

REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

LOCATION: Owyhee Plaza Hotel, Boise, Idaho

PARTICIPANTS: [6.21.06 attendance list](#). [6.22.06 attendance list](#).

PUBLIC SESSION AGENDA:

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY JUNE 21, 2006

- 8:00 – 8:15 **WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**
(Bill Bishop, ID BHS; Chris Field, EPA; and Dennis Hunsinger, FEMA)
- 8:15 – 8:45 Avian Influenza Preparedness and Response. (Dr. Brad LeaMaster, USDA, APHIS, VS)
- 8:45 – 9:45 Idaho Poultry and Game Bird Industry – Big Picture Surveillance and Response to Avian Influenza. (Dr. Marilyn Simunich, ID State Department of Agriculture)
- 9:45 – 10:30 Pandemic Influenza (Dr. Patrick O’Carroll, HHS and FEMA)
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coordination of the Federal Response to Pandemic Influenza (Dave Boughton, FEMA and Andy Stevermer, HHS)
- 11:00 – 11:15 **[BREAK]**
- 11:15 – 12:00 ESF’s Lead Agency discussion of Avian and Pandemic Flu activities and response from ESFs and Agencies. (10 minutes or less per ESF or Agency)
- What is your agency doing to prepare?
 - What can your agency contribute to a federal response?
- 12:00 – 1:30 **[NO HOST LUNCH]**
- 1:30 – 5:00 Group facilitated discussion focusing on state and federal support to local government following arrival of avian and then a pandemic flu outbreak.
- How will we continue routine response to oil and hazardous materials incidents?
 - How will we organize?
 - How will the ESFs respond?

MINUTES:

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Fred Abt (ID Bureau of Homeland Security), Chris Field (EPA) and Dave Boughton (FEMA) called the meeting to order at 0800. They welcomed everyone to Boise and led introductions around the room.

AVIAN INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Dr. Brad LeaMaster (USDA, Veterinary Services) gave a [presentation](#) on preparing and responding to Avian Influenza in the Northwest. He started the discussion with an overview of the types of avian influenza. There are two forms High-Path and Low-Path, Low-Path is very common. The virus is very similar to Human Influenza in that it is highly contagious and is passed by contact. Bio-Security is the key to stopping the spread of the disease. Outbreaks have happened before and the USDA is prepared to deal with another. Dr. LeaMaster went on to explain the biology of the viruses H5 and H7. Low-Path strains of the viruses can turn into High-Path, therefore surveillance of the viruses even when at the Low-Path level is important. Fowl, Waterfowl and Shorebirds are normally the carriers of the H5 and H7 viruses. After several generations, the virus can cross over from birds to mammals. Constant surveillance of bird farms and transport of birds is going on and is the best way to locate and control the disease. A monitoring and certification program, the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) works with the poultry and bird industry in controlling avian influenza. Unregulated bird markets are nearly impossible to spot and disease can spread easily.

Dr. LeaMaster introduced the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHL). The NAHL labs provide regional support for sample analysis. He explained Border Security and Trade Restriction efforts to control the entry of birds carrying diseases. The USDA Wildlife Services received money to

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

conduct surveillance on wild birds; they are doing work in Alaska now. Dr. LeaMaster provided some information on Outreach and Education efforts to protect the industry and the public from Avian Influenza. He also explained the USDA's role in ESF-8 of the National Response Plan. Visit the Pandemic Flu [website](#) for more information.

IDAHO POULTRY AND GAME BIRD INDUSTRY – BIG PICTURE SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO AVIAN INFLUENZA

Dr. Marilyn Simunich (ID State Department of Agriculture) [presented](#) information on the State of Idaho's efforts to control and respond to Avian Influenza. Dr. Simunich began by giving an overview of the bird industry in Idaho. There is only one commercial poultry operation in the state, but there are many game bird operations totaling over 1,000,000 birds. She identified three surveillance systems in place that are used in Idaho the NPIP-Commercial Poultry, NPIP-Upland Game Birds, and the LBMS – Live Bird Market System. She also identified areas of no surveillance such as Backyard Bird Markets and Bird Athletes.

