

CRCPD *Newsbrief*

Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.
A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

www.crcpd.org

June 2026

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



NEW AND INSPIRING RESPONSIBILITIES

by Tanya Ridgle

It is an honor to begin my term as Chair of the CRCPD Board of Directors. I am incredibly humbled by this opportunity. As I closed the business meeting at the 58th National Conference on Radiation Control last month, I was filled with sheer awe just thinking about my new role as chair. That feeling has yet to subside. The Annual Meeting is always a meaningful experience. **This past meeting in Lombard, Illinois, provided an opportunity to see firsthand the depth of knowledge, commitment, and collaboration that define CRCPD, and it was an inspiring setting in which to begin this new chapter of service.**

The conference demonstrated that CRCPD is much more than an annual gathering. It is where members come together to share ideas, strengthen professional relationships, advance committee work, and prepare for the challenges facing radiation control programs nationwide. The discussions held during the week reflected the broad responsibilities of our members and the important role CRCPD plays in supporting state and local programs.

VALUE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

“The conference demonstrated that CRCPD is much more than an annual gathering. It is where members come together to share ideas, strengthen professional relationships, advance committee work, and prepare for the challenges facing radiation control programs nationwide.”

Tanya Ridgle

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FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

Annual Meeting Training Component

Training was an especially strong component of this year’s meeting.

- The Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) Committee provided a full day of training focused on strengthening radiological emergency response capabilities.
- CRCPD’s partnership with the American Association of Physicists in Medicine also made possible a full day of hands-on medical x-ray training.
- Additional sessions addressed transportation, fusion, radon, and other emerging and continuing areas of importance to radiation protection programs.

These training opportunities are one of the most valuable benefits CRCPD provides. **They allow members to build technical knowledge, learn from experienced colleagues, and apply practical insights in their programs. They also help develop the relationships that become essential when states need to share information, solve problems, or respond collectively to a new issue.**

Opportunity to Conduct Meaningful Work

The Annual Meeting also gave CRCPD committees the opportunity to conduct meaningful work. The G-55 Training Committee met to advance its project and provided an update to the membership during the business meeting. That combination of focused committee work and direct communication with members is an important part of how CRCPD turns ideas into useful resources and results.

NEW AND INSPIRING RESPONSIBILITIES

CONDUCTING MEANINGFUL WORK

“That combination of focused committee work and direct communication with members is an important part of how CRCPD turns ideas into useful resources and results.”

Tanya Ridgle

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

**Development of Training
and Professional Growth Opportunities**

As I begin my term as Chair, **I am particularly interested in supporting the continued development of training and professional growth opportunities.** State radiation control programs are being asked to address established responsibilities while also preparing for emerging technologies, changing regulatory expectations, and new public health and emergency response challenges. CRCPD can help by identifying common needs, bringing subject matter experts together, and creating opportunities for programs to learn from one another.

CRCPD Tri-chairs Meetings

Shortly after the Annual Meeting, I joined the other CRCPD Tri-chairs and Executive Director for meetings with federal partners in Washington, D.C. We met with representatives from:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA);
- DOE Office of Radiological Security (ORS);
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

These meetings provided an important opportunity to represent the perspectives of CRCPD members and state radiation control programs. We discussed emergency preparedness, consequence management, advanced reactor planning, training needs, regulatory coordination, radon, and the tools states rely upon during radiological incidents and exercises.

**NEW AND INSPIRING
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**TRI-CHAIRS
MEETING TOPICS**

"We discussed emergency preparedness, consequence management, advanced reactor planning, training needs, regulatory coordination, radon, and the tools states rely upon during radiological incidents and exercises."

Tanya Ridgle

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

**NEW AND INSPIRING
RESPONSIBILITIES**

Training Is a Priority

We emphasized that training must remain a high priority. **Strong response capabilities depend not only on equipment and technology, but also on knowledgeable personnel who understand their roles and have opportunities to practice working together.** Continued investment in radiation emergency response, public health, technical, and decision-maker training strengthens both individual programs and the national response framework.

Concerns about RadResponder

We also discussed concerns related to RadResponder and CBRNResponder. **States need reliable systems that can support the collection, management, and sharing of radiological data during exercises and actual events.** CRCPD members have contributed significant time and technical expertise to identifying operational concerns, and we will continue working with our partners to pursue sustainable solutions that meet state needs.

