



HOMELAND DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REUSE (HDER) PROGRAM BULLETIN No. 20 October 2004

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HDER EQUIPMENT UPDATE: FIRST QUARTER 2005

The HDER program is beginning its third year of providing nation-wide access to excess radiological instrumentation and other equipment for first responders. We continue to maintain a high level of interest and activity in the program and are constantly striving to improve the program by providing more types of equipment. This quarter we will have available approximately 500 HDER G-01 beta/gamma detectors. We will also have additional inventory of both Ludlum and Eberline Pancake G-M Probes and Eberline Digital Dosimeters. As usual, all equipment will be made available to HDER POCs through the Secure Portal beginning October 1st on a first come, first serve basis.

HDER OAK RIDGE OPERATIONS MOVES TO NEW FACILITY

On September 27th, the HDER Oak Ridge, TN processing facility completed its move to facilities located in Clinton, TN. The facility was previously located at the East Tennessee Technology Park (formerly the Oak Ridge K-25 Site). The move of the processing facility was necessary to facilitate environmental cleanup work scheduled for the site in early 2005.

Relocation to Clinton will permit the processing center to better and more quickly serve the needs of HDER client organizations, as well as the DHS objective of being capable of increasing equipment throughput during emergencies. Now located within a mile of Interstate 75, the new facility will have better access to a major north-south transportation corridor serving the eastern U.S. Access to the new location will also not be encumbered by changes in the National Alert Status, allowing HDER to continue to aggressively serve the needs of the first responder community during these critical time periods.

With the move, the HDER processing center will inaugurate a dynamic, real-time inventory control and tracking system. Driven by bar codes and laser scanners, this system will allow processing center personnel to receive, catalog and track equipment as it is received for triage and redeployment. Metrics available through the system will permit objective evaluation of HDER cost effectiveness and help flag areas where improvements in performance and service are possible. The system will interface with the ordering system already online and support timely and accurate quarterly additions to the equipment inventory.

HDER SERVICES MANAGEMENT TOOL: EQUIPMENT REQUISITION REMINDER

There are three very important points to remember when using the HDER Services Management Tool (SMT) to place an equipment order:

1. The HDER SMT allows you to place orders for multiple jurisdictions by using the dropdown list provided within the tool.
2. State points of contact (POC) need to include end user (local) contact information in the “justification” text box on their services requests. This information will enable the Health Physics Society (HPS) local chapter members to provide services to the recipients of the HDER equipment.
3. Use the “request equipment” button *before* submitting the request to ODP, otherwise the total order will appear blank upon receipt at ODP.

EXPANSION OF HDER PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI)

The HDER program has grown from a ten-city pilot program in 2002, to a program that serves all 56 States and territories under the guidance of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Energy. Currently, the SAA HDER POC and first responders work together to identify equipment needs and then have the POC submit a formal request via the secure ODP portal. Although the process has been very effective, the potential exists to reach a larger audience of first responders.

With this in mind, we are currently in the process of expanding the program to cities that are part of the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Program. As such, we will be establishing UASI HDER POCs in the near future. This will create a much more interactive and functional environment in which responders will have HDER POCs within their city, thus optimizing the process by which they are given knowledge of and access to radiological and other equipment.

HPS TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO FIRST RESPONDERS

The Health Physics Society (HPS) continues to be a valuable asset to the HDER program, providing states and local jurisdictions expertise that would otherwise be unavailable. HPS volunteers perform equipment field checks, refresher training, and other hands-on activities for first responders and equipment recipients. States who are interested in contacting your local chapter, please call the ODP help desk at (800) 368-6498 for a list of contacts in your area. ODP will be working with HPS chapters to facilitate the use of web conferencing technology in the near future. Additional information will be provided shortly.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2004

- HDER Training Course in Detroit, MI (October 8-15)
- HDER Training Course in Brookline, MA (October 25 – November 8).
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Conference in San Diego, CA (October 4-5)

November 2004

- HDER Program Review Biannual Meeting, Washington, DC (November 9)
- American Nuclear Society Winter Meeting, Washington, DC (November 14-18, 2004)

December 2004

- The Holidays

A SHORT NOTE ON THE HDER PROGRAM

by **Bobbie Walton**
California HDER POC

Is the HDER Program perfect? No. Will it ever be? Probably not. Is it the best thing I've ever seen come down the pike? Absolutely!!!

During many years as a trainer of emergency responders, there have been numerous times when well-meaning, or not so well-meaning individuals have dropped off various instruments that the responders may or may not be able to use. The individuals smile, salute and say something to the effect of, "Go forth and prosper". No thought has been given to the possibility that training on the aforementioned instruments might be appropriate. The possibility that the equipment may even need to be calibrated now and then is not even on the radar. There are many expensive doorstops in a number of facilities.

And that's only one of the stories I could tell.

Fast forward a bit to today and zero in on the HDER Program that emphasizes radiation detection equipment. First of all, it is an unprecedented example of cooperation between two Federal agencies and one private organization. DOE, ODP and the Health Physics Society are all on the same page. (How did that happen?)

When that first cooperation part got ironed out, the issues of obtaining the instruments, providing training on their use and technical follow up to the users were neatly folded in. A veritable stroke of genius. They combined all the concerns I've had for so long in one place. Hmm.

Now we want to get the notice about the program out to all. In good federal fashion, as it should be, they decided to work through the states. That's where I come in. For reasons I don't totally understand, I get to be the POC (Point of Contact) for California through my agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. For two years I've been involved with HDER and we still don't have a common pronunciation of the acronym. No matter. What we do have are hundreds of radiation detection instruments in the hands of law enforcement officers, firefighters, environmental health responders and health care facilities. And the list is growing. Many have received the training and are now at the one-year follow up in the cycle. It's working!

One idea I've had to facilitate follow up for the HPS volunteers is to get the name of the person at the fire station or police station or environmental health office who is charged with overseeing all the instruments the organization uses. I work with hazmat teams, so I get the name of the hazmat captain. There will probably be more than one, since firefighters usually have three or more shifts. And it's always good to have more than one name because people leave. We're seeing that the responders are not likely to call, so we can take the initiative and volunteer to drop in on a Saturday or on some evening, in the case of those that have 24 hour operations. This is a great setting in which we can informally go by and see that the instruments are working within normal parameters and answer any questions the folks might have. Have them pull the meters out, maybe talk a little about them, ask if they've had a chance to play with them recently and follow wherever the moment takes you. Have some check sources with you and make sure

the meter's sound is on for a little effect. They are likely to want some training, especially if you hand a meter to some of the folks there or ask them to put it together for you. Always let them play with the toys. It works like magic.

I would hope that this could actually happen more often than once a year, maybe on a quarterly or monthly basis. You'll get to know these folks and they'll come to know you. They'll see that when they have technical radiation or instrument questions, they can contact you and be confident you'll have good answers for them. Any way you set up to maintain contact is fine. We're looking for what works here.

As you can see, there's still a lot we can do to make the program better. And I'm not so foolish as to believe it's working as flawlessly as I indicated above. The exciting thing is that we have the raw materials to work with. The program is up and running and agreements have already been finalized. The instruments are there, the training has been developed and the framework for the technical follow up is in place. Now we can jump in and take it to levels we can't even imagine. The idea is to keep our responders safe so they can keep us safe. A worthy goal, don't you think?

The HDER Program Bulletin is an e-Newsletter from the HDER Program. For all questions regarding participation in the HDER Program, training requests, and long-term technical support, please contact the Office for Domestic Preparedness help line at (800) 368-6498.