# **ROSS Quarterly Call**

26 February 2024







#### Agenda

- Welcome from FEMA Office of Emerging Threats (OET) Branch Chief and ROSS Program Manager – Jonathan Gill, PhD
- Welcome from CRCPD ROSS Program Manager Bill Irwin, ScD, CHP, FEMA Type 1 ROSS
  - CRCPD HS/ER-Updates
  - Qualification Review Board Draft Procedure
  - RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill
- CRCPD Subcommittee Updates Subcommittee Chairs
- Closing Remarks Jon Gill





#### **FEMA Office of Emerging Threats**

#### **Opening Remarks**

#### Jon Gill, PhD



Source: GAO. | www.gao.gov

https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-164 accessed 2/23/23.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

## **FEMA OET Updates**

- 2024 is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ROSS
- CTOS and FEMA NTED target of 5 PER-388 courses per year
- 5 planned PER-388 courses for this year
  - Michigan the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>
  - $\Box$  Utah the week of May 13<sup>th</sup>
  - $\square$  Ohio the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Kentucky the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Nebraska the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>
- \*CDC/Georgia the week of October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Future training opportunities



# Welcome and Updates from CRCPD Homeland Security/Emergency Response Committee 4 (HS/ER-4)

Bill Irwin, ScD, CHP, FEMA Type 1 ROSS, CRCPD ROSS Program Manager





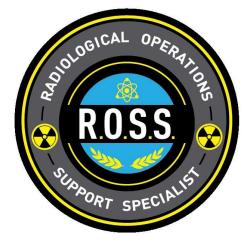
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Questions? william.lrwin@vermont.gov

### Welcome to New Initial ROSS Training Course Graduates!

- Seventy-five new people, mostly from California, connecting to the ROSS Program.
  - PER-388 is the initial step that nearly 320 people have taken.
  - Documenting training and experience in the in the ROSS Position Task Book (PTB) is where the fuller ROSS development occurs.
- We are grateful to the folks in California, particularly FEMA ROSS Juan Garcia, who planned and prepare for this and the ROSS who trained the new folks!
- We will invite all the new ROSS to a ROSS Orientation course to be scheduled for March 2024.
- We will invite previously trained ROSS, the State ROSS Coordinators and the State Authorities Having Jurisdiction, too.





### **The Next Steps**

- A reminder to send your certificates for ROSS Type 4 Training to <u>FEMA-</u> <u>ROSS@fema.dhs.gov</u>: IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, IS-800, IS-836 or equivalents and PER-388.
- You will then be invited as a Type 4 ROSS to join MissionEdge and get assigned your Type 3 PTB to work on so to can work independently as a ROSS.
- We are doing our best to provide opportunities where you can advance in type:
  - The ND and RDD Virtual Evaluation Scenario Tool (VEST), tabletop and full-scale exercises, the Department of Energy Nuclear Emergency Support Team Reserve Corp, and quarterly ROSS problem sets.
  - Historical recognition to document competencies demonstrated in the past.



# **CRCPD HS/ER-4 Updates**

- A lot of good work from our seven subcommittees.
- Focusing on getting the Virtual Evaluation Scenario Tools (VESTs) out as they are critical to ROSS advancement since we don't have enough exercise opportunities.
- Preparing for ROSS-related training in 2024 at the:
  - National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference in Dallas, Texas on 29 April 2024; CRCPD Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida on 19 May 2024; and Health Physics Society in Orlando, Florida on 6 July (abstract submitted but not accepted yet).
  - Focus of training this year is nuclear power plants, having done RDD and nuclear detonation the previous two years.
  - Planning efforts at each venue to sign off tasks for ROSS who participated in all training sessions the last three years.



# **CRCPD HS/ER-4 Updates**

- Supporting the RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill running from 11 March to 16 March (more later).
- With FEMA, panning to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ROSS Program.
  - Planning a formal ROSS 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the CRCPD Annual Meeting with guest speakers in a panel session.
  - Planning informal celebrations after the NREP and HPS trainings.
  - □ Hope to provide some recognition to all ROSS, with in-person recognition to all ROSS in attendance.
- Created a draft procedure for the ROSS Qualification Review Board (more later).
- Submitted seven ROSS resumes to DOE for consideration as part of the Reserve Corps.
- Five Initial ROSS Training courses on the CTOS schedule (MI in March, UT in May, OH in June, KY in July, NE in August). More planned with CTOS (MA in September, GA in October, IA in November, GA).



