

National Preparedness Against Radiological Terrorism

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) supports national security by preparing federal, state, and local emergency response, medical, and public health professionals to respond to an act of radiological terrorism, especially events that result in mass casualties.

ORISE assisted the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in sponsoring an interagency national conference on radiological terrorism. The conference opened with senior government officials from the White House welcoming attendees. The officials included the coordinator of crisis management and the director of the CDC, Dr. Charles Miller, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness, Health and Human Services, Nichole Lurie, and Brian Kamoie, the White House Director for Preparedness Policy. The conference hosted more than 400 participants just two weeks after Japan's earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent emergency at its nuclear power plants. Given these events, the goal of preparing the emergency response, clinician, and public health workforces for radiological and nuclear terrorism was never more evident. The conference could not accommodate all interested attendees so ORISE broadcast the meeting, via web, and posted video of the speaker's presentations and slides on its website.

The Health Communication and Technical Training (HCTT) program conducted six workshops about the design and operation of a Community Reception Center for personnel monitoring and decontamination. Workshops included a physical walk-through and demonstration of monitoring and decontamination procedures in a mock center, as well as training conference attendees how to use the Virtual Community Reception Center, a web based tool that lets users practice how to set up and operate a temporary monitoring and decontamination center. Nearly 800 attended the workshops in fiscal year 2011.



Mock Public Monitoring Center for Assessing Radiological Contamination