

**FRMAC/State Bi-Annual Conference Call
January 24, 2007**

The bi-annual FRMAC Conference call occurred on January 24, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. (PST), with the following State and Federal agencies. After the State and Federal roll call, DOE/NNSA/NSO (Colleen O’Laughlin) opened the discussions with a welcome to everyone.

I Attendees

States Represented:

<i>California</i>	<i>Michigan</i>	<i>Vermont</i>
<i>Florida</i>	<i>Nevada</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>New York</i>	<i>Wisconsin</i>
<i>Idaho</i>	<i>North Carolina</i>	
<i>Indiana</i>	<i>North Dakota</i>	
<i>Kansas</i>	<i>Tennessee</i>	

Other Countries Represented:

Canada, Province of Ontario

Agencies Represented:

<i>CDC</i>	<i>EPA:</i>	<i>NARAC</i>
<i>CRPCD</i>	<i>HQ</i>	<i>NRC</i>
<i>DHS (Atlanta & NY)</i>	<i>Las Vegas</i>	<i>SANDIA</i>
<i>DOE:</i>	<i>NAREL</i>	<i>RAP</i>
<i>LANL</i>	<i>RERT</i>	<i>Regions 2, 6, 7,</i>
<i>LLNL</i>	<i>FDA</i>	<i>and 8</i>
<i>NARAC</i>	<i>LANL</i>	
<i>Sandia</i>	<i>LLNL</i>	

Other

Health Physics Society

II Status Reports

NRP – Nuc / Rad Annex

Mike Noska (FDA) said that he is on a committee to revise the Nuc / Rad Annex. It is being done on an aggressive schedule; they have a deadline of February 16, 2007, to get the revision of Annex completed and ready to send out for review. It will go out for public comment twice. Most of the changes are focused on roles and responsibilities of

the Coordinating Agencies. The NRP has created problems for the six primary responsible agencies—it gives them more responsibilities than they want to carry out. The agencies want technical oversight of the incident, but do not want to handle the coordination and logistical issues that arise. They would like to get away from the title Coordinating Agency, if possible, and leave that title with DHS. However, as yet a new title hasn't been proposed. Coordination efforts are difficult for this because there are several writing groups. Ed Tupin added that there will be a web site set up for the NRP revision and review so states can provide input. www.dhs.gov/nrp.

EPA-400

Sara Decair said that the draft of EPA-400 has been reviewed through FRPCC. New, updated tables are being generated by Sandia. An updated version will be available around the end of March and they hope to be able to send it out for public comment mid year.

Planning is underway to hold a 4-hour workshop at the CRCPD and NREP conferences to provide a refresher on what PAGs do and don't do. These workshops will also include information on the use of the tables themselves.

FRMAC Manuals

The FRMAC Operations Manual will be updated and completed by end of fiscal year and will be published on the web site. The big changes will be expanded discussion of the role of CM Home Team and also an appendix (which will also be published as a separate document) on how FRMAC integrates into Incident Command. The appendix will describe a standard plan that will be adopted to meet the requirements of NIMS, but it must be remembered that FRMAC will always be flexible to meet the requirements of a particular situation.

FRMAC Mission Analysis

A presentation of the FRMAC Mission Analysis has been proposed to be held at the NREP conference in Newport Beach. The presentation will focus on the scenarios that were developed.

FRMAC Health & Safety Manual

Sarah Hoover, LANL, is the new chair of the Health & Safety Working Group. They will have a meeting in the next couple of months and will also have a revision of the Health & Safety Manual published by end of the FY.

FRMAC Monitoring & Sampling Working Group

Don Van Etten, RSL, is the chair of the Monitoring and Sampling Working Group. They will be holding a meeting in February the main focus will be ICS integration and other lessons learned from Southern Crossing.

FRMAC Laboratory Analysis Working Group.

Robb Hadley, LLNL, is the new chair of this group. They will have a meeting in the March/April timeframe. There is no planned revision of this manual at the present time.

Assessment Working Group

Art Shanks, Sandia, co-chair of this working group, is plans to have a meeting of the Assessment group in June/July. They will be updating Assessment Scientist training and also looking at developing CM Home Team training for Assessment Scientists. This group will also be working to bring EPA-400 and the FRMAC Assessment Manual into agreement on calculations.