### Catching up on Task Sign-offs and Historical Recognition

- A fair number of ROSS have participated in tabletop and full-scale exercises, training courses, Quarterly Calls, and HS/ER-4 Committee activities that are directly related to PTB tasks.
- We will publish a list of PTB tasks for each. Sign-offs will be conducted in person at NREP, CRCPD and HPS with remote sign-offs available, too.
- We have drafted the Qualification Review Board procedure presented next.
- We drafted it to help states that are beginning to sign off tasks for ROSS in their jurisdiction some support from the National ROSS Program.
- We would like your feedback about it before we make it operational.



# Draft Qualification Review Board Procedure

Bill Irwin, ScD, CHP, FEMA Type 1 ROSS, CRCPD ROSS Program Manager





FEMA

Questions? william.Irwin@vermont.gov

#### **National Qualification and State Perspectives**

The Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) is a national qualification. The ROSS <u>Position Description</u> and <u>Position Task Book</u> (PTB) were originally published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2019. FEMA's Office of Emerging Threats (OET) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) Homeland Security Emergency Response Committee 4 (HS/ER-4) manage the ROSS Program from a national perspective.



#### **National Qualification and State Perspectives**

While states may have their own qualification system including a review board, the ROSS QRB works to ensure all ROSS in all jurisdictions meet the national qualification criteria. Jurisdictions where ROSS are developed may integrate other qualification elements into those of the National ROSS Program.

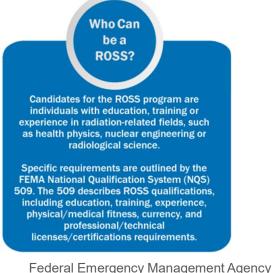




#### **National Qualification and State Perspectives**

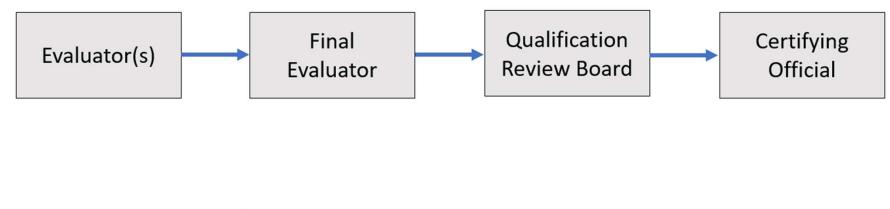
Attestation of task completion and certification of advancement by type require the highest level of personal integrity for each one involved. Those who request the support of a Type 1, 2, 3 or 4 ROSS expect the person who reports to serve their needs will meet the training, education, and experiential criteria in the Position Description.





#### **Draft Qualification Review Board Procedure**

Instructions for task evaluation and typing certification are given in the ROSS PTB. Pages 3 through 5 describe the process; page 2 has the *Final Evaluator* and *Documentation of Agency Certification* forms; page 6 is the *Evaluation Record Form*. Qualification follows this path:





#### **Qualification Roles**

- Evaluators
  - □ Higher type ROSS can evaluate and sign off tasks for ROSS of a lower type.
  - As allowed by the AHJ, a ROSS' supervisor for routine work or within an incident may sign off for tasks.
  - The AHJ may sign off tasks for all ROSS within their jurisdiction.
- Final Evaluators
  - □ Leaders who verify that a ROSS has completed the Type 1, 2 or 3 PTB.
  - □ The AHJ may be a Final Evaluator.



#### **Qualification Roles**

- ROSS QRB
  - CRCPD HS/ER-4 manages the National ROSS Program with the support of the FEMA OET ROSS Program.
  - HS/ER-4 Is composed entirely of ROSS, including multiple Type 1 and 2 ROSS.
  - □ The HS/ER-4 Committee Chair appoints the members of the ROSS QRB.
- The Certifying Official is the AHJ.

Becoming a ROSS benefits your community through enhanced ability to integrate into SLTT and regional planning and preparedness activities. It also benefits your career in emergency planning and management.

If you're interested in becoming a ROSS, working with a ROSS, incorporating ROSS into an exercise or training, or additional information on the ROSS program, please reach out to <u>FEMA-ROSS@fema.dhs.gov</u>.





