers (DOE/NA-41)
- *Protective Actions in the Event of an Operational Emergency Involving a DOE/NNSA Biosafety Facility* – Sam Henderson (SAIC)

# Highlights

- The impact of a new “bio lab” on the community
  - Attraction: economic benefits
  - Concerns: facility safety and the potential to be a terrorist target
- Biosafety related news makes for sensational headlines
- People worry about what is going on in DOE biological facilities; particularly the potential for releases to the public and accidents to workers.
- Protest of choice is a “die-in”.

## Highlights (cont.)

In the event of an accidental release at a DOE biological facility:

- CDC will be the lead federal agency
- State and local public health organizations will play critical roles in the emergency response
- DOE and its contractors will be expected to provide expert information and advice
- “All eyes will be on DOE in an emergency.”

# Highlights (cont)

- The Biosafety EMG is part of DOE O 151.1C
- Based on 10 CFR 851 *Biological Safety*, Select Agent Rules, & fundamental concepts found in the DOE Emergency Mgt. System
- Covers facilities that contain “select agents”.

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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR  
DOE/NNSA BIOSAFETY FACILITIES  
Part 1, Volume V**

- 1.0 INTRODUCTION
- 2.0 GENERAL APPROACH
- 3.0 HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS AND BIOSAFETY
  - 3.1 Hazardous Biological Agents and Toxins
  - 3.2 Select Agent Regulations
  - 3.3 Concept of Biosafety
  - 3.4 Containment and Barriers
  - 3.5 Biosafety Levels
  - 3.6 Biosafety “Risk” Assessment Criteria
  - 3.7 Routine Surveillance of Biosafety Controls
- 4.0 OPERATIONAL EMERGENCIES INVOLVING THE RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS
  - 4.1 DOE O 151.1C and Hazardous Biological Materials
  - 4.2 Basic Emergency Management Issues
  - 4.3 Biological Operational Emergencies
  - 4.4 Biological Agent/Toxin Transport Mechanisms
    - 4.4.1 Environmental Dispersion
    - 4.4.2 Infected Host (agents only)
    - 4.4.3 Contamination
  - 4.5 Biological Agent Release Scenarios
  - 4.6 Recognizing Biological Operational Emergencies
  - 4.7 Initial Protective Actions
  - 4.8 Public Health Response
- 5.0 DOE/NNSA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR BIOSAFETY FACILITIES: TECHNICAL PLANNING BASIS
  - 5.1 Hazards Survey
  - 5.2 Hazards Assessment

## Highlights (cont)

The Biosafety EMG requires:

- A hazards materials program for select agents
- Immediate protective actions for any release
- Any release that gets beyond secondary containment is to be declared an “operational emergency”
- Long term protective action criteria are to be set in conjunction with state and local agencies
- A Biosafety emergency management program that is a component of the Site emergency management program.

## Highlights (cont)

The Biosafety EMG requires:

- Appropriate biosafety training and drilling both on the facility and the site level.
- Initial protective actions for operational emergencies to focus on co-located workers and the public. *The regular biosafety program is used to protect lab workers.*
- Protective actions should be based on the properties of the specific agent involved in the release
- Information must be provided to the public and recovery activities must be coordinated with public health officials.

## Highlights (cont)

- The EMG covers “select agents” but may be expanded to cover other types of agents.
- A lot of the basic protective actions for a biological event are similar to what would be used for chemical or radiological events.
- DOE’s goal is to keep biological agents from infecting people.
- Initial protective actions are based on transport mechanisms, category of release (observed and unobserved), material characteristics population locations, time available to issue protective actions, etc.