



# Division of Public Health (DPH)

## Public Health in Radiological Emergency Preparedness and Response

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# OVERVIEW

- The role of DPH in emergency preparedness
- The role of DPH in radiological emergency preparedness & response
- Technological Hazards: Radiation
- What is a radiological emergency?
- How can MRC volunteers assist in radiological emergencies?



# ACRONYMS

- **DPH:** Delaware Division of Public Health
- **DEMA:** Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- **DNREC:** Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- **SERT:** State Emergency Response Team
- **RDD:** Radiological Dispersal Device
- **RED:** Radiological Exposure Device
- **IND:** Improvised Nuclear Device



# DPH and Medical Group

- To prepare and coordinate Delaware's health and medical activities and resources during a emergency or disaster.
- To expand healthcare capacity and capability.



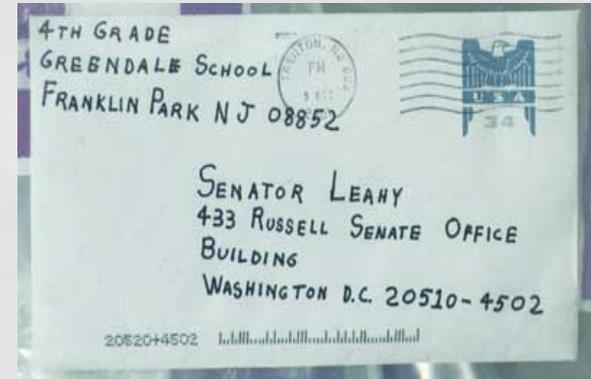
# Authority

- Governor's Executive Order 13, Delaware Emergency Operations Plan
- Title 20, Chapter 31, Subchapter V Public Health Emergencies, Lead Agency: Division of Public Health DPH
- Title 20, Chapter 31, Subchapter III, Emergency Management, Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan, Lead Agency: Delaware Emergency Management Agency, DEMA



# Public Health Threats

- Emergencies with public health consequences
  - Natural disasters
  - Technological disasters
- Public health emergencies
  - Pandemics
  - Bioterrorism



# Public Health Preparedness - DPH

- Community Preparedness
- Community Recovery
- Emergency Operations Coordination
- Emergency Public Information and Warning
- Fatality Management
- Mass Care
- Medical Countermeasures Dispensing
- Medical Material Management and Distribution
- Medical Surge
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions



# Capabilities

- Public Health (DPH) Laboratory Testing
- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigations (DPH)
- Responder Safety and Health
- Volunteer Management
- Medical Evacuation/Shelter in Place



# Modular Medical Expansion System



# Role of Public Health (DPH) in Radiological Emergencies

- Assessment of radiation dose to emergency workers and the public
- Assessment of radiation impacts to air, water and agriculture (crops, herds, flocks)
- Population monitoring for contamination of people and pets
- Develop recommendations to protect the public as the emergency unfolds



# Role of Public Health (DPH) in Radiological Emergencies

- Provide guidance on radiation exposure or dose, and how people can protect themselves and their families
- Partner with DEMA and other agencies to assist the community with recovery
- Partner with epidemiologists to collect radiation dose data for health surveillance



# State Emergency Operations Center

- Known as the State EOC, managed and operated by lead agency DEMA
- Coordinates response and recovery operations across the state
- Liaisons with federal, state, and local Emergency Operations Centers
- Liaisons with many partner agencies



# Technological Hazards: Radiation

- What do we mean by radiation?
- How do we encounter radiation in our daily lives?
- How much radiation is safe or advisable?



# Radiological Emergencies

- Transportation Accidents
- Orphan Source Accidents
- Nuclear Power Plant Accidents
- Radiological Terrorism:
  - Radiological Exposure Device RED
  - Radiological Dispersal Device RDD
  - Improvised Nuclear Device IND



# How MRC Volunteers Can Assist

- **Population Monitoring** -screening of people (and their pets) for contamination
- **Radiological Triage** - screening of patients to prioritize for bioassay and countermeasures
- **Countermeasures** - various protocols to reduce uptake, or speed up elimination of internal contamination



# Medical Reserve Corps Roles

- Examples of potential tasking, in partnership with others:
  - Registering members of the public, their families and pets at community reception centers
  - Assisting with screening for contamination of persons or possessions using field survey meters
  - Taking histories of individuals – who, where, when, for how long with respect to the incident site



# Partner Agencies

- Federal partners
- State partners
- Local partners
- Non-governmental partners
- Volunteer groups



# Resources

- National Alliance for Radiation Readiness  
[www.radiationready.org](http://www.radiationready.org)
- Radiological Emergency Medical Management,  
[www.remm.org](http://www.remm.org)
- Radiological Terrorism Toolkit for Public Health Officials, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- Radiological Terrorism Toolkit for Emergency Services Clinicians, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



# Questions?

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