

AbstractID: 4200 Title: Radiological Awareness Training for First Responders and Health Care Providers

The Washington State Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health has been actively involved in providing radiological training for a broad spectrum of first responders and health care providers since 2003, through its Office of Radiation Protection (ORP). Much of the training is given by ORP staff, which also coordinates training given by outside experts. The topics include response to weapons of mass destruction (U.S. Department of Justice) and radiation emergency medical care (U.S. Department of Energy). Attendees include local public health, doctors and nurses, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Navy, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, hazmat responders, and law enforcement. Classes are customized for each profession, are unique and interactive, and include real radioactive materials at a mock incident scene to incorporate a sense of believability. The Department of Health's goal is to educate Washington's first responders and health care providers about the health risks from incidents involving radioactivity, both to the victims and to themselves.