

Anthrax Symposium

Catastrophic Incident Recovery: Long-Term Recovery from an Anthrax Event Symposium

Left to right: Steve Stein (PNNL), Carl Brown (DoD), Lance Brooks (DHS), Ann Lesperance (PNNL) and Ron Sims (County Executive for King County) snapped a photo during a lunchtime break.



The Catastrophic Incident Recovery: Long-Term Recovery from an Anthrax Event Symposium was held on March 19, 2008 in Seattle, Washington. The day-long symposium was aimed at enhancing regional response and restoration capabilities in a catastrophic event by understanding the associated challenges that impact entire communities, including people, infrastructure and critical systems.

The approximately 100 symposium participants included county emergency management directors; elected officials; public health professionals from county, state and federal levels; military emergency and public health managers; private sector representatives from leading PNW companies; DHS and DOD officials; NORTHCOM; and King County Executive, Ron Sims.

To increase the knowledge of anthrax as an agent of bioterrorism, three nationally recognized experts presented on their field experience. Dr. JD Malone, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, discussed the properties of anthrax as an agent; Dr. Greg Martin, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Bethesda, Maryland, reviewed his medical supervision during the 2001 anthrax event; and Dr. Carol North, University of Texas Southwestern Medical

Center, examined the socio-psychological residue of an anthrax event.

To understand the long-term impacts to sectors and communities, three panel sessions were conducted. A range of perspectives were shared and potential solutions were discussed to address economic implications, impacts on public health and medical services, and the decision-making framework that would prioritize recovery efforts.

A summary report will present the key issues identified by the symposium to inform the development of a blueprint for recovery and restoration following a biological incident.

The symposium was sponsored by the Inter-agency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD), a collaborative regional program jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

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The IBRD Program is jointly funded by DHS and DoD. The goal of the IBRD Program is to develop policies, methods, plans, and applied technologies to restore large urban areas, DoD installations, and critical infrastructures following the release of a biological agent. IBRD collaborators are identifying requirements and capabilities for large-scale restoration efforts; developing an integrated Consequence Management Plan; selecting and developing technology solutions to be applied in recovery and restoration actions; and conducting regional exercises, demonstrations and workshops to increase awareness in the response communities. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory serves as the Onsite Integrator for the IBRD Program, which is conducted in the Seattle Washington urban area and at Fort Lewis Military Base.