#### **Task Evaluation**

- Evaluators attest that a ROSS has completed a task or multiple tasks during an incident as indicated in the PTB during a specific evaluation period.
- Tasks may be completed:
  - □ As part of an incident response or recovery,
  - □ In a classroom,
  - During a tabletop or full-scale exercise, or
  - □ As part of day-to-day job duties.
- Evaluators complete the *Evaluation Record Form* and a block next to each applicable task(s) in the PTB associated with that *Evaluation Record Form*.



# Task Sign-Off and -Historical Recognition

#### Live Observation

- The Evaluator signs off task completion as it is performed.
- Some tasks have multiple indicators, each of which must be demonstrated.
- An Evaluation Record Form from the PTB or facsimile is completed for each task or collection of tasks completed during the incident, training, exercise, or work activity.

#### **Historical Recognition**

- Historical Recognition is typically used for new ROSS with extensive radiological and nuclear emergency response and recovery experience and training.
- Historical Recognition requires documentation so the Final Evaluator and QRB can determine the ROSS has performed the task in accordance with the PTB task indicators.
- Documentation may be in any format, but it must directly link the past activity to the specific indicators for the task.



#### **Final Evaluation**

- Occurs after all the tasks for either a Type 3, Type 2 or Type 1 PTB are signed off by Evaluators.
- The Final Evaluator attests to the ROSS having completed all the tasks for the PTB.
- Final Evaluators complete the *Final Evaluator Verification* form in the PTB.
- The Final Evaluator sends the PTB to the CRCPD QRB via the FEMA OET using the email <u>FEMA-ROSS@FEMA.DHS.GOV</u>.
- For Historical Recognition, documentation of activities demonstrative of task completion must be sent to the QRB at the same time.



#### **The Qualification Review Board**

- The ROSS Qualification Review Board (QRB) is comprised of members of the CRCPD Committee HS/ER-4.
- It is comparable to, and consistent with the NIMS NQS QRB described in FEMA's *The National Incident Management System Guidelines for the National Qualification System* available at <a href="https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/fema\_nims\_nqs\_guideline\_0.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/fema\_nims\_nqs\_guideline\_0.pdf</a>.



#### **The QRB Process**

- Provide a final administrative review of all supporting documentation to ensure completeness and adequacy to justify the advancement of the individual ROSS;
- Ensure consistency across jurisdictional lines regarding the operational capabilities of each individual ROSS assigned to their respective type;
- Ensures all tasks necessary for advancement have been appropriately documented including a check that each required task is supported with a completed Evaluation Record Form or equivalent.
- The QRB notifies the Certifying Official of their review findings by letter.



#### Consideration of how tasks are determined complete

- It is preferable for the evaluator to directly observe the candidate completing the task and to describe the circumstances in the *Evaluation Record Form*.
- It is acceptable for an evaluator to attest to the completion of tasks without observing the candidate demonstrate the skills, knowledge and abilities (SKAs) associated with the task if the evaluator has other assurance the candidate is capable of adequately completing the SKAs.



#### Consideration of how tasks are determined complete

- Other assurance that the candidate is capable of adequately completing the tasks may include, but is not limited to, a long-standing professional relationship with the candidate, the attestation of a colleague known to the evaluator, and strong circumstantial evidence of the candidate's capability.
- Some minor gaps in documentation may not necessarily derail a typing effort.
  Significant gaps certainly could.



#### **The Qualification Review Board**

- It is not the role of the QRB to reject or even to question the attestations and assertions of any evaluator, final evaluator, or AHJ.
- The QRB may request additional clarifying information, so the documentation demonstrates a reasonable assurance the candidate is prepared to carry out the role to which they are being advanced as described in the ROSS Position Qualification.
- Pursuant to its role to ensure consistency across jurisdictional lines regarding the operational capabilities of each individual ROSS assigned to their respective type, the QRB may request a candidate complete an oral evaluation. The Oral Board is described below.



#### **Qualification Certification**

- Upon completion of the QRB review, the evaluation records will be forwarded to the appropriate AHJ for final consideration of qualification.
- As the Certifying Official, the AHJ completes the Documentation of Agency Certification.
- The AHJ may refer the candidate back to the Final Evaluator for remedial work.
- If the qualification is approved, and the candidate is advanced, the AHJ will notify the QRB who will ensure the national ROSS database is updated.



#### **The Oral Board**

- The Oral Board is most likely used for those advancing to Type 1 and 2.
- It helps provide the QRB with information that may not be evident in the documentation sent with the completed PTB.
- While completion of PTB tasks is a reasonable way to demonstrate knowledge, the ability of the candidate to effectively communicate that knowledge to the right person at the right time can be difficult to ascertain solely by the completion of tasks.
- It may also be used to augment the qualification process in cases where there has been little direct observation of candidates by evaluators.
- It is comprised of at least three QRB members who are Type 1 or 2 ROSS.



