Protecting Avian Influenza Responders Presentation Summaries

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

8:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER)
Sven Rudman, Senior Industrial Hygienist, OSHA
Peter Petch, Industrial Hygienist, USDA-APHIS

- Focused on the newly revised Emergency Response Directive and Emergency Responder Training.
- The Emergency Response Plan is a guideline to handling anticipated emergencies prior to the commencement of emergency response operations.
- Details the necessary components for any response plan

Disinfection and Cleaning Hazards
Steven W. Downs, Response Preparedness Group, National ER Group/Strike Team, Clean Harbors Environmental Services
Jeff Kempter, Senior Advisor Anti Microbials Division, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
Gary Babb, Response Preparedness Group, National ER Group/Strike Team, Clean Harbors Environmental Services

- Focused on the need to established coherent plans for disinfecting and cleaning an area
- Certain environments and situations require the use of different cleaning methods and it is important to distinguish which method will be most effective at a given time
- Good planning, and communication is key to allow the disinfecting and cleaning process to run smoothly and effectively

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Bernie Mizula, Industrial Hygienist, National Clearinghouse for Worker & Safety Training

- PPE is a solid protective unit for responders that effectively helps prevent hazards, it does have it limits
- PPE tends to generate large amounts of heat within the unit that places responders at risk of heat stress
- To reduce risks of hazards, responders must be aware of how long they can remain in PPE as well as how to properly remove the equipment prior to any outbreak.

ICS/NIMS
Paul Ganem, Training Specialist, Incident Management Systems Division, NIC
Marie Martinez, Fire Program Specialist, US Fire Administration, FEMA

- HSPD-5 incidents start and end locally
- Focused on how incident commanders are selected and how ESFs are integrated with NIMS
- A consistent system of standards (Training standards etc.) and consistent jargon are needed to handle emergencies at all levels and to ensure flexible ongoing support with NIMS

Setting Up/Preparing for a Local Avian Influenza Response
Dr. Fraser Owens, Area Emergency Coordinator, USDA-APHIS
Steven Smith, Animal Identification Coordinator, USDA-APHIS

- Focused on how to prepare industry led initiatives rather than relying on federal or state led ones
- How local entities get funding and how local, state and federal funding flows during a non-Stafford events (e.g. LPAI)
- What actions take place during the presumptive "phase" of an outbreak

USDA/APHIS Health and Safety Plan (HASP) Template Workshop
Tom Franklin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA-APHIS

- Notes N/A

Carcass Disposal and Associated Hazards
James Howard, Consultant, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

- The key to being able to effectively remove animals is to have more than one disposal option.
- Available options include: Burial, Composting, Trucking and Material Handling and Rendering among others.
- Depending on the circumstances some disposal options will work more effectively than others and it is important to be informed on each option's strengths.

On-Scene Coordinator's Train-the –Trainer Program for AI Response (Part 1)
Erica Canzler, Environment Protection Specialist, Office of Emergency Management, EPA

- Demo of video course led by EPA, USDA & HHS
- Copies for training available upon request

10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

<u>Breakout sessions continued</u>

Heavy Equipment Hazards
William R. Byrnes, Instructor, IUOE/NJ TF-1 Liaison

Aaron A. Ondo, Industrial Hygienist/Instructor, IUOE National Training Fund

- Equipment poses real hazards for onsite responders if they are not trained properly.
- Key issues in safety training include: swing radius hazards, blind spots, collapses among others
- WTC responders experienced problems with hand signals when they tried to direct operating engineers. Lesson learned is to be properly trained to do this.

Back-yard bird issues and Associated Hazards
Dr. James Davis, Senior Staff Veterinarian, USDA-APHIS

- Develop a check list for the C&D crews that: Prevents disease spread, removes contaminated materials and provides a safe work environment for crew
- Identify possible roadblocks which include: language, weather, state and local regulations on environment, cleaning agents etc.
- Information on OSHA's role and regulations that promote worker safety

Depopulation Operations Hazards (Bird Flu Control)
Harm Kiezebrink, CEO, Bird Flu Control, Netherlands

- Overview and lessons learned from the recent 2003 H7N7 outbreak in Holland and Belgium
- "One fit all" systems do not exist
- How to avoid mistakes with PPE

Responder Training in the Field: Considerations and Delivery
Ron Snyder, Program Director, Environmental Training Center, Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute

- Purpose of program is to train master trainers in all states that will train training officers from all jurisdictions and disciplines
- Provided information on responder groups, roles and functions
- Demonstrates how program will improve worker safety

Critical Stress Management
Dori B. Reissman, MD, MPH, CAPT, US Public Health Service, Senior Medical Advisor, NIOSH

- Focuses on the different types of stress workers and responders experience, its sources and how to best control for them
- How to be psychologically prepared for incidents to improve response and recovery
- Provides tips on how to develop team cohesion and leadership

Confined Space Hazards
Arthur W. (Bill) Benson, Project Manager, EnviroHygiene LLC

- Focused on identifying what constitutes a confined space, assessing the danger they present to the entrant, and understanding the entrant's and supervisor's role in these situations.

- Without adequate access to breathing materials and ready escape procedures, entrants and responders to AI are placed at great risks
- Regulations that must be adhered to when performing any task in a confined space.

Instituting Control Zones
Dr. Elizabeth Rohonczy, Biosecurity Officer, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

- Focused on setting up control zones dealing with complex situations

On-Scene Coordinator's Train-the-trainer Program for AI Response (Part 2)
Erica Canzler, Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of Emergency Management EPA

- Notes N/A

Last Thought and Recommended Next Steps:

- Share knowledge with other countries
- Need to see more collaborative efforts
- Need a plan if infected product makes it to the slaughter plants
- Communicate at and with all levels
- Deal with regulatory processes.
- Bring Public Health and APHIS for each state in one conference
- Need to discuss more human to human transmission along with animal transmissions
- Use case studies to learn
- Develop talking points specific for media
- Medical clearance for responders