

Dear Radiation Control Program Director,

You have heard a lot about the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) for about six years now. Director members voted in May 2020 to support a resolution creating a State ROSS Coordinator in each state. You were sent in November a State ROSS Coordinator Fact Sheet (Attached below).

This letter is about the next step in this important process – appointing a State ROSS Coordinator for your state. As noted in the Fact Sheet, this person can be in your agency or another agency. In either case, the State ROSS Coordinator needs to be authorized by their management to fill this role. Please complete the form below.

Your State: _____

Radiation Control Program Director Name: _____

Your Agency: _____

The Designated State ROSS Coordinator: _____

His/her Agency: _____

His/her Email: _____

His/her Telephone: _____

Please return this completed form and send any questions to Bill Irwin at william.irwin@vermont.gov.

Thank you,

CRCPD Homeland Security/Emergency Response Committee 4

**The State ROSS Coordinator
Fact Sheet
15 October 2020**

What is a Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS)?

A ROSS is trained to be a resource for radiological and nuclear emergency response and recovery guidance. ROSS are radiation protection professionals who have been trained to work effectively within the incident command structure and other incident management organizations. The ROSS has been created and is certified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and coordinated by the ROSS Steering Committee, which is comprised of FEMA, the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL),) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD).

The CRCPD is a national non-profit organization that supports the agency having jurisdiction (AHJ) for radiation protection in the individual states and has supplied radiation protection professionals for the testing, development, training, and deployment of ROSS. ROSS are FEMA National Qualification System certified as ROSS Type 1, 2 or 3 with Type 1 being the highest proficiency. The certifications are managed as with other incident command positions through a FEMA [Position Qualification](#) and a [Position Task Book](#) (PTB). ROSS may come from both the public and private sector. A fact sheet is [here](#).

Who appoints / selects a State ROSS Coordinator?

The CRCPD in May 2020 identified the need for each state to have a State ROSS Coordinator who will help maintain communications between ROSS and response organizations within their state for radiological planning, training, and exercises. The CRCPD resolved that Radiation Control Program Directors would help identify State ROSS Coordinators. It is recognized that while the Radiation Control Program Directors may be the AHJ for radiation protection in a state, the Radiation Control Program Directors may not be the authority best suited to specify who the State ROSS Coordinator should be in the state. The CRCPD has asked the Radiation Control Program Directors to work with the appropriate agency in their state to identify the State ROSS Coordinator and to share the name and points of contact for the identified State ROSS Coordinator with the CRCPD. The CRCPD will maintain a directory of ROSS and State ROSS Coordinators for the nation on its website using the State Radiation Control Program or State ROSS Coordinator government address and telephone number and will work with the Radiation Control Program Director and State ROSS Coordinator to update the directory annually.

What does the State ROSS Coordinator do?

State ROSS Coordinators may do many things for the state, but it is up to each state to decide what exactly a State ROSS Coordinator does beyond some minimum critical roles. These minimum critical roles are:

- Be known as the State ROSS Coordinator by, and share ROSS-related information between, the CRCPD, Radiation Control Program Directors, and ROSS in their state;
- Help those asking about the ROSS to connect to the [CRCPD](#) for ROSS information;

- Maintain an accurate list of ROSS within their state and their contact information which is shared with the CRCPD annually; and
- Help those who are interested in becoming a ROSS connect to the state's FEMA State Training Officer so they can apply for the initial ROSS training course.

The State ROSS Coordinator may also assist with an additional critical need for ROSS development by facilitating the engagement of ROSS in state radiological and nuclear emergency planning, training, exercises, response, and recovery as well as the inclusion of ROSS into state radiological and nuclear emergency plans and organizations. This will help ROSS advance from their initial ROSS training course through the three ROSS PTBs and become certified as Type 3, Type 2, and Type 1 ROSS over the course of time as they gain additional training and experience.