# **The Oral Board**

- The candidate and the Oral Board will meet at a mutually agreeable time.
- The evaluation may be conducted virtually or in person.
- The evaluation consists of a series of questions related to ROSS tasks posed to the candidate by the Oral Board.
- The questions will assess the candidate's ability to understand the totality of a given situation and to appropriately prioritize, advise, and communicate recommendations for the situation.
- The evaluation should last no longer than an hour.
- Results of the Oral Board will be communicated to the Final Evaluator and the AHJ for consideration.



# RadResponder/Radiological Operations Support Specialist Nationwide Drill

**Bill Irwin** 



Any Questions:

Contact: callston@chainbridgetech.com



FEMA





This drill will emphasize the importance of establishing partnerships in RadResponder, especially during a radiological incident that crosses state/county lines, and how those partnerships can aid in a response. As part of these partnerships, drill participants will leverage ROSS personnel to better understand the benefit they bring to an incident and how to request their expertise in a real-world event.



RadResponder Network

Co-Sponsored by:

- Open to all RadResponder users and organizations
- Players will be grouped based on geographic region and will "respond" to a fictional radiological incident affecting multiple counties/states
- ROSS will make recommendations to decision-makers in response to injects
- Injects over multiple days will link to tasks in the Position Task Books
- Main goal of the drill is to leverage the partnership functionality in RadResponder and having organizations decide on how to set up those partnerships outside of RadResponder (i.e. setting up agreements/procedures)



#### **IMPORTANT BULLETINS**

11/01/2023 - 04/05/2024

#### Upcoming RadResponder Nationwide Drill: Preparedness Through Partnerships

The first **RadResponder Nationwide Drill** of 2024 will take place from March 11-15! This drill will emphasize the importance of establishing partnerships in RadResponder, especially during a radiological incident that crosses state/county lines, and how those partnerships can aid in a response. As part of these partnerships, drill participants will leverage ROSS personnel to better understand the benefit they bring to an incident and how you can request their expertise in a real-world event. The drill is open to all RadResponder users!

The drill's main theme is partnerships, so the more organizations that participate, the more everyone will get out of the drill!

Nationwide Drill Execution and Closing Webinar: (Drill is open from March 11-15, with the Closing Webinar taking place on March 15) Register here.

Pre-Drill Webinar (March 7) Register here.

Check out the informational one-pager for more details and drill guidance.







- RadResponder homepage has all drillrelated links
  - Registration: <u>https://register.gotowebinar.com/regis</u> <u>ter/8916141435788291415</u>

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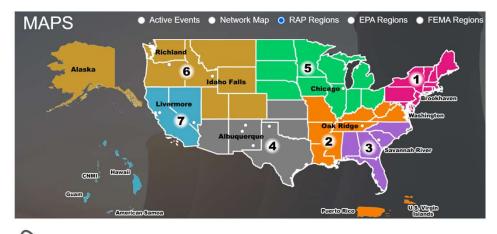
#### Plans for ROSS during the RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill

- We will use the seven DOE RAP Regions for the drill.
- The minimum structured attendance times are 1100 to 1200 Monday through Thursday, 11 to 15 March 2024.
- Monday Day 1 will be about why and how to build RadResponder partnerships, including with the regional ROSS.
- Days 2, 3 and 4 will be scenario-based play with the scenario being a radiological dispersal device (RDD).



#### Plans for ROSS during the RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill

- The same detonation data products will be used in each region, only with unique detonation sites selected to maximize regional play.
- Friday Day 5 will be a hotwash at 1300 to 1500.
- There will be recordings made if you cannot attend each session.







#### Plans for ROSS during the RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill

- We would like to see non-ROSS build RadResponder partnerships for their region so they might be used in a real event.
- On Day 1, we will describe how the New England Radiological Health Conference uses RadResponder partnerships routinely.
- During Days 2, 3 and 4, we want each region to discuss regional data collection plans, data sharing and data assessment as well as building a common radiological operating picture (CROP?).