Advisory Team

Bob Whitcomb from CDC said that the A-Team has three documents right now. One is their charter, which is approved. They also have a Concept of Operations and Procedures which will be discussed at the A-Team meeting on February 6 and 7, 2006.

Post Emergency Working Group

Gregg Dempsey, EPA, said that they hope to have a meeting of this group this spring. He is soliciting people to be a part of this group and asked that, if interested, people contact him by e-mail (dempsey.gregg@epa.gov).

CMHT

Art briefed the CMHT concept and its background. One of the driving factors for the team's development is that it could be approximately 12 hours before federal assistance can arrive on site and be available. The purpose of this concept is to bring the Feds into play and get data into the system and evaluated before CM/FRMAC arrives. Within two hours of notification the bridge line will be up and be able to talk to the states and get conversations going early. This team was first tested in at the Southern Crossing exercise last year. There were some glitches, but it proved itself very valuable. By the time the team was on the ground they already had information on the plume and where it was released. A question was raised as to whether there is any way for the CMHT to link into a local (state) GIS group. Jim Hardeman, from Georgia, responded that a local GIS group could download the SHAPE files. Colleen O'Laughlin also referred to the FRMAC Secure Web Site and said that we are working with CRCPD on who from the states should have access to the FRMAC secure site. A pamphlet will be produced and distributed to everyone describing this asset and providing contact numbers. She also encouraged the states to use this to contact the CMHT in case of an event but added that if they don't call the CMHT directly the CMHT will call them, but it would make it easier if states added this to their procedures. John Nasstrom (NARAC) added that in the early stages there would be a modeling product that would go out through the NARAC web. In the later stages the products will be transferred to the FRMAC site. The SHAPE files received in Southern Crossing probably came from the NARAC web.

The question was also asked if the states should think about incorporating a position in their response to act as a liaison to feed data up to Home Team. Colleen said if this is something a state can do it would be beneficial, but not all states will have the resources for this. The main point is keeping the lines of communication open and a lesson learned for the CM Home Team from Southern Crossing is that the team should have scheduled more calls.

There will be a detailed presentation on CMHT at the 2007 NREP conference. Also, the July call will focus on CMHT. If we have any major advancements in CMHT development we may schedule a call sooner.

Population Monitoring

Bob Whitcomb (CDC) said guidance is in works there (they were assigned to take the lead on this as part of the Nuc / Rad Annex activities). In July 2006 CDC produced a Population Monitoring Web Cast. Details from this will become part of the guidance. He added that there have been a lot of lessons learned as a result of the polonium poisoning incident and these will be incorporated in the guidance. They are trying to get this out before Top Off IV.

Southern Crossing

Colleen O'Laughlin gave a brief summary of last year's Southern Crossing Full Scale DOE-led exercise. She said it was a terrorist type event, but the FBI played a minimal role in order to focus on the consequence management activities. The scenario was based on a truck accident involving CS-137. The exercise ran from Monday through Friday (with a real-time call out for players). In order to accomplish exercise goals some pre-staging was involved. CMRT Phases I and II were called out early in order to start 24-hr operations on Tuesday. On Wednesday a time jump was made to day 6. The exercise concluded on Friday with a table top discussion on the handoff to EPA.

This was the first exercise with Unified Command and FRMAC. One important lesson learned was that Unified Command needs to play 24hours because of its impact on the FRMAC. Also, the time jumps didn't work well by incorporating them into shift turnover. In retrospect, it would have been better to shut down play and gather everyone together to formally present the time jump. Friday's TTX didn't generate as much play and discussion as was hoped for. Everyone was becoming burned out by then.

Two of the other major lessons learned involved sample collection and control. The exercise design pushed the envelope in this area and, as a result, totally overwhelmed the sample control area. Also, some real-world transportation issues (several breakdowns of the plane transporting the CMRT Phase I team) resulted in CMRT Phase II arriving at the exercise first. This generated some issues and we are current reviewing our deployment options.

Representatives from Georgia and Florida (two of the states that were involved in the exercise) added some comments. Jim Hardeman (GA) said he agreed with what Colleen said. His big issue was sample collection and he was happy to hear that their recommendations regarding the Laboratory assets are being leveraged. He also said it was good to hear that CMHT is going to be further developed.

Charlie Adams (Florida) said he is looking forward to seeing changes that come out of this exercise and is looking forward to seeing the discussion at NREP.

