Canadian Medical Emergency Treatment for Exposures to Radiation (METER) Training – Recent Developments

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Canadian Emergency Management Framework

Federal Government
- Exclusive areas of jurisdiction
- National assistance when needed

Provincial Governments
- Called in for assistance or take control

Local and Municipal Respondents

Individual responsibility
- for health, safety and protection

Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan
- Part 1: Master Plan
- 5th Edition
- January 2014
Background:

- developed in 2007-2009 as a project led by the Department of National Defence – Director Nuclear Safety
- funded by Defence Research and Development Canada – Centre for Security Science
- to train members of the Canadian medical community to be able to respond, work safely and manage casualties resulting from radiological events.

Audience:

- first receivers; emergency management coordinators, planners and trainers; first responders

Health Canada’s role:

- HC-RPB has since taken the lead to maintain, upgrade and offer training
- aligns with responsibilities outlined in the Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan
- developed a practical, hands-on component
- currently leading a 2.5 year project to enhance the METER course, funded by Defence Research and Development Canada – Centre for Security Science
Main objective is to enhance the preparedness of the medical community to provide a medical response during an R/N event through:

• Raising awareness and knowledge of participants regarding radiation safety and personal protection;

• Promoting thought and discussion on aspects of a medical response through networking with those involved in a radiological incident; and

• Identifying any preparedness/response areas that can be improved.
The strengths of the METER course:

- **Mobile**
  - The METER team can travel to deliver the course

- **Customizable**
  - Option of 1-2 day course
  - Offered in French and in English
  - Can be tailored to audience learning objectives, duration
  - Interactive presentations with quiz questions
  - Hands-on workshops to practice skills
  - Interaction and discussions between instructors and participants

- **Offered at no cost to the host organisation**
- **Only training of its kind in Canada**
• **Modular Course**
  • Clients chose from:
    • 16 modules (PowerPoint presentations/lectures)
    • 3 Workshops (Hands on practice with Personal Protective Equipment, Detection Instruments, and Mannequins)
    • Case Study

• **Topics covered include:**
  • Radiation basics
  • Radiological events requiring a medical response
  • Resources Available from Health Canada and the Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan partners
  • Radiation biology
  • Acute local radiation injury
  • Managing the acute radiation syndrome
  • Managing internal contamination
  • Introduction to the Radiation Casualty Assessment Tool
Detection Instruments  Personal Protective Equipment  Patient Treatment
Objectives:

• Expand the METER training package
  • Multi-level training options
  • Online learning option
  • Continuing medical education accreditation
  • Developing options for platform for trusted resources

Partners:

• Federal: Health Canada, Department of National Defence – Director Nuclear Safety, Public Health Agency of Canada
• Provincial Ministries of Health: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and New Brunswick Ministry of Health
• End-user organizations: Horizon Health Network (New Brunswick), CancerCare Manitoba, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Recent Developments

- Involvement of local experts to deliver parts of the course
- Case Study
- Accreditation by College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Multi-level training option tested
- Distance education using webinars
- eLearning course
- Mobile application
• Course can be adjusted to meet audience needs

• Most recent course adapted for doctors and nurses
  • One-day training
  • concentrated on more advanced topics
  • allowed for a more targeted training
  • included case study and practical session
- French and English versions
- Standard and accessible versions
- Interactive components and quizzes
- Certificate
- Will be available across Canada
- Learners can complete the online course at the location of their choice
Canadian Radiation Casualty Assessment Tool App
Implementing these new teaching tools and working with the medical community to continue to adapt the METER training to meet their needs will increase the preparedness of medical professionals across Canada.
Thank you, any Questions?

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