Source Collection and Threat Reduction Program

During our meeting with the DOE Office of Radiological Security, we had the opportunity to discuss the important work of the Source Collection and Threat Reduction Program. SCATR supports the safe and secure disposition of unwanted radioactive material and provides a valuable resource for licensees and state programs. It is an excellent example of a federal-state partnership that reduces risk while providing practical assistance to the regulated community.

SCATR SUCCESS

“It is an excellent example of a federal-state partnership that reduces risk while providing practical assistance to the regulated community.”

Tanya Ridgle

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

(continued)

**NEW AND INSPIRING
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**The Importance of State Voices
in National Discussions**

The federal visits reinforced for me how important it is to include state voices in national discussions. **CRCPD provides a structure through which programs can identify shared concerns, develop informed recommendations, and communicate directly with federal agencies.** The experiences of our members help our partners understand how policies, programs, and systems function in real-world state and local environments.

Success Depends on Participation

As Chair, I look forward to working with the Board, Office of the Executive Director (OED) staff, committees, members, and partners to continue strengthening CRCPD. I also want to encourage all members to get involved.

Participation can take many forms—joining a committee, contributing to a technical review, attending training, sharing a program success, mentoring a colleague, or providing feedback on an emerging issue. **CRCPD’s success depends on the participation of its members. The Annual Meeting and federal visits were strong reminders that our collective experience and expertise can have a significant national impacts.**

Appreciation and Inspiration

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Pat Mulligan, Past Chair, and the many Chairs before him for their service and dedication. I am inspired by your professionalism, collaborative spirit, and dedication. The example you set has not only shaped CRCPD but has also influenced and encouraged leaders like me to continue advancing its mission.

**NRC COMMISSION
BRIEFING**

“Participation can take many forms—joining a committee, contributing to a technical review, attending training, sharing a program success, mentoring a colleague, or providing feedback on an emerging issue.”

Tanya Ridgle

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE**



CARRYING CRCPD'S WORK FORWARD

by Lisa Bruedigan, Executive Director

May and June have been especially busy and productive months for CRCPD. From gathering with our members and partners at the 58th National Conference on Radiation

Control to meeting with federal agencies in Washington, D.C., these weeks have reinforced the important role CRCPD plays in connecting state radiation control programs, federal partners, professional organizations, and the broader radiation protection community.

Annual Meeting

The Power of Adaptation: Redefining What's Next

Our Annual Meeting in the Chicago area was an excellent opportunity to reconnect, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. This year's theme, The Power of Adaptation: Redefining What's Next, was reflected throughout the program as speakers and participants explored emerging technologies, changing regulatory environments, new approaches to radiation protection, and the continued need for strong partnerships.

The meeting also reminded us that science can be both rigorous and engaging. Several presentations found creative ways to connect reality television and pop music with the important scientific and technical work being done across the radiation community. Those unexpected connections helped make complex topics more relatable, memorable, and accessible. Our game

ANNUAL MEETING

THE POWER OF ADAPTATION: REDEFINING WHAT'S NEXT



Ted Berger
and Pat Mulligan

Theodore "Ted" Berger, Acting Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, welcomes attendees to the 58th National Conference on Radiation Control and highlights Illinois' nuclear legacy, commitment to public safety, and the importance of partnership in preparing for the future.

show-style social event offered another kind of connection, giving attendees an opportunity to laugh, participate, and get to know one another on a fun and very different level. **These moments helped strengthen the relationships that make collaboration across our community possible.**

Contributions for Success

The quality and breadth of the meeting would not have been possible without the dedication of the CRCPD Office of Executive Director (OED) staff, Planning Committee, presenters, exhibitors, federal partners, professional organizations, and volunteers. The OED staff worked tirelessly before, during, and after the conference to coordinate the countless details required to ensure the meeting's success and create a welcoming and productive experience for our members and guests.

CRCPD's Greatest Strength is Its Members

CRCPD members also contribute thousands of hours each year through committees, working groups, training activities, technical reviews, and special projects. **The Annual Meeting offered another reminder that CRCPD's greatest strength is the expertise and willingness of its members to share their time and knowledge for the benefit of radiation protection programs across the country.**

Engagement with Partners

The meeting also provided valuable opportunities for CRCPD leadership to meet directly with representatives from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, International Atomic Energy Agency, and

CRCPD'S STRENGTH OF ITS MEMBERS

"CRCPD members also contribute thousands of hours each year through committees, working groups, training activities, technical reviews, and special projects."

