

OASPR TSA-O Hospital Preparedness Planning Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2008

Attendees: Billy Atkins, Vasanti Brandl, Joe Canfield, Carol Davis, Heidi Erwin, Ann Figueroa, Chris Freeman, Nancy Garza, Kimberly Gill, Gilbert Gonzalez, Robert Haugland, Linda Haynie, Pete Kessler, John Kinniell, Nancy Maschal, Edward McWilliamson, Ricky Nevels, Kym Orange, Dave Rhinehart, Mike Richardson, Bill Shaffell, Ron Weaver, Robin Wiatrek, Don Walker.

Handouts: none

Next meeting: July 25, 2008, 9am – 11am, CATRAC office

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves around the room. Joining the group was Kym Orange from Grainger, Edward McWilliams from the MERC (Mobile Enhanced Remains Chilling) system, and Mike Richardson from BioSeal, to discuss mortuary response solutions.

- I. **Review / Approval of Minutes:** Meeting minutes from 6/20 & 6/27 were reviewed. Added note: when the SNS presentation is approved, it can be distributed more widely. Linda Haynie can come and tell us more about SNS (strategic national stockpiling) at a future meeting. A motion was made by Pete Kessler to approve the minutes from 6/20 & 6/27, seconded by Gilbert; all minutes were approved.
- II. **Old Business**
 - OASPR SFY08: Reminder - Turn invoices in by July 15 (next Tuesday). The 3rd quarter report is turned in. CATRAC is closing the OASPR books on July 31. The fourth quarter report is due in October. If there are any questions on the timeline or invoices, please call our office. The money is available, and it is a quick process to get checks out to your facility.
- III. **SFY09 Update**
 - On July 3, the work plan must be turned in to the state. The new grant period begins on August 1, 2008 and runs through July 31, 2009. Dave proposed changing the name of the committee/group to "OASPR Regional Preparedness and Response Committee". It was also noted that "TSA-O" will need to be included on official documents and minutes. The purpose of this change would be to take some of the focus off of "only hospitals" and be more inviting to our partners in the region that aren't hospital facilities. Ron Weaver motioned to accept the new name, Ann Figueroa seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **MERC & BioSeal Presentations**
 - The MERC system is for mass fatality storage. There is a difference between mass fatality and mass casualty. In a mass fatality, there are more remains than the local resources can handle.
 - There is limited/minimal storage space in most hospitals. 5000 body bags might not be enough. Other things to consider are processing tables, and a place to put personal things and property.
 - Some states arrange an MOU with tractor trailer companies, but in many cases, they're not going to be able pull their trucks off the road at the moment they're needed. Also, many companies will not take the trailers back after they have been holding human remains.
 - The MERC system is a closed loop direct contact cooling system and is available in 3 different sizes: standard adult, pediatric and bariatric. It is comprised of 2

components: The chilling unit and the cooling bag. The cooling is done with water & propylene glycol (not anti-freeze). The liquid is not in direct contact with the body. The hospital-ready pack is ordered under one single part number, and provides a complete kit for 4 bodies at \$15,999.00

- The cooling hoses are not rigid lines and some bags can be put on the floor while others are on a rack at the same time. The mortuary response racks are portable, compact and lightweight. They store in a 6-inch-thick package.
- To use in conjunction with the MERC system, Mike Richardson presented BioSeal.
- Remains are sealed in foil and adhesives, creating a complete barrier. Gas, liquid, etc cannot penetrate and you will see no product deterioration.
- The large crate holds enough product for 1500 bodies. You cut off only as much foil pouch product as is needed from a long roll. The shelf life is rated at 49 years.
- With this system, everyone will be identified and given respect in death. They sealed 22k body parts from the World Trade Center in perpetuity. D-mort teams, FBI, US Army, all use BioSeal. The cost is \$3.50/ft. The large crates are \$29,000. This is a scalable system. The smaller "Hospital pack" contains enough product for 50 remains.
- *What kind of space does it take up?* The hospital pack will be in a box that is 3 feet tall by 1 foot square. The large crate fits on the bed of a pickup truck and has very clear labeling on the outside. This company can build a kit to suit the needs of your agency or facility. It takes 12-16 weeks to manufacture the kit for 1500 bodies.
- Remains can be held for 4-5 days without refrigeration in the BioSeal bags. You can write directly on the pack with a permanent marker, and/or you can use the included adhesive pouches to contain documentation and personal effects. These will stick to the bag.