

2018 Health Physics Society Midyear Meeting Continuing Education Lecture (CEL) Series

Monday: CEL 1

A Radiation Grassroots Response Group—Your Responsibility and How To

John C. White, VA North Texas Health Care System

In any major event, national and even state resources can take some time to marshal and be effective. During that critical early period, it is essential that local responders have the ability to use equipment and contact subject matter experts already present in the local area. In a major radiological incident of any type, radiation safety professionals will be a critical need. It is essential that the health physicist know the local responders and emergency managers and have a working relationship with those groups. It is also essential that an understanding of local resources is widespread, to be able to bring the maximum capabilities to bear to reduce exposures and manage the response environment. This lecture presents one such solution to this difficult problem. North Texas is the fourth largest metropolitan area in the country, but has 143 municipal authorities in a home rule state. The North Texas Radiation Response Group was formed to gather and disseminate information and provide a common meeting event for responders to become familiar with area capabilities, determine equipment gaps, and advance training and radiological response programs in the metro area. Significant success has been achieved with equipment purchase, training capabilities notification, and face-to-face meetings of those with common purpose.

This lecture will demonstrate the need for your action in your area and provide you the basic building blocks to organize your own local group with a focus on radiological response.

Tuesday: CEL 2

Radiation Safety and Hurricane Harvey in Texas

Janet Gutierrez, DrPH, MPH, CHP, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth)

UTHealth was one of the many institutions impacted by the Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent storm in August of 2017. Additionally, UTHealth in Houston, Texas, has weathered several storms through the years, including Tropical Storm Allison in June of 2001, which caused over 1 million gross square feet of space to be out of service for at least one month. In the 2001 storm, 10 million gallons of water inundated the medical-school complex, including a cyclotron facility. This CEL will discuss the planning, response, and lessons learned specific to radiological use at UTHealth for Hurricane Harvey. This presentation will also describe conditions, responses, and lessons learned for notable storms UTHealth has experienced in the past, such as Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 and Hurricane Ike in 2008. The presentation will also discuss mutual aid plans in place to facilitate sharing of resources and recovery efforts with a focus on efforts related to radiation safety.

WEDNESDAY: NO CEL