Lisa Bruedigan

other partner organizations. These conversations allowed us to discuss current priorities, emerging concerns, and ways CRCPD can help ensure that state perspectives are considered in the development of national and international policies, regulations, guidance, and technical resources.

That engagement continued in June when the CRCPD Tri-Chairs and I traveled to Washington, D.C., for meetings with several of our federal partners. Our discussions with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, the Department of Energy's Office of Radiological Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission focused on issues that directly affect state and local radiation control and emergency response programs.

Among the topics discussed were:

- the future of federal radiological emergency preparedness and consequence management capabilities;
- the importance of continued support for radiation emergency response, public health, and decision-maker training;
- advanced reactor emergency planning; and
- the need for dependable tools to support state and federal coordination during radiological incidents.

We also emphasized the value of programs such as the Radiological Operations Support Specialist initiative and CRCPD's Public Health Decision Makers training, which help strengthen coordination, technical understanding, and informed decision-making across response organizations.

During our meeting with the **DOE Office of Radiological Security** team, we also discussed the excellent work being accomplished

**MEETING
OPPORTUNITIES
AND VALUE**

“These conversations allowed us to discuss current priorities, emerging concerns, and ways CRCPD can help ensure that state perspectives are considered in the development of national and international policies, regulations, guidance, and technical resources.”

Lisa Bruedigan

through the **Source Collection and Threat Reduction Program**. SCATR provides an important resource for licensees by supporting the safe, secure disposition of unwanted radioactive sources and helping reduce the risks associated with sources that are no longer needed. CRCPD appreciates the strong partnership with DOE ORS and the continued value this program provides to states, licensees, and the broader radiation protection community.

RadResponder and **CBRNResponder** were also important parts of these conversations. CRCPD members have invested significant time documenting concerns, testing system capabilities, and explaining the operational challenges states have encountered. We continue to advocate for a reliable, sustainable solution that allows states to collect, manage, and share radiological response data during exercises and real-world events. CRCPD is also exploring options that could provide states with greater flexibility and access to dependable response-management technology.

Our federal visits were equally important for strengthening relationships. While formal letters and written comments are essential, direct conversations help our partners better understand how national policies and systems are implemented at the state and local levels. CRCPD serves as a bridge between federal agencies and the programs responsible for implementing many of these policies. We can quickly gather state feedback, identify common operational concerns, connect federal agencies with subject matter experts, and help build consensus across programs.

Grants, Agreements and Technical Initiatives

- In addition to these visible activities, work has continued on several grants, cooperative agreements, and technical initiatives. We are developing future work plans with EPA related to radon awareness, risk reduction, training, and state support.

HOW CRCPD WORKS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

“CRCPD serves as a bridge between federal agencies and the programs responsible for implementing many of these policies.”

Lisa Bruedigan

- We are preparing a continuation application for our DOE/ NNSA agreement focused on radiation protection, emergency response, training, and cooperative state-federal projects.
- We are also continuing to support NRC rulemaking reviews, professional partnerships, international activities, and the development of resources for use by state programs and the regulated community.

Breadth of CRCPD's Work

The past two months have demonstrated the breadth of CRCPD's work—from hosting a national conference and coordinating technical comments to supporting training, building partnerships, and representing state radiation control programs in discussions with federal decision-makers. None of this happens through the efforts of one person or one organization. It is made possible by our OED staff, members who volunteer their expertise, program directors who identify emerging needs, partners who work collaboratively with us, and everyone who helps keep dozens of projects moving forward.

Thank You

Thank you to the CRCPD OED staff and everyone who participated in the Annual Meeting, supported our federal visits, contributed talking points and technical information, served on committees, or helped advance CRCPD's work during these very busy months. I look forward to building on this momentum as we continue working together to protect public health and strengthen radiation protection programs nationwide.

BREADTH OF CRCPD'S WORK

"The past two months have demonstrated the breadth of CRCPD's work—from hosting a national conference and coordinating technical comments to supporting training, building partnerships, and representing state radiation control programs in discussions with federal decision-makers."

