National Institutes of Health

Disaster Research Response Tabletop Exercise

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014

Welcome to the Tabletop Exercise

Agenda

- 12:00 Opening Remarks by Dr. Birnbaum
- 12:05 Introductions
- 12:10 Decision to Engage
- 01:25 Engagement
- 02:20 Transition
- 02:50 Hot Wash
- 03:00 Closing Remarks by Dr. Birnbaum

Administrative Comments

- Exits
- Phones on vibrate/turned off

Tabletop Organization

Will have 3 Phases:

1. Decision to Engage

   How do we decide to perform research?

2. Engagement

   How will we implement research into the field?

3. Transition

   How will we continue or undertake longer-term research?

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing".

-Theodore Roosevelt

PHASE 1:
DECISION TO ENGAGE

How do we decide to perform research?

Situation Report /Timeline: Day 14

- Life saving response efforts are concluding and
- Governor and President have made disaster declarations
- HHS has received a Mission Assignment from FEMA to provide public health and medical response services
- Clean-up has begun as workers and residents are allowed into the affected area. Some complain of mold, dust and exposure to contaminated flood water







Situational Awareness

- How do you obtain information about the possible health concerns in impacted area as events unfold?





Day 15

- A storage tank at a local oil refinery has caught fire resulting in a large plume of smoke and leakage into the coastal waters