Dr. Simunich went into detail about how the surveillance and response works in Idaho. When H5 and H7 viruses are found in commercial poultry action is made, if they are found in game birds no overt action is made. If the Asian H5N1 strain is found in any bird, control methods are enacted. Idaho has created an Initial Response and Containment Plan for H5/H7 Low-Path Avian Influenza.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Dr. Patrick O'Carroll, MD provided a [presentation](#) on how Pandemic Influenza works and why we are worried about it now. He noted that this new H5N1 virus satisfies every pre-requisite to be a Pandemic, excluding sustained and rapid human to human spread. Pandemic Influenza has happened before and will happen again but the numbers show that historic worldwide Pandemics have a <1% mortality rate, and with the response structure currently in place there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Dr. O'Carroll gave a quick biology lesson on Influenza in general. He introduced the idea of Drift vs. Shift. Drift is what occurs every year with Human Influenza; Shift is what can cause Pandemics. Slow transmissibility could allow scientists to develop a vaccine. Fast transmissibility can cause a mass spread before a vaccine becomes available.

He gave a status report stating that there is still very limited human to human transmission. In early 2004 cases began popping up in SE Asia. Beginning in 2005 the disease started spreading more rapidly into China, and in early 2006 cases began to show up in Europe. As of now the mortality rate is at 57% for those who are infected, the number is probably lower because only the most sick are identified as being infected. Dr. O'Carroll gave some recommendations from the World Health Organization on preparing for a Pandemic Avian Influenza, all of which the United States is doing.

Dr. O'Carroll also brought up things that we all can do to protect our families and our workplace. Those include not showing up to work when you're sick, educate yourself, keep supplies, medications and materials at home, and take precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. Visit the Pandemic Flu [website](#) for more information.

COORDINATION OF FEDERAL RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

Dave Boughton (FEMA) and Andy Stevermer (HHS) [presented](#) thoughts on how the Federal Government as a whole (between agencies) would respond to Pandemic Influenza. Creating a plan is the first step in coordinating a response. Mr. Stevermer explained that the National Response Plan will be the basis for the Pandemic plan. The plan will outline methods and delineate the Federal Response to a Pandemic disaster. He noted that a Pandemic disaster would not be run under a Stafford Act emergency but as an Incident of National Significance. He explained that a declaration of a Public Health Emergency by HHS would de-regulate public health care and grant some authorities to respond.

Mr. Boughton stated that FEMA would take the lead on a Pandemic response. He went on to explain that the NRP and ICS will be used to coordinate how the different agencies will work together. The take home message for each agency is: How can your agency help stop or slow the spread of the disease?

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

ESF'S LEAD AGENCY DISCUSSION OF AVIAN AND PANDEMIC FLU ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSE FROM ESF'S AND AGENCIES

Dave Boughton (FEMA) invited each ESF lead agency to describe what they are doing to prepare for a Pandemic Influenza response.

- ❖ **ESF-1:** Dolph Diemont (DOT) said that the US DOT put out a Pandemic Flu plan about 6 months ago, knowing that the DOT will be greatly impacted. Each mode of transportation was also directed to put out their own plan. He explained that they are encouraging and training worker safety, including increasing work at home possibilities. In late January or early February DOT will host a COOP exercise "Flu the COOP" with ESF-8 and possibly others.
- ❖ **ESF-2:** DHS Not Present, See ESF-7
- ❖ **ESF-3:** Not Present
- ❖ **ESF-4:** David Summer (USFS) explained that they have developed workforce protection plans for Pandemic Flu. He estimated that up to 40% of their workforce will be engaged in the response. The Forest Service can bring in Command and Control structures with Incident Management Teams. He stated that the Forest Service would like to know where exactly they fit in the Pandemic Flu response plan.
- ❖ **ESF-5:** Dave Boughton (FEMA) said that they will set up a JFO somewhere immediately in response to a Pandemic. They will also provide Federal Operations Support as requested. FEMA is providing work at home support and social distancing opportunities to their employees.
- ❖ **ESF-6:** DHS Not Present
- ❖ **ESF-7:** Ray Robins (GSA) stated that GSA has an interim plan for Pandemic Flu and it will be updated frequently. They hope to generate more of a checklist type plan. He sees GSA as support to all Federal Agencies not the General Public. GSA already has a good work at home plan, but they look to expand it.
- ❖ **ESF-8:** Andy Stevermer (HHS) [presented](#) Health and Human Service's Pandemic Flu planning updates.
- ❖ **ESF-9:** Not Present
- ❖ **ESF-10:** Beth Sheldrake (EPA) explained that the EPA continues to do COOP planning. They are also working with the state and APHIS to provide technical support on carcass disposal. The EPA is training their OSCs to integrate in with APHIS and USFWS to deal with de-population. Education on personal protection is also ongoing. Ms. Sheldrake said the EPA is working with the oil and chemical industries to plan for controlled shut downs with minimum personnel. EPA can provide decontamination of responders and the public as well as ICS trained personnel to fill in other positions. Captain Steve Metruck (USCG) explained that the Coast Guard will work to keep the Ports open for commerce.
- ❖ **ESF-11:** Dr. Brad LeaMaster (USDA) discussed what the USDA is doing to prepare for a Pandemic response. They are developing SOPs and coordinating with local and state authorities. The first responder personnel are also been trained in PPE and HAZWOPER.
- ❖ **ESF-12:** Not Present
- ❖ **ESF-13:** A Department of Justice representative delineated what the needs may be in this type of response including mass mobilization of law enforcement.
- ❖ **ESF-14:** Dennis Burton (FEMA) explained that they have yet to approve a plan, but hopes that ESF-14 will play a big role in a Pandemic Flu response.
- ❖ **ESF-15:** Not Present