Gregg Dempsey (EPA) spoke about the FRMAC transfer on the last day and about the additional consideration that would have to be given to transferring the Coordinating Agency. He said this would have to take place at the DC level but the discussion has put some ideas in peoples' heads. He invited other people to enter the dialog. If anyone wants to get in touch with Gregg, his e-mail address is: dempsey.gregg@epa.gov.

Southern Crossing Lessons Learned

Colleen announced that the SC After Action report has not been released yet. When it is she will announce it and put it on the FRMAC web site.

She did give a summary of the major lessons learned from this exercise. Perhaps one of the most significant is the added complications of working in Unified Command and the fact that Unified Command needs to be 24 hr operation because they drive what goes on. As a result of lessons learned from Southern Crossing a new position has been added to the deployment for FRMAC liaisons. The liaison will work in Unified Command and ensure that all plans are modified to accommodate the Incident Action Plan (for example, the Monitoring and Sampling Plan and the Implementation Plan). FRMAC is also looking at modifying the deployment phases to ensure that we have the right representation everywhere.

Also, as mentioned before, the transportation problems encountered have resulted in a total evaluation of our real world transportation options. Colleen also stated that in a real event a chartered plan would have been procured.

Three hundred samples were submitted in short time frame and that brought a lot of issues to our attention. We will have to work together as unified group and work with handling waste and counting geometries. These issues will be addressed in Laboratory Analysis working group. We also need to look at decontamination planning at the Hot Line and whether everyone has the appropriate PPE. There are plans to address this in the Health & Safety Manual.

Another area for improvement is the timely delivery of products. We are working on a paperless FRMAC system to streamline product distribution. This is a far reaching system that includes telemetry and other technical solutions to speed up product delivery.

Colleen mentioned that this exercise also showed that we need to improve FRMAC outreach. It became clear in the exercise that not everyone was clear on how FRMAC functioned. Efforts to improve this will include outreach with RAP regions, development of a FRMAC DVD. Other avenues are also being investigated. Also we need to make sure everyone knows how CMHT functions.

One of the positive lessons learned was that the exercise design worked effectively in adding a degree of complexity to the exercise. In the exercise the plume turned. This initially raised questions, but once people realized this was part of the plan they realized this was a good test.

All of these lessons learned will be discussed in more detail in the panel discussion at NREP.

IPX discussion

In the next 15 month period we have 12 outreaches and IPX's. Colleen announced that Nevada, who provides maps, will not be able to support all of these outreaches and IPXs because we also will be participating in some major national-level exercise during this period. She asked if members of the group could look at some creative ways to alleviate this problem. For example, could we do marathon outreaches to combine a region or could we get some support from RAP? Non-participation by Nevada hinders the Outreach to a great extent, but she was hoping that with input from FEMA and NRC we could support all. Right now we are hoping support nine IPXs. By the time of the NREP conference Colleen promised to look at the schedule and see where we could give our support. She needs to look at it from the point of who we are supporting with national exercises. Other support will be minimal—we will provide maps and an assessment person will present the maps. The Advance Party Meeting may have to be done by conference call. She asked for everyone to provide feedback and also to check that all IPX's are on the calendar.

Colleen also said that we are waiting for final confirmation on a Full Scale Exercise in the northeast in 2008. Because of other major exercises it may slip to a later date.

Johanna Berkley said that maybe Washington and Oregon can coordinate to have an outreach together for Top Off IV. Colleen said that she is not the lead planner, but her understanding is that at present there are no plans for an outreach for this exercise. However, she asked if you can put a word out to have an outreach because it would be a big payoff. Johanna also offered to take the lead in coordinating this for Diablo Bravo. She will get in touch with Robb Hadley, who is the lead DOE planner.

Ardent Sentry is a DoD-led exercise that is being held May 2007. There is a meeting in the first week of Feb meeting to discuss interagency play for this exercise.

Sandra Gogol (RSL) reported on activities at Vigilant Shield which was held in December 2006. It was a combined ARG/CM event and involved a downed aircraft on an Air Force base. FRMAC play was limited to a SimCell. There were some disconnects due to the limited FRMAC footprint on the site. There was some monitoring support from CST and RAP teams. Overall it went well and FRMAC's participation was well recognized. Gregg Dempsey added that from a state perspective DoD has a lot to learn about the Incident Command System. This was the first time that the JFO was in play and they were struggling to figure out their role. They were trying to direct activity instead of Incident Command.