Lisa Bruedigan

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CONTRIBUTORS

Adela Salame Alfie (CRCPD)

Becki Harisis (TN)

Michael Snee (CRCPD)

Margaret Henderson

Editor

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GERALD S. PARKER AWARD OF MERIT

Patrick Mulligan

For his significant contribution to radiation protection and emergency preparedness, Patrick Mulligan, Assistant Director of the New Jersey Division of Air Quality and Radiation Protection, was presented with the Gerald S. Parker Award.

Throughout his career, Pat has demonstrated sustained leadership in strengthening emergency planning, response coordination, and readiness across state, regional, and national programs. He has played a key role in advancing policy, guidance, and best practices through his work with the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and National Radiological Preparedness (NREP), while fostering collaboration and engagement among state and federal partners.



**RIKKI WALLER AND
PAT MULLIGAN**

Pat has been a strong advocate for participation in the Radiological Operations Support Specialist (ROSS) system, enhancing mutual aid and national response capabilities. His leadership on the CRCPD Board of Directors, along with his service on national task forces and advisory groups, reflects his commitment to practical, effective radiation protection. Widely respected for his expertise and steady leadership, Pat's contributions have had a lasting impact nationwide.

JAMES W. MILLER AWARD

Joann Harthcock

Joann Harthcock is recognized for her exceptional service to the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and her significant contributions to advancing radiation protection and medical radiation safety nationwide. As a Member-at-Large on the CRCPD Board of Directors, Joann provides thoughtful leadership and strategic insight that support the mission of CRCPD and the effectiveness of state radiation control programs. She also serves as Chair of the CRCPD Healing Arts Council, where she leads efforts to address emerging issues in medical radiation use and supports the work of multiple committees focused on diagnostic and therapeutic radiation safety.

Joann's leadership extends across several important CRCPD initiatives. She serves as Chair of the H-55 Task Force on Digital Imaging, guiding efforts to address regulatory and technical



**LISA BRUEDIGAN,
JOANN HARTHCOCK,
AND PAT MULLIGAN**

challenges associated with evolving digital imaging technologies. She is also Co-Chair of the H-04 Committee on Nationwide Evaluation of X-ray Trends, which supports the collection and analysis of national data on diagnostic x-ray use. In addition, Joann serves as Co-Chair of the G-80 Task Force to Address

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Rulemaking, helping coordinate CRCPD's engagement on regulatory developments that affect state programs. Joann also strengthens collaboration across the radiation protection community through her role as CRCPD Liaison to the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and participation on the H-07 Committee on Diagnostic X-ray.

Her leadership, expertise, and dedication to CRCPD exemplify the spirit of service recognized by the Miller Award.

JOHN C. VILLFORTH LECTURE SERIES

Thomas Ruckdeschel Honored as 2026 John C. Villforth Lecturer

CRCPD was pleased to recognize Thomas G. “Tom” Ruckdeschel, M.S., CHP, DABR, as the recipient of the 2026 John C. Villforth Lecture and Award during the opening session of the 58th National Conference on Radiation Control.

The John C. Villforth Lecture recognizes individuals whose leadership, technical expertise, and professional service have made meaningful contributions to radiation protection. Tom was selected in recognition of his long-standing work to advance radiation safety and quality in medical imaging.

Tom has been an important contributor to the radiation protection community for many years, sharing his expertise with regulators, medical physicists, professional organizations, and healthcare facilities. He has served on numerous American College of Radiology committees and has contributed his expertise to CRCPD committees and activities, particularly in the areas of diagnostic imaging, mammography, quality assurance, and



**THOMAS RUCKDESCHEL
AND PAT MULLIGAN**

the development of practical resources for state radiation control programs.

During the Annual Meeting, Tom presented the 2026 John C. Villforth Lecture, “Radiation Exposure Monitoring in Medical Imaging: Evolution of

Methods, Effectiveness and Potential Pitfalls.” His presentation examined the development and use of radiation exposure monitoring methods in medical imaging, including their value, limitations, and the potential challenges that must be considered when interpreting and applying the information they provide. The lecture reflected the knowledge, experience, and commitment to collaboration that have characterized Tom’s career and his service to the radiation protection community. CRCPD congratulates Tom on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for the many ways he has supported CRCPD, its members, and the broader medical imaging and radiation protection communities.

SUSIE SHIMEK RADON HERO AWARD

DENISE BLEILER



RADON HERO AWARD

Denise has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to protecting public health through her leadership of the Pennsylvania Radon Program. Throughout her career, she has worked to reduce public exposure to radon by ensuring strong regulatory oversight, compliance, and enforcement of Pennsylvania’s radon standards.