GROUP FACILITATED DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF AVIAN AND THEN A PANDEMIC FLU OUTBREAK

Mark Pely (HHS) led a group exercise developed by the Department of Defense to help response officials discuss planning and response to various stages of a Pandemic Influenza outbreak. The meeting participants were broken into functional groups based on ESF. There were four successive periods in the exercise, each one adding scenarios on to the previous. At the end of each stage, discussion points were given and each group deliberated on the points and gave a summary of their discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The RRT/NWAC Public Session Day 1 concluded at 1700.

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 21 - 22, 2006**

DAY 2: THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2006

- 8:00 – 8:10 **WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**
(Bill Bishop, ID BHS; Chris Field, EPA; and Dennis Hunsinger, FEMA)
- 8:10 – 8:25 2006 NWACP Updates (Matt Bernard, USCG)
- 8:25 – 8:35 FEMA Region 10 Updates (Dave Boughton, FEMA)
- 8:35 – 9:00 Pre-positioned Equipment Program (PEP) release protocols. (Vince Cacanindin, FEMA)
- 9:00 – 10:00 NW RISC Updates
- ESF/Agency Reports
 - 1) Transportation
 - 2) Communications
 - 3) Public Works and Engineering
 - 4) Firefighting
 - 5) Emergency Management
 - 6) Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services
 - 7) Resource Support
 - 8) Public Health and Medical Services
 - 9) Urban Search and Rescue
 - 10) Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
 - 11) Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - 12) Energy
 - 13) Public Safety and Security
 - 14) Long-Term Community Recovery and Mitigation
 - 15) External Affairs
- 10:00 – 10:15 Resources at Risk (Elaine Johnson, Refuge Manager, Deer Flats NWR)
- 10:15 – 11:00 Workgroup Updates
- Steering Committee
 - GRP
 - Communications and Public Outreach
 - Response Technologies
 - Logistics
 - Hazardous Substances
 - Wildlife
- 11:00 – 11:40 RRT/NWAC Agency Updates
- 11:40 – 11:45 General Discussion of Joint Meeting
- 11:45 – 11:50 Set Meeting Dates for 2007 and Adjourn

MINUTES:

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Captain Joe Rodriguez (USCG D13) and Chris Field (EPA) called the meeting to order at 0800. They welcomed everyone and led introductions around the room.

2006 NWACP UPDATES

Matt Bernard (USCG) [presented](#) updates made to the NWACP in 2006. He explained the process of making changes to the plan. A summary of the updates are stated on the [presentation](#). Capt. Rodriguez (USCG) stated that some of the Chapter 2000 (Command) changes were made in response to lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. Jack Wylie (ODEQ) explained the inclusion of economic resources into GRPs. Ruth Yender (NOAA) outlined the update to the Dispersant Use Policy in a [presentation](#). Included in the new policy is an Authorization Checklist for the FOSC. The 2006 NWACP can be found at the NWACP page on the RRT/NWAC [website](#).

REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

FEMA REGION 10 UPDATES

Dave Boughton (FEMA) provided some updates on FEMA Region 10 activities. There have been some significant personnel changes. Regional Director John Pennington has announced his resignation effective July 10. He has taken a job as Emergency Manager for Snohomish County, WA. Dennis Hunsinger will assume responsibilities as acting Regional Director. There are still many vacancies in FEMA Region 10 that will be advertised soon. FEMA Region 10 is backup to Region 6 (Texas, Louisiana) therefore they are severely impacted by Hurricanes.

