CARPA
California Air Response Planning Alliance

CARPA Newsletter

Dec, 2009
Volume 2

CARPA Reaches Out to First Responders

Incident Commanders, firefighters, and hazardous materials responders know how to sample and monitor toxic gases at the scene of an emergency. But, they may not know that similar tools can be used to protect communities downwind from a toxic release.

At the 20th Annual Continuing Challenge Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Workshop, CARPA members provided training to first responders on a multi-agency concept of operations for major air releases and other emergencies involving hazardous air pollution issues.

John Kennedy, Jeff Cook, Shelley DuTeaux, and Libby Vianu provided up-to-date information on air monitoring and sampling tools, modeling, interpretation of health data, and public messaging. Participants were encouraged to share their perspectives and lessons learned from their respective jurisdictions, which included Hawaii, Arizona, US EPA Region V (Chicago), as well as California.

At the end of the day, John, Jeff, Libby and Shelley offered CARPA's assistance in bringing together partners to create a comprehensive interagency response framework for major air releases in communities across California.

The Continuing Challenge presentation is available at http://www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/carpa-overview.pdf.

Updated WISER Software

The latest version of WISER, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders, is now available from the National Library of Medicine.

Updated with:

- current health guidance levels
- more robust mapping
- chemical identification based on symptoms

Visit
http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/

Steering Committee Membership Expands

Number and scope of represented agencies grows

To expand representation from federal and local agencies on the CARPA Steering Committee, several new members were approved during the August and October 2009 meetings. New members will be profiled in upcoming newsletters starting in this issue.

Additional members representing the hazmat and the first response community, as well as environmental health, may be added in the coming months.

New Member Profile

Trent Procter, US Forest Service

Trent is currently the Air Quality Program Manager for the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service. He provides program and technical guidance to the Region's 18 National Forests in California and the Pacific

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New Member Profiles, *continued*

Islands. Trent has 30 years of experience with the Forest Service and has served in his present position since 2004. His experience includes tracking the status and change of forest resource values that can be impacted by air pollution as well as air quality regulatory consultation and policy development.

Trent Procter,
New CARPA Steering Committee member

CA National Guard
9th Civil Support Team
is hosting its annual Survey, Analytical, and Operations Conference

December 15-17, 2009

in Anaheim.

For more information visit the conference website at www.9thcst.com.

Charles Pearson,

New CARPA Steering Committee member

New Member Profile

Charles Pearson, California Air Resources Board

Charles joined the Air Resources Board (ARB) in 2001 in the Monitoring and Laboratory Division's Quality Assurance Section, where he conducted performance audits to support ARB's criteria pollutant, toxic air contaminant, and meteorological monitoring programs. Along with conducting system audits, developing quality assurance and quality control procedures, and making recommendations regarding data accuracy, Charles also started working with ARB's Emergency Response Team. In 2007, Charles shifted to full-time emergency response work and now is primarily responsible for coordinating the Field Surveillance Group. Along with developing and conducting training programs, managing and deploying meteorological sensors, gas analyzers, particulate monitors, operating satellite and communications systems, maintaining contracts, Charles also coordinates with local agencies during deployments. Charles holds a BS in Biology with a concentration in Biological Conservation from California State University Sacramento.

New Air Emergency Team forming in EPA Region 9

EPA Region 9 recently formed an air emergency response team (AERT) to augment the Region's existing emergency response program.

Members include two federal on-scene coordinators (OSCs) and staff from air monitoring, data management, quality assurance, and the laboratory. A toxicologist and public information officer also recently joined.

The team will provide analysis and advice to incident command and senior management on air quality issues and public health impacts during large air incidents. Members of the team are qualified to assist OSCs with field monitoring and sampling in downwind communities.

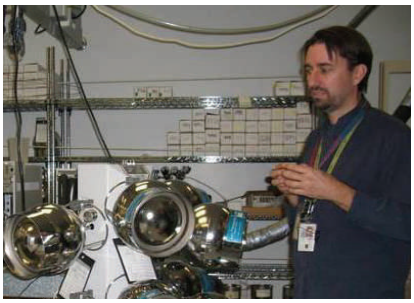
Deployable assets include:

- mobile monitoring trailer
- mobile lab with on-board GS/MS
- portable particulate matter monitors and canisters

Stationary lab assets are located in Richmond CA.

AERT also recently met with ARB's Emergency Response Team to develop a concept of operations and to organize joint air sampling exercises.

For more information, please contact John Kennedy (415.947.4129) or Harry Allen (415.972.3063).



Matt Plate, US EPA Region 9,
Air Emergency Response Team

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We're on the web!

www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/carpa.htm

Join our listserv at the CARPA webpage. Simply click "Join Email List" on the left navigation bar. Email comments to Shelley DuTeaux, sduteaux@arb.ca.gov.