As program manager, Denise has overseen the certification and regulation of radon measurement and mitigation professionals, helping ensure residents receive high-quality services that effectively reduce radon risks in their homes. Her efforts have directly contributed to safer living environments for thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Denise was instrumental in developing and implementing new industry requirements and successfully guiding professionals through the transition. Through education, communication, and enforcement, she strengthened industry compliance while maintaining a collaborative approach with stakeholders.

A dedicated advocate for workforce development, Denise has provided high-quality training and continuing education opportunities that have helped build a skilled and knowledgeable radon workforce. Her efforts have strengthened the long-term effectiveness of radon testing and mitigation programs across the state.

Beyond Pennsylvania, Denise has advanced radon awareness through her service with CRCPD Committee E-25, the Pennsylvania Radon Coalition, Pennsylvania’s Cancer Control Plan, and the National Radon Action Plan. Her leadership, professionalism, and lasting contributions make her a highly deserving recipient of the Susie Shimek Radon Hero Award.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AWARD

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE FIELD OF RADIATION PROTECTION

E-47 COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCIAL
NUCLEAR POWER

- JEFFREY SEMANCIK,
CHAIRPERSON
- SZYMON
MUDREWICZ,
MEMBER
- MEGAN SHOBER,
MEMBER
- DAVID LAFLEUR,
MEMBER

In recognition of their outstanding effort in the development of the Technical White Paper entitled **State Regulation of Fusion Machines**, the Board of Directors recognizes the members of the E-47 Committee for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Radiation Protection. The Technical White Paper represents a truly collaborative achievement, bringing together state regulatory officials, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission representatives, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors staff, and industry advisors. The development of the paper presented unique challenges, as key regulatory decisions regarding the appropriate framework for fusion machine regulation were actively evolving during the drafting process. E-47 rose to the challenge and worked diligently to produce thoughtful and technically sound guidance addressing the regulatory considerations for fusion machines. In addition to the substantial interdisciplinary coordination efforts required, many members of the committee devoted a significant amount of time to developing a deeper understanding of fusion science and machine related health physics considerations to ensure that the Technical White Paper was accurate and useful to regulators. Their dedication to advancing radiation protection in the context of emerging fusion machine technology exemplifies the spirit of this Outstanding Achievement award.

JILL SLUBOWSKI

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE FIELD OF RADIATION PROTECTION**

The Board of Directors recognizes Jill Slubowski for her outstanding achievement in the field of radiation protection through her unwavering leadership of the CRCPD E-43 Committee for Interagency Environmental Data Sharing and Communication and its evaluation of the RadResponder system, and for her dedication and perseverance in maintaining, testing, and using her problem-solving skills regarding radiological data sharing platforms. Jill has led a focused and highly impactful effort to assess the functionality and reliability of a nationally utilized radiological data management system. Under her leadership, the E-43 Committee implemented a structured, real-world evaluation process that identified critical limitations affecting the ability of state and local programs to effectively collect and use radiological data during exercises and emergency response operations. Through Jill's leadership, RadResponder has thrived and seen expanded use amongst state, local, and commercial power plant communities. Her passion for her work motivates her team and those around her to strive for excellence. Jill's leadership reflects a unique and valuable approach to strengthening radiation protection programs by ensuring that key response tools are operationally sound and capable of supporting decision-making during incidents. Her ability to coordinate across multiple states, synthesize complex technical feedback, and clearly communicate findings has resulted in actionable recommendations to improve system performance and reliability. Her efforts represent an outstanding contribution within a short timeframe and have had a direct and meaningful impact on emergency preparedness and response capabilities nationwide. For her leadership, innovation, and dedication to advancing radiation protection, Jill Slubowski is highly deserving of this award.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AWARD

E-43 COMMITTEE
FOR INTERAGENCY
ENVIRONMENTAL
DATA SHARING AND
COMMUNICATION

- JILL SLUBOWSKI,
CHAIRPERSON
- BRENNAN
BRUNNER, MEMBER
- AMY HASS,
MEMBER
- SAHAR AZMAT,
MEMBER
- DAVID SKUTT,
MEMBER
- HILLARY HASKINS,
ADVISOR/MEMBER