## Plans for ROSS during the RadResponder/ROSS Nationwide Drill

- We need ROSS to help their jurisdictions in their region with these goals, but ROSS will also help with scenario injects that prompt regional awareness and recommendations for decision-making.
- We have chosen one ROSS from each region to be a ROSS Task Force Leader to coordinate collective functionality.
- We will have a meeting of the ROSS Task Force Leaders from 1500 to 1600 Eastern on 7 March.
- ROSS Task Force Leaders:
  - Region 1 Nancy Stanley, NJ Region 2 TBD Region 3 Jim Hardeman
  - Region 4 Jason Callahan Region 5 TBD
    - Region 7 TBD



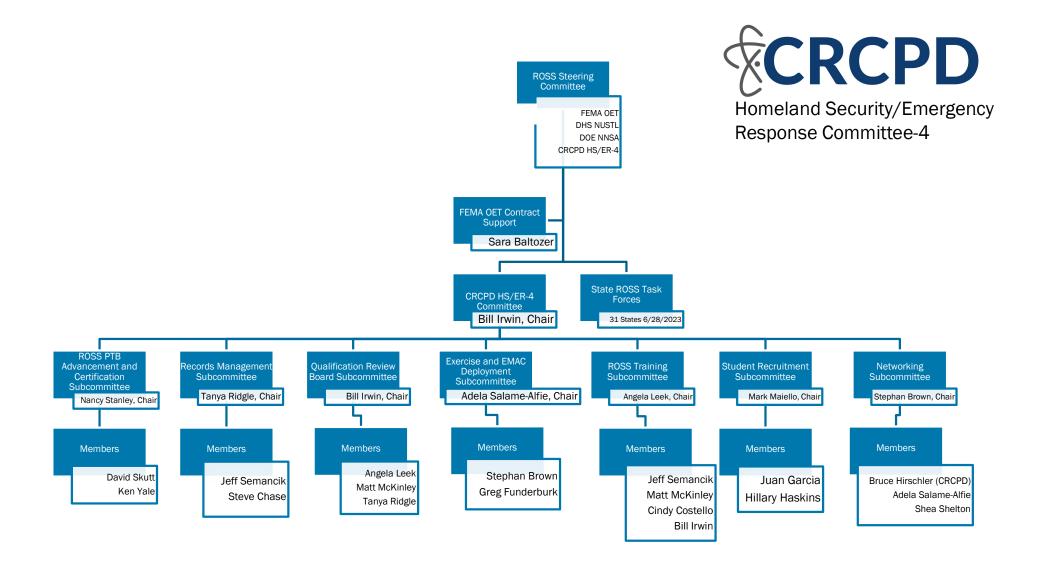
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Region 6 – Tori Bamford

# HS/ER-4 Subcommittee Updates







## **ROSS PTB Advancement and Certification Subcommittee**

Nancy Stanley (New Jersey), Ken Yale (EPA), David Skutt (Michigan)

- Overall goal of having one Type 1, and a minimum of three or four ROSS of any Type in each state
- Develop methods that encourage and reward for completing tasks
- Develop methods to encourage advancing by Type
- Schedule and conduct a nationally-oriented study group for the Competency Maintenance Problem Sets
- We need members!



## **Records Management Subcommittee**

Tanya Ridgel (California), Jeff Semancik (Connecticut), Steve Chase (retired FEMA)

- Mission identify and collect vital records.
- Objectives:
  - Identify what are vital records to keep.
  - Identify those records that need a separate repository beyond MissionEdge and HSIN.
  - Be able to organize data to support reporting out to ROSS and other interested parties, e.g., annual ROSS Program Reports.
  - To help ensure there are single official versions of vital records and that they are each kept in only one place to prevent loss of version control.
- Maintain charters, meeting minutes, procedures, etc.
- Identify the records to be maintained where, i.e., in HSIN, on the CRCPD ROSS Website, in MissionEdge and to social media platforms, as well as who is responsible for maintenance.



## **Qualification Review Board**

Bill Irwin (Vermont), Angela Leek (SummitET), Matt McKinley (Kentucky), Tanya Ridgel (California)

- No new candidates to review.
- Planning "office hours" to help get people signed off from past work.
- Prompted by a MissionEdge request to advance a ROSS by type, we recognized a need to draft the procedure presented earlier.



