



**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
ISSUES**

**Report on Dr. Jim Power's
Meeting with the Biosafety
Representatives**

by Cliff Glantz



Like to Welcome ...

- Dave Brekke (SNL/CA)
- Glen Funk (LLNL)
- Roger Mitchell (PNNL)
- Dina Sassone (LANL)
- Gail Van Gorp (ANL)

Review of the Draft Emergency Management Guide for Biosafety Level Facilities

- The biosafety representatives from the Sites met with Dr. Jim Powers late Wednesday afternoon.
- Jim reviewed the key elements of the “strawman” Guide with the group.
- The biosafety folks had some constructive comments and there was only one major area of discussion.

The Discussion Centered on:

- The biosafety facilities need to declare an “operational emergency” if any amount of select biological agents:
 1. Get outside of their primary containment
 2. Get outside of their primary containment and cause an occupational exposure
 3. Get outside of their secondary containment

Concern...

- Is an “operational emergency” a bit too much to declare if a miniscule amount of agent escapes primary containment, there is no adverse impact to workers, and secondary containment is not breached?
- Can internal notification procedures be tailored to keep insignificant incidents from being perceived as significant problems?

Next Step

- Jim Powers will take the biosafety representatives concerns about operational emergencies back to the authors of the draft Guide.
- Dina Sassone will produce a brief write-up to capture the concerns of the biosafety representatives.

After the Official Meeting...

- A SCAPA Biosafety Working Group will be formed.
- SCAPA and the biosafety representatives will work/support/encourage the integration of the biosafety representatives into their EOCs.
- We need the biosafety representatives to receive NARAC training
- We want them to join the NARAC User Advisory Group and to provide feedback to NARAC on biological scenarios and modeling capabilities.