AWARD FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

The Board of Directors recognizes members of the E-43 Committee for their outstanding service to CRCPD and the radiation protection community through its extensive testing and evaluation of the RadResponder system. The Committee's efforts have gone beyond normal expectations, requiring sustained commitment, technical expertise, and coordination across multiple states and partners. E-43 members conducted comprehensive evaluations of the system under real-world conditions, identifying critical issues that affect the ability of programs to collect, manage, and rely on radiological data during exercises and emergency response operations. Through their work, the Committee has provided detailed feedback and practical recommendations, helping to ensure that RadResponder meets the operational needs of state and local radiation control programs. Their persistence in documenting challenges and advocating for improvements has been instrumental in maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of emergency response capabilities nationwide. The E-43 Committee's contributions have significantly supported CRCPD in advancing its mission to improve radiation protection and assist state programs. For these contributions, the CRCPD E-43 Committee is highly deserving of the Board of Directors Award for Meritorious Service.



E-43: David Skutt, Hillary Haskins, Amy Hass and Pat Mulligan
(Not pictured are Jill Slubowski, Brennen Brunner, and Sahar Azmat).

**PUBLIC SERVANT
AWARD**

MIROSLAV PINAK

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD

For his many contributions to radiation protection and support of CRCPD and state radiation control programs, including his long-term service to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), where he has provided exceptional leadership in advancing global radiation safety and strengthening international partnerships, CRCPD recognized Miroslav Pinak with its Public Servant Award.

His vision and dedication to fostering collaboration between the IAEA and CRCPD have enhanced communication, information sharing, and alignment between U.S. state programs and international radiation protection standards. His continued commitment to building a more connected global radiation protection community demonstrates his dedication to ensuring high standards of radiation protection and the effective exchange of knowledge across borders.



Lisa Bruedigan, Miroslav Pinak, and Pat Mulligan

CRCPD SCHOLARSHIP
FUND

ELLA LUKING



Ella Luking
and Pat Mulligan

CRCPD congratulates Ella and wishes her continued success as she completes her undergraduate education and prepares for graduate study. We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this effort and helped invest in the next generation of radiation professionals.

STUDENT TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS FUTURE RADIATION PROFESSIONAL

CRCPD was pleased to welcome Ella Luking, a junior at Rhodes College pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Physics, to the 58th National Conference on Radiation Control as this year's recipient of the CRCPD Scholarship.

Ella plans to pursue a Ph.D. in health physics or medical physics, with the long-term goal of conducting radiation research or working as a diagnostic imaging medical physicist. She is particularly interested in mammography and other research related to women's health.

Because most physics students at her college are focused on condensed matter physics or astrophysics, attending the CRCPD conference gave Ella a unique opportunity to explore careers in health physics, medical physics, radiation protection, and regulation. She was also able to connect with professionals in the field and gather information that will help guide her graduate school plans.

The CRCPD Scholarship Fund supports students with a strong interest in health physics and related careers. The award includes complimentary meeting registration and assistance with travel, lodging, and per diem expenses. Priority may be given to students who present work of interest to the radiation control community or who are considering regulatory health physics as a career.

This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the many individuals who have contributed to the student travel fund. Their support provides students with valuable opportunities to learn, build professional connections, explore career pathways, and experience the breadth of the radiation protection community.

CRCPD REPRESENTATION AT THE 2026 SNMMI ANNUAL MEETING

by Becki Harisis (TN)

The 2026 Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) Annual Meeting provided an excellent opportunity to represent the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, and gain insight into current and emerging trends within nuclear medicine.

Throughout the meeting, I engaged with exhibitors, attended educational sessions, and met with SNMMI leadership to better understand the issues impacting the nuclear medicine community. **One of the first observations was that many exhibitors and attendees were unfamiliar with CRCPD and the role that state radiation control programs play in regulating and supporting the safe use of radioactive materials.**

These interactions provided valuable opportunities to educate industry representatives about CRCPD and the important work conducted by radiation control programs across the country.

A particularly productive meeting was held with the Senior Manager of SNMMI's Health Policy and Regulatory Affairs. The discussion provided an opportunity to share information about CRCPD activities and highlighted opportunities for increased collaboration and communication between our organizations moving forward.

Educational Sessions

- Educational sessions covered a broad range of topics, from emerging technologies to regulatory developments.
- A hands-on dosimetry symposium sponsored by Hermes demonstrated advancements in therapy dosimetry software and reinforced the growing importance of patient-specific treatment planning.
- Sessions focused on physics, instrumentation, and data sciences highlighted the increasing role of artificial intelligence in research, image analysis, and clinical decision support.
- It was clear that AI will continue to influence the future of nuclear medicine.

