



DATA TO MESSAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

WORK PLAN

JUNE 2009 – DECEMBER 2010

Background

The 2008 CARPA Conference (Oct 15-16, 2008, Sacramento, CA) was the first opportunity for local, state, and federal partners to gather around the topic of preparedness and response to emergencies with air quality impacts. Three themes ran throughout the conference:

Data – Measurement and assessment of air data

Data to Message – Interpretation of air data for health-based decision making

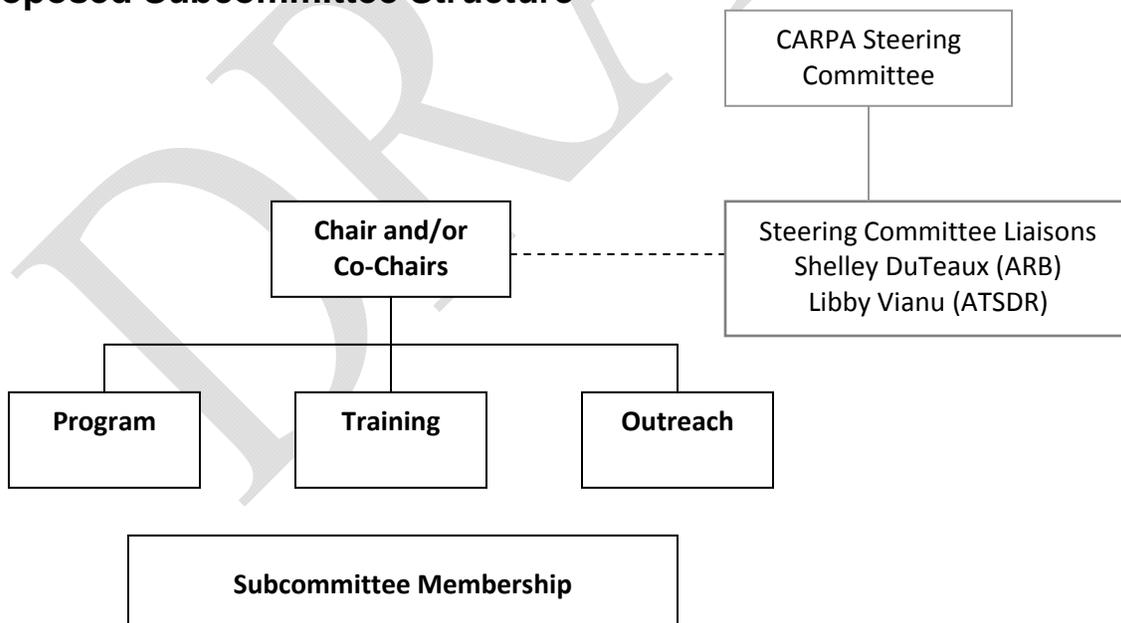
Message – Delivery of simple, clear, and actionable messages to the public

In January 2009, the CAPRA Steering Committee established three standing subcommittees to reflect these three themes, the goal of which is to focus in more depth on ways to improve interagency coordination for major air releases.

Data to Message Subcommittee

The goal of the CARPA Data to Message Subcommittee is to facilitate preparedness, training, and coordination of public health issues that arise during major air releases. Through this subcommittee, we hope to gain a better understanding of the challenges of using air quality data and health-based action levels to make rapid decisions about health and safety during emergencies. Subcommittee meetings will largely be by conference call, with larger training opportunities offered both on-line and in person.

Proposed Subcommittee Structure



Possible Objectives

Health-based Action Levels

- 1) Gain a better understanding of the instruments used for air monitoring, including the detection limits versus action level concentrations.
- 2) Identify the top 10 chemicals at risk for release in communities. Sort by volume and toxicity and identify the known effects and action levels for the specific chemicals and steps for potential sheltering-in-place or evacuation for planning purposes.
- 3) Understand parameters and limitations of all relevant exposure standards.
- 4) Understand the use of occupational health standards to avoid inconsistencies between worker health and community messages during an emergency.
- 5) Explore the ways to build consensus on scientific disagreements in the interpretation of data and issuance of public health warnings.

Public and Occupational Health Considerations

- 1) Bring Poison Control Centers into the air response community. Gain a better understanding of how Poison Control Centers can help during a major air release (i.e., to capture public exposure information and syndromic data).
- 2) Bring Local Health Departments more fully into air response community.

Health Messaging

- 1) Collaborate with Message to Audience Subcommittee to prepare messages for anticipated events.
 - a) Practice translating technical details into short, concise public messages.
 - b) Be prepared to explain different exposure scenarios, data uncertainties, and scientific uncertainties to the public and administration.
- 2) Build a cooperative relationship between the Air Quality Districts and the Public Health Departments such that messages during an emergency are consistent.
- 3) Consider approaches to messaging and informing health action decisions, including public and outdoor activities.

Others

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)