## **Exercise & EMAC Deployment Subcommittee**

#### Objectives

Adela Salame-Alfie (CDC), Greg Funderburk (CTOS), David Skutt (Michigan)

- Develop a pre-filled template for the MRP and RSA to make their use by states for ROSS deployments easier.
- Develop a procedure to describe how the templates are used and when and what other supporting documents may be necessary.
- Test the templates with states to see how they work for them.
- Use the final templates for an actual exercise, perhaps Cobalt Magnet 25 in Michigan in March 2025.
- Ensuring those who are deployed complete an After-Action Review and any other documentation appropriate to EMAC and the ROSS.
- Provide a training session for the ROSS, State ROSS Coordinators, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction.



## **Exercise and EMAC Deployment Subcommittee**

#### Update

- Reviewing several EMAC Mission Ready Package (MRP) templates to identify information needed
- Working on a sample template using ROSS Type I as an example
- Will develop line by line instructions on key elements of the template that can be completed in advance (generic, not specific staff)
- Once we have an example will do a presentation
- Recommend ROSS and ROSS State Coordinators explore the EMAC website in particular EMAC MRP website which contains a great deal of information, including written and video overviews of EMAC, MASS and MRP. <u>https://www.emacweb.org/index.php/learn/mission-ready-packages#mrp</u>



## **Exercise and EMAC Deployment Subcommittee**

 Within the EMAC website there are numerous sample MRP templates organized by discipline. These sample templates are similar to the MRP template we are working to complete for ROSS. This section is titled "Learn About EMAC & Your Discipline", and can be accessed at <a href="https://www.emacweb.org/">https://www.emacweb.org/</a>



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## **ROSS Training Subcommittee**

Jeff Semancik (Connecticut), Angela Leek (SummitET), Matt McKinley (Kentucky), Adela Salame-Alfie (CDC), Bill Irwin (Vermont)

- Committee Objectives:
  - Create training and coordinate training opportunities for ROSS
    - Examples DOE NNSA LN-100 course. Communication Training Series for ROSS, RESRAD overview for ROSS (coming soon)
    - This committee does not coordinate the PER-388 course delivery or content
  - Develop the quarterly problem sets in conjunction with the working group
  - Work with other committees to save and share recorded trainings
- This committee needs members! If you are interested, please let us know.



### Student Recruitment Subcommittee

Sara Baltozer (FEMA), J. Garcia (CA), H. Haskins (OR), M. Maiello (NYC), F. Monette (UT), D. Skutt (MI)

- Subcommittee comprised of training coordinators with experience organizing PER-388 (ROSS Tier-4) trainings and one FEMA representative with direct involvement in ROSS
- Five meetings held thus far
- Model: Converse with coordinators with upcoming trainings
  - Troubleshoot all problems associated with training set up (comms with CTOS, improving trainee sign-up, etc.)
  - Transfer past experiences with set up to new training coordinators (timeline, vetting prerequisites, working with trainees from Canada, etc.)
  - Recruit the new training coordinators into the subcomm; repeat cycle of advisement & recruitment to keep volunteer burden reasonable
- Work closely with Bill to liaison with CRCPD & FEMA if their assistance is needed



## Student Recruitment Subcommittee

Sara Baltozer (FEMA), J. Garcia (CA), H. Haskins (OR), M. Maiello (NYC), F. Monette (UT), D. Skutt (MI)

Upcoming PER-388 Sessions			
State	POC	email	Session Date* 2024
Michigan	David Skutt	SkuttD@michigan.gov	w/ of Mar 4
Utah	Frank Monette	mary.handy@ehs.utah.edu	w/of May 13
Ohio	William Loehner	william.lohner@odh.ohio.gov	w/of June 27
Kentucky	Curt Pendergrass	curt.pendergrass@ky.gov	w/of July 25
Massachusetts	William "Rusty" Lorenzen	william.lorenzen@childrens.harvard.edu	w/of Sept 23
Nebraska	Frank Rutar	frutar@unmc.edu	w/of Aug 5
Wisconsin	Charles Adams	charles.adams@dhs.wisconsin.gov	2025



## **Networking Subcommittee**

Stephan Brown (Pennsylvania), Shea Shelton (New York City), Adela Salame-Alfie (CDC), Bruce Hirschler (CRCPD)

- CRCPD link to ROSS Portal, for Quarterly Call slides and other information:
  - https://crcpd.org/ross-portal/
- For those that would like to receive time sensitive information, in the future, via Facebook:
  - <u>ROSS (Radiological Operations Support Specialist)</u>
- For LinkedIn:
  - https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8448308/



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## **Closing Remarks**

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Jon Gill, PhD, FEMA Office of Emerging Threats,



Any Questions:

Contact FEMA-ROSS@FEMA.DHS.GOV