Radiation Safety and Regulatory Professionals Sessions

- Several sessions offered direct relevance to radiation safety and regulatory professionals.
- ***“Law and Order: Radiation Safety Unit – Building a Culture of Radiation Safety”*** emphasized the importance of establishing strong safety cultures within healthcare organizations and identified opportunities where CRCPD expertise could support educational initiatives within the nuclear medicine community.
- ***“Quality Assurance: Does It Really Matter?”*** focused on preventing radiopharmaceutical infiltrations, improving injection quality, and recognizing issues with dose calibrator performance. T
- These topics directly relate to patient safety and quality assurance efforts within regulated programs.

The meeting also included updates on legislative and regulatory issues affecting healthcare and nuclear medicine. While many of the regulatory topics were familiar, the sessions provided useful confirmation that CRCPD remains informed and engaged regarding ongoing developments that may affect radiation control programs and licensees.

Overall, attendance at the 2026 SNMMI Annual Meeting was beneficial both professionally and organizationally. **The meeting strengthened relationships with key stakeholders, increased awareness of CRCPD within the nuclear medicine community, and provided valuable insight into technological, regulatory, and clinical developments affecting the field.**

I would like to thank CRCPD for the opportunity to attend and represent the organization at this important national meeting.

Becki Harisis

Division of Radiological Health

Knoxville, TN 37921

p. 615-981-4662

Becki.Harisis@tn.gov

SCATR ACTIVITIES

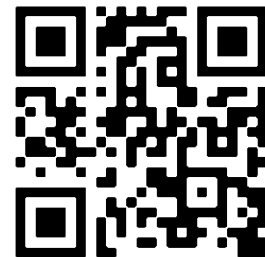
Reported by Michael Snee (CRCPD)

	2025 Totals	1st Quarter 2026	2st Quarter 2026	3rd Quarter 2026	4th Quarter 2026
Number of unwanted sources removed	8809	743			
Activity of sources removed	43 Curies	269 Curies			
Number of facilities assisted	271	39			

Information on SCATR can be found at the CRCPD SCATR Program (lanl.gov)

or

contact Michael Snee at msnee@crupd.org



DOT SPECIAL PERMITS

By Michael Snee (CRCPD)

SPECIAL PERMITS

CRCPD is the special permit holder for two Department of Transportation issued special permits.

SP11406 authorizes the one-way transportation in commerce by highway or rail of liquids or solid waste in accordance with conditions and requirements set forth in the special permit.

SP10656 authorizes the one-way transportation in commerce by highway or rail of scrap metal and related metal recycle materials in accordance with conditions and requirements set forth in the special permit.

The latest revisions of both special permits were issued on September 20, 2023.

USE OF SPECIAL PERMITS

State radioactive material control officials use the special permits to allow material which may have low levels of external radiation to be transported to a more appropriate location for proper characterization and disposition if radioactivity is discovered.

AUTHORIZED USERS

The CRCPD maintains a list of all state radioactive material control officials authorized to issue the special permits. This list is published on the CRCPD website at [Authorized-Users-5-26-2026.pdf](#)

USE OF SPECIAL PERMITS 2025 AND 2026

In 2025 the CRCPD reported to the DOT (135) SP11406 and (267) SP10656 special permits that were issued by State Agencies and submitted to the CRCPD. In the first quarter of 2026 (30) SP11406 and (55) SP10656 special permits were issued by State Agencies and submitted to the CRCPD.

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

State Agencies can submit Special Permits that have been issued to the CRCPD online at Transportation - CRCPD or by email to Bruce Hirschler (bhirschler@crcpd.org) or Michael Snee (msnee@crcpd.org).

PUBLIC HEALTH DECISION MAKERS STRENGTHEN RADIATION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN AUSTIN, TX

by Adela Salame Alfie (CRCPD Lifetime Member)

Building national preparedness begins at the state and local levels. Courses such as this one help ensure that public health leaders and their response partners are better prepared to make informed, coordinated, and timely decisions when their communities need them most.

CRCPD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held the Public Health Decision Making in a Radiation Emergency Course in Austin, Texas, June 2–4, 2026. The three-day course brought together professionals from public health, emergency management, radiation control, healthcare, epidemiology, communications, and other response organizations to explore the complex decisions that may arise during a radiological or nuclear emergency.