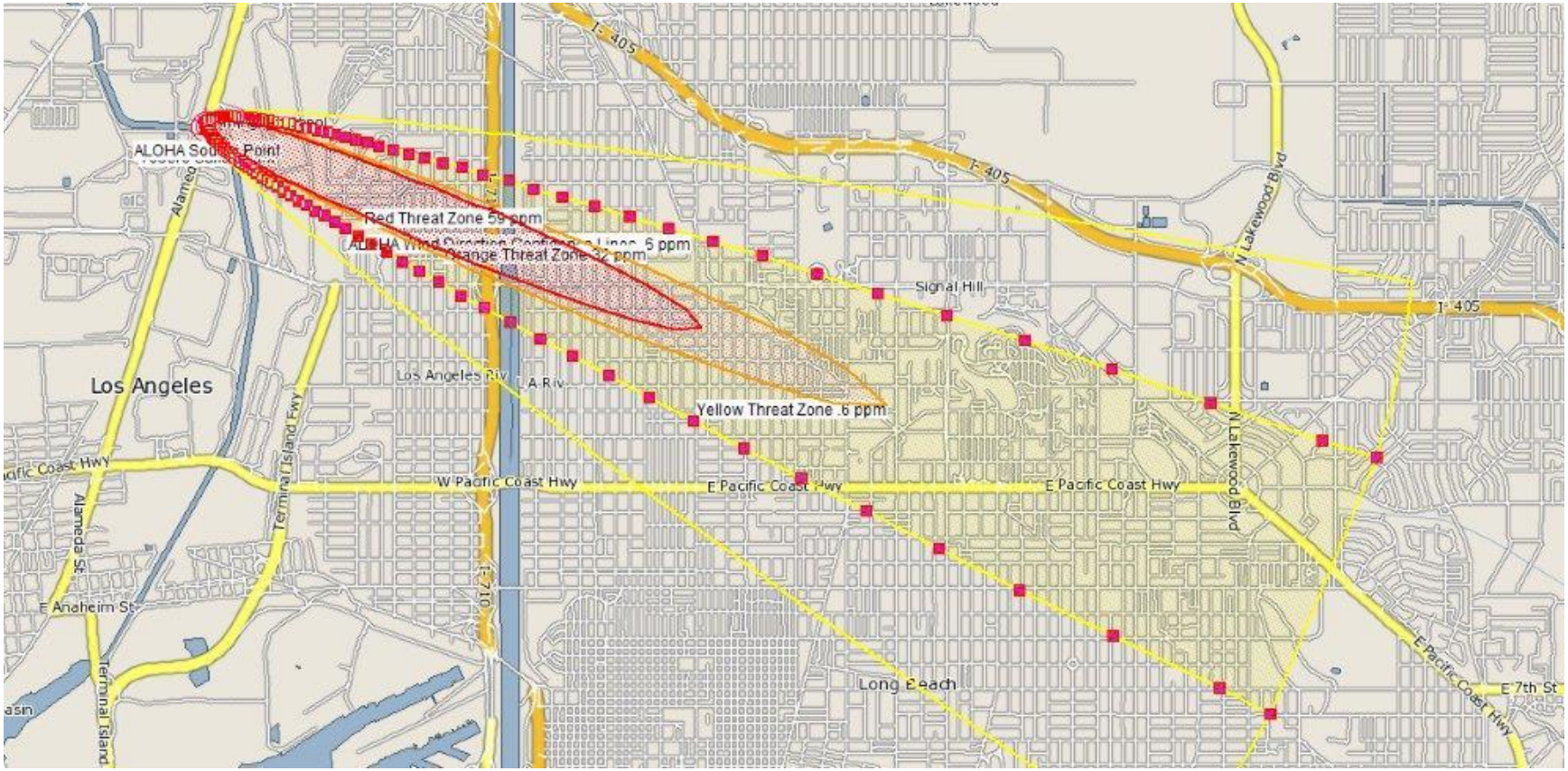


- Local hospital ED's and poison centers are experiencing increased complaints of respiratory, gastrointestinal, and neurologic symptoms



- Refinery workers and clean-up workers experience similar symptoms

Oil Refinery Plume Model



Discussion: Preparing for Research

- Knowing the potential health impact, would state and local health departments, academic centers, and communities be thinking about long-term health impacts and ways to begin the study of them?
  - Research priorities
  - Resources
  - Data collection
  - Partnerships

The Decision to Engage

- What factors are considered by NIEHS to engage?
  - Who would they need to communicate with at the table to collect data?
  - What is the State/local/community role in identifying questions of concern?
- What are the triggers for engagement?
  - How can researchers connect with locals?
  - What do researchers need to move into the field rapidly?

Situation Update

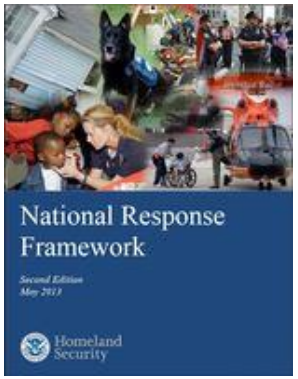
- Assistance has been requested from NIH by Members of Congress from the 44th and 47th Districts
- Funding has been provided for the initial investigation

PHASE 2: ENGAGEMENT

How are we going to implement research activities?

Federal Coordination and Integration

- Is the NIEHS Disaster Research integrated into the larger HHS response and recovery operations?
- How will efforts be coordinated with other responding federal agencies?
- Will the NIEHS Disaster Research integrate into the State and Local response? Unions? How will they coordinate?



U.S Department of Health and Human Services

ASPR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Logistics Support and Safety Training

- Like many disasters, this is an austere environment and local infrastructure is damaged or at capacity.
- There are no hotels, debris has blocked roads, and access is limited due to security reasons.
- FEMA has established a staging site 20 miles away and all responders are staying there.

Discussion-Research Protocol

- Based on the identified top research priorities, the research responders have been tasked to collect baseline information for future analysis.

- How do you go about conducting the research necessary to accomplish this task?

Information Sharing/Communications

- The LA Times has inquired about the disaster research program and the HHS Public Information Officer has arranged an interview
  - Who will be the spokesperson for the program?
  - How will this be coordinated with the State and Local Health departments?
- The reporter wants to know if the symptoms being seen are related to exposure to the smoke and if there are long term health consequences of exposure
  - The reporter wants to know if the area is safe and if it isn't when it will be safe?

PHASE 3: TRANSITION

How we will continue or undertake longer-term research?

Situation Report: Day 35

- The refinery fire has been put out and the oil leakage was stopped.
- Debris removal and clean-up are projected to continue for months. Residents continue to complain about dust, mold, and exposure to contaminated water.







Discussion - Sustainability

- How would new and existing collaborations be made and continued?
- How would NIEHS coordinate longer term study? How can communities, states, locals, businesses, and other stakeholders be engaged?
- How do results get shared with the various stakeholders?

Data Sharing

- A researcher from XYZ University requests access to the data and bio-samples for an IRB-approved protocol. The researcher is funded by NIH for another protocol and has an established record of environmental health research.

WRAP UP

Closing Comments

Front Table

- 2 Ups
- 2 Downs

Back tables-one spokesperson/table

- 2 Ups
- 2 Downs

Provide written comments and send to:

jlee@michaeldbaker.com

Final Remarks: Dr. Birnbaum

Thank You