Broadly speaking, the State ROSS Coordinator should share information about the ROSS within their state with the state Radiation Control Program Director, with people who want to become ROSS or have questions about becoming certified, or with response organizations that are interested in what ROSS can do or how to request ROSS support.

The State ROSS Coordinator may also help connect people with the potential to meet the ROSS criteria as outlined in the ROSS [Position Qualification](#) to the Counter Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) for the initial ROSS training course, [PER-378 Radiological Operations Support Specialist Training](#). By maintaining a list of current ROSS within their state, the State ROSS Coordinator will support maintenance of a national list of ROSS in FEMA's [OneResponder](#), a platform for incident command position qualification management and in FEMA's [RadResponder](#), a platform for radiological and nuclear exercise and incident data collection and situational awareness.

Additionally, State ROSS Coordinators could foster relationships within the state among ROSS and the State's radiological and nuclear emergency response and recovery partners. The State ROSS Coordinator may also assist those in the state responsible for emergency mutual aid requests such as the State Emergency Mutual Assistance Compact (EMAC) Coordinator.

What support will be provided to the State ROSS Coordinator?

The CRCPD has strong working relationships with all of the relevant radiological and nuclear emergency response and recovery organizations including the agencies of the federal government and will support the ROSS, the State ROSS Coordinators, and the Radiation Control Program Directors. A large part of this support comes from the CRCPD Homeland Security/Emergency Response Committee 4 (HS/ER-4). The highest levels of ROSS guidance come from the ROSS Steering Committee and HS/ER-4 helps implement that guidance.

How does CRCPD HS/ER-4 help the State ROSS Coordinator?

Through HS/ER-4, the CRCPD will maintain a list of State ROSS Coordinators and annually update the State ROSS Coordinator list, similar to how it maintains the list of Radiation Control Program Directors, Radon contacts and 24-hour emergency contacts. HS/ER-4 will perform much of the ROSS cadre management work not managed directly by FEMA. This includes developing ROSS continuing education, providing information about the ROSS to the public, and maintaining resources useful to the ROSS. For example, HS/ER-4 maintains the ROSS Web Page found [here](#). HS/ER-4 also manages the Homeland

Security Information Network (HSIN) ROSS Community of Interest, an internet platform that allows ROSS to collaborate, especially on training, in exercises and for response and recovery related to actual incidents. Training for ROSS at the CRCPD annual meeting is also facilitated by the HS/ER-4 committee and they seek funding for ROSS who attend or have a need to travel for exercises.

How does FEMA help the State ROSS Coordinator?

FEMA, particularly the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Office, manages the overall ROSS Program. They maintain the ROSS certifying capacity as part of the CBRN Specialist Program, which include the ROSS, as well as a Chemical Operations Support Specialists and Biological Operations Support Specialists currently under development. The FEMA CBRN Office also maintains RadResponder as part of its CBRNResponder portfolio. RadResponder is a powerful tool for which ROSS are trained to be power users and to access science-based guidance and the ROSS Toolkit for the variety of radiological and nuclear emergencies. ROSS will also be rostered within RadResponder so ROSS may be geolocated in times of emergency.

How does DOE help the State ROSS Coordinator?

The DOE National Nuclear Security Administration provides the ROSS training and exercise opportunities. They also maintain CMweb, an internet portal into the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center where ROSS can obtain technical data products related to exercises and incidents.

How does DHS S&T help the State ROSS Coordinator?

The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL), funded and directed the original development of the [Position Qualification](#), training task analysis and initial training lesson plan development. NUSTL also funded and directed the development of multiple ROSS job aids for incident command, incident planning and emergency operations center operations that the State ROSS Coordinator can use when sharing information among their state response organizations. DHS S&T is currently funding the development of some forms of ROSS continuing education.

Where can I get additional information about the State ROSS Coordinator?

For additional information about the State ROSS Coordinator, please contact william.irwin@vermont.gov. For additional information, please contact the FEMA CBRN Office ROSS Program at fema-ross@fema.dhs.gov.