PRE-POSITIONED EQUIPMENT PROGRAM (PEP) RELEASE PROGRAM

Dave Boughton (FEMA) explained the Pre-Positioned Equipment Program (PEP). The PEP stores HAZMAT equipment such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). FEMA headquarters provides the equipment, but it is managed by local government. Currently in Region 10 it is managed by King County, WA.

RISC UPDATES

Each RISC agency gave an update to the meeting, details are as follows:

- **ESF-1:** Dolph Diemont (DOT) said that after the Pacific Peril exercise, the DOT has been soliciting feedback from local and state participants on how it went. Another exercise DOT is planning is called "Flu the COOP" which is an Avian Flu Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise. They have also been evaluating state evacuation plans in response to the 2005 Hurricane season. DOT is re-organizing to be more prepared to handle certain types of emergencies.
- **ESF-2:** Ray Robins (GSA) discussed some organizational changes within GSA. Some new telecommunications personnel have been hired.
- **ESF-3:** None
- **ESF-4:** None
- **ESF-5:** FEMA Region 10 Updates Section
- **ESF-6:** None
- **ESF-7:** Ray Robins (GSA) announced that GSA has recently hired a security coordinator for Region 10 to oversee security at the over 600 buildings they manage in Region 10.
- **ESF-8:** Andy Stevermer (HHS) gave an update on HHS reorganization including the creation of 25 response teams including public health support teams and mental health teams as well as emergency medical shelters. HHS is now also required to support ESF-6 in a more robust manner. The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) has been put back into the control of HHS.
- **ESF-9:** Dave Boughton (FEMA) said that there are teams being trained in water (not swift water) rescue, in response to the hurricanes.
- **ESF-10:** Captain Joe Rodriguez (USCG) stated that since the hurricane response the USCG has developed Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments to help with an expedited response. Certain Coast Guard Flight Officers have been pre-designated as Principal Federal Officer (PFO) for various geographic areas. Chris Field (EPA) said that the EPA had a large piece of the Hurricane response and one thing that came out of it was to possibly add a search and rescue portion to ESF-10. The EPA is concerned with how many times ESF-10 comes up in the command structure and wonders how it can fill all of the positions.
- **ESF-11:** None
- **ESF-12:** None
- **ESF-13:** A Department of Justice (DOJ) representative explained how DOJ is taking over ESF-13. They are still learning from the Katrina After Action Report and are incorporating lessons learned into their plan. Having law enforcement authority at local levels is one main issue being worked on.
- **ESF-14:** Dennis Burton (FEMA) announced that he is new to this assignment. He

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

explained how the organizational structure will work and talked about an organization meeting in Washington DC.

- **ESF-15:** None
- **State of Idaho:** None
- **State of Oregon:** None
- **State of Washington:** Roger Heib (WA OEM) stated that the state of WA received a \$1.6 million grant for Emergency Management activities including training local authorities. The WA State Legislature and NOAA allotted monies to add 30 more All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) systems in the state. Washington State was activated for Hurricane Katrina and was asked if they could take evacuees, they agreed to 500.

RESOURCES AT RISK

Elaine Johnson (USFWS), Regional Director of Deer Flats National Wildlife Refuge, [presented](#) information on resources in the refuge that could be impacted from a spill. She gave an overview of the USFWS's National Wildlife System including their mission statement and map of refuges. In addition Ms. Johnson gave a brief history of the Deer Flats National Wildlife Refuge. She noted that 115 miles of the Snake River run through the refuge causing multiple challenges. There are varying habitats and fish and wildlife species in the refuge, as well as grazing and crops. Recreation also occurs on the refuge, mainly hunting, fishing, bird watching, and environmental education. Ms. Johnson also identified locations on the refuge of potential spill locations. Pesticides are also a concern on the refuge. She also noted that Avian Influenza sampling will occur at Deer Flats NWR this fall.

