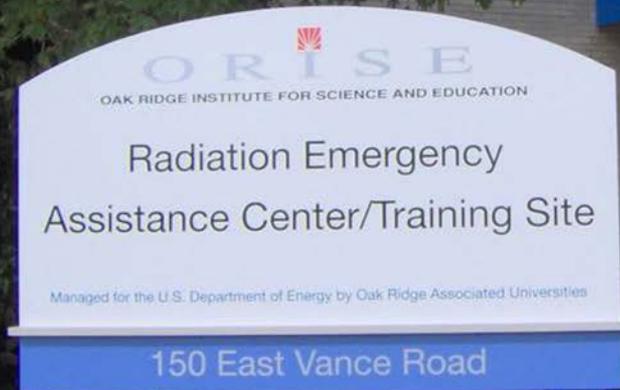


REAC/TS

Lessons Learned from the Japan Response: REAC/TS Perspective



*Steve Sugarman, MS, CHP, CHCM
Health Physics Project Manager
REAC/TS*

REAC/TS Missions – 24/7

- Radiation Medicine advice and consultation
- Health Physics radiation dose assessments
- Deployable Emergency Response Teams (ERT 1 & 2) for on-scene assistance

Physician
Health Physicist
Nurse/Paramedic



Domestic & International Deployment Capability

CONUS – deploy w/in 4 hours OCONUS – deploy w/in 6 hours



International Collaboration:

- World Health Organization (WHO) Collaboration Center and member of the Radiation Emergency Medical Preparedness and Assistance Network (REMPAN)
- Member of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Response and Assistance Network (RANET)

Education Related to the Medical Management of Radiological Incidents (Typical Year)

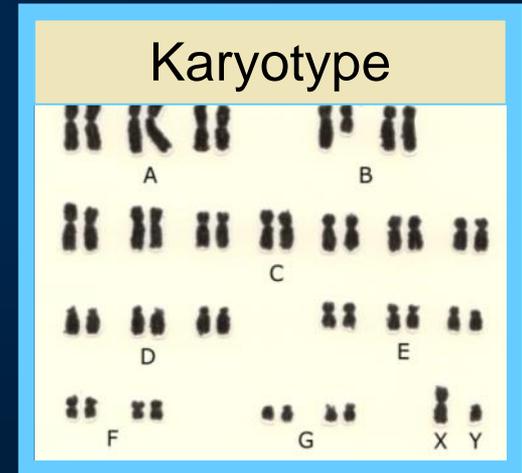
- 8 REM 3.5 day courses
- 2 ARM 4.5 day courses
- 3 HP 4.5 day courses
- 2 Pre-hospital 1.5 day courses
- 3 specially designed courses provided locally (3.5–4.5 days)
- 3 offsite courses for DOE facilities (1-2 days)
- 10 offsite courses for private entities
- Multiple invited presentations/lectures
- Multiple international courses

Cytogenetic Biodosimetry Capability

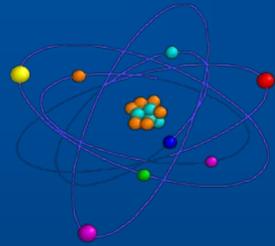
- "Gold" standard for acute whole body radiation dose assessments
- A national emergency response asset:
Utilizes metaphase spreads of lymphocytes to search for chromosome aberrations (dicentric) specific to radiation exposures

New

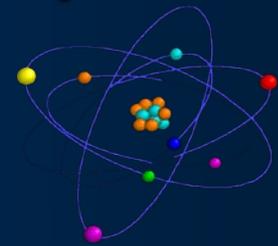
Automated Cytogenetics Workstation



REAC/TS Fukushima Response

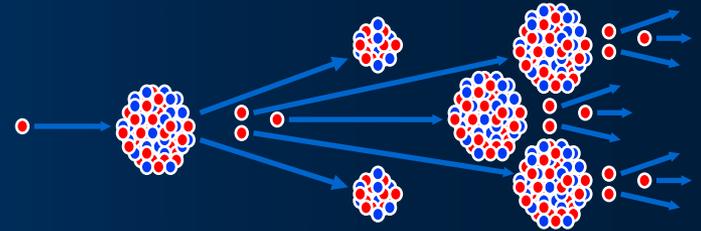


(Mar – Apr, 2011)



- REAC/TS received the first call on 11 March 2011
- REAC/TS was available 24/7 and responded to over 200 calls for assistance/information from government, public, and media within the first few weeks
- Over 500 emails generated early on in the response

Typical Questions from the Public



- Is it safe for me to be in Japan?
- Is it safe for my family/friends in Japan?
- Do I need to take potassium iodide (KI) and when should I take it (from people in US and in Japan)?
- I just took a KI pill—when should I take another one? (a US citizen in Texas, for example).
- Where do I get KI?
- Does my company need to evacuate employees?
- Where/how can I, or my employees, be screened to rule out contamination?

Questions /Assistance Provided US Government Officials

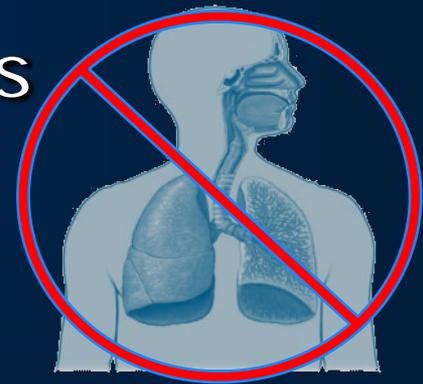
- Assistance on radionuclide contamination screening methods
- Assistance in development of screening criteria and action/triage levels
- Many questions on medical use of KI, ie: when/how to use KI...if it's needed
- Questions on medical use/availability of Prussion Blue for intakes of cesium

Typical Guidance Provided by REAC/TS

- Follow local public health guidance from media
- Provided diagnosis/treatment guidelines per IAEA, NCRP, CDC, FDA, NRC and the REAC/TS pocket guide, website.
- No real or significant potential for acute health effects outside of exclusion area
- Consult with a physician before doing anything not advised by public health officials

REAC/TS Provided Assistance/Advice to:

- Members of the general public and media
- Occupational health physicians
- Corporate management
- DOD, DOE, DOS, DHHS, NRC, various state government officials
- Japanese gov't public health officials
- Domestically and internationally



Observations/Lessons Learned

- Calls were received at all hours due to the time difference between Japan (and other locations) and Oak Ridge, TN (EST)
- Not surprisingly, there was a general fear of radiation among the public and within the medical response community
- There is a need for education on medical response to radiological incidents within the medical community and within all federal and state government offices

Observations/Lessons Learned

- The media plays a major role, not only in dissemination of information, but in shaping public opinion
- Various communication skills are essential in relaying accurate information to the media, the public, and medical personnel in language that is understandable to the intended audience



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Thank You!

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RADIATION EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE CENTER/TRAINING SITE ■ OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE


ORISE