WORKGROUP UPDATES

- **Steering Committee:** Matt Bernard (USCG) listed things the Steering Committee has been working on including:
 - Getting the 2006 NWACP published.
 - Developing a Strategic Plan for the upcoming year.
- **Geographic Response Plan (GRP):** Jack Wylie (ODEQ) gave an [update](#) on GRP workgroup happenings. He also recognized Mark Lehman (WA Ecology) for his work on the Columbia / Snake River Spill Response Initiative.
- **Communication and Public Outreach:** Matt Bernard (USCG) spoke on behalf of Randy Clark (USCG) to update the meeting what the workgroup has done. They developed and published the Joint Information Center (JIC) manual. They also created some Pre-JIC guidance for early press releases.
- **Response Technologies:** Ruth Yender (NOAA) stated that the majority of the effort this year has been on the new Dispersant Policy.
- **Logistics:** Matt Bernard (USCG) announced that Scott Knudson has developed a charter and will be soliciting membership in the committee.
- **Hazardous Substances:** Matt Bernard (USCG) explained that not much has been done with this workgroup.
- **Wildlife:** Charlie Hebert (USFWS) [presented](#) progress made in the Wildlife workgroup. They've had two meetings this year, and drafted version 5 of a Wildlife Response Section to the NWACP, with hope to get into 2007 NWACP. The group is also drafting a policy for a Wildlife response to Avian Influenza.

AGENCY UPDATES

- **WA Ecology:** Dale Jensen (WA Ecology) stated that WA created two new "Rules" including the Facility Oil Handling Rule and the Oil Spill Contingency Planning Rule. They are now out for public comment. WA Ecology is hiring a Response Technology Coordinator. They have also signed an agreement with King County, WA to utilize infrared technology on helicopters for tracking oil spills. There will also be an increase in spill response equipment caches throughout the state. WA State had 1800 spill reports last year and Meth Lab numbers have decreased.

**REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM 10 / NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE (RRT/NWAC)
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

JUNE 21 - 22, 2006

- **USCG Sector Seattle:** Captain Steve Metruck (USCG) updated the meeting on some exercises Sector Seattle had been involved in including a Unified Command conference with the Makah tribe and WA Ecology, a cross border equipment deployment exercise with CANUSPAC, and a Navy Worst Case Spill exercise. Upcoming exercises include a SMART exercise. Operation Trash Compactor is a program together with WA Ecology and WA DNR to monitor and track derelict vessels in WA State. He also announced that Lt. Cmdr. Amy Cocanour is moving to New Orleans, LA and the new Steering Committee representative will be Marty Smith.
- **EPA:** Chris Field (EPA) told the group about the recent rash of Mercury contamination in schools. Mr. Field plans on coordinating with state and local responders on increasing their capacity for small minor containment spills.
- **USCG District 13:** Captain Joe Rodriguez (USCG) mentioned District 13's work on Tribal planning issues.
- **USCG Sector Portland:** Captain Pat Garrity (USCG) reported on the Columbia Challenge exercise last March, where the day after the exercise a cruise vessel ran aground off of Washougal, where no oil was spilled. An exercise in Newport, OR is planned. Many Fishing Vessels have gone aground recently and they all appear to be linked to narcotic use, an initiative is being developed to address this problem. TOPOFF-4 is also on the radar for Sector Portland. The last issue Capt. Garrity addressed was regarding LNG facilities sprouting up in Oregon, these pose a potential threat and must be included in future planning.
- **ODEQ:** Jack Wylie (ODEQ) brought up LNG facilities and some of the questions ODEQ has been asked about them. The State of Oregon came to agreement with the owner of the New Carissa for removing the stern of the vessel.
- **NOAA:** Gary Shigenaka (NOAA) thanked Ruth Yender for her great work on the New Dispersant Policy. Mr. Shigenaka stated that NOAA worked the Marsh clean up efforts for the hurricane response. He also noted an exercise called Safe Seas upcoming in Northern California. NOAA is also responding to a Benzene and Oil Slop spill on the Calcasieu River in LA.
- **GSA:** None
- **NAVY:** Tammy Brown (Navy) stated that the ESI maps for the central Puget Sound have been updated.
- **OSHA:** None

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF JOINT MEETING

- FEMA expressed interest in doing it again.
- HHS mentioned the need to choose common interest topics if we are to have these meetings again.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

September 20 – 21, 2006	Portland, Oregon
January 24 – 25, 2007	Puget Sound
May 16 – 17, 2007	Oregon
September 12 – 13, 2007	Idaho

ADJOURNMENT

The RRT/NWAC Public Session concluded at 1150, with thanks given to the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security for Hosting, Tribal members and RISC for their involvement.