Radiation emergencies require much more than technical radiation expertise. They also require public health leaders and other decision makers to interpret rapidly changing information, understand the roles and capabilities of multiple agencies, communicate effectively with the public, and make difficult protective-action decisions—often with incomplete information and under significant time pressure.

Course Design & Strengths

The course was designed to help participants better understand these responsibilities and the anticipated interactions among public health agencies, radiation control programs, emergency management organizations, healthcare partners, public information officers, and federal response assets. Topics included population monitoring, health registries, post-incident epidemiological studies, food and water concerns, risk communication, public health messaging, and the coordination needed throughout the different phases of a response.

A major strength of the course was its interactive format. Participants worked through group exercises, breakout discussions, and practical decision-making activities that encouraged them to consider issues from perspectives beyond their own professional roles. This multidisciplinary approach provided an opportunity to ask questions, compare organizational procedures, and learn how other agencies and professions may approach the same emergency.

What Participants Said About the Course



COURSE PARTICIPANTS AND INSTRUCTORS

Participants consistently identified the practical exercises and interaction with their classmates as some of the most valuable parts of the course. One attendee noted that the group exercises provided an opportunity **“to talk with people in other fields and backgrounds.”** Another highlighted the value of having multidisciplinary professionals available to discuss how first responders think, the protocols they follow, and how their actions may affect public health decisions.

Capstone Scenario

The course concluded with a capstone scenario that allowed participants to apply the information they had learned throughout the week. The scenario required them to work through multiple phases of a radiation emergency, evaluate available information, coordinate with other organizations, and discuss the basis for their decisions.

“The tabletop exercise helped with the absorption of the material and putting it in the context of real life,” one participant wrote.

Another participant described the capstone as especially valuable because it provided a hands-on opportunity to retain and apply the course material. Others said the scenario on the final day helped bring all the individual topics together and reinforced the importance of thinking through the needs, responsibilities, and perspectives of the many organizations involved in a response.

Knowledge and Experience of the Instructional Team

Feedback also emphasized the knowledge and experience of the instructional team. Participants praised the instructors, course materials, CDC videos, interactive discussions, working groups, and problem-solving activities. Comments described the course as “fun and engaging” and highlighted the instructors’ ability to dispel common myths while providing practical resources related to food, water, agriculture, health monitoring, and other issues that may be affected by a radiation emergency.



COURSE INSTRUCTORS PICTURED ABOVE FROM LEFT - DR. HARL'O FISHER (GA), DR. ADELA SALAME-ALFIE (GA), AMY HASS (MN), SHERWIN LEVINSON (GA), AND TRAE WINDHAM (TX) (STANDING IN THE BACK). ALL ARE RADIOLOGICAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT SPECIALISTS (ROSS).

Value of the Course

One participant shared that the course materials would have an immediate impact on their organization's preparedness efforts, stating that they looked forward to incorporating the information and resources into plans for an upcoming mass-fatality exercise.

The Austin course demonstrated the importance of preparing public health and response leaders before an emergency occurs. By bringing multiple disciplines together in a classroom environment, participants were able to build relationships, clarify roles, practice difficult conversations, and gain a broader understanding of the decisions that may be required during a real event.

CRCPD Thanks

CRCPD is grateful to CDC for its continued support of this important training, to the instructors and subject matter experts who shared their knowledge and experience, and to the Texas hosts who helped make the course possible. Most importantly, CRCPD would like to thank the participants who contributed their perspectives, asked thoughtful questions, and actively engaged in the exercises.

**CRCPD WELCOMES
NEW MEMBERS**

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Alexander Garza (TX)

AFFILIATE MEMBER

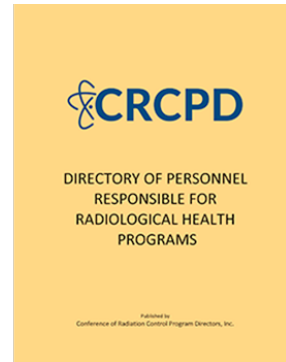
Kim Anderson (OH)

**TO APPLY FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN
CRCPD, SEE THE
ONLINE APPLICATION!**

[Apply Here.](#)

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Directory of Personnel Responsible for Radiological Health Programs is available online for members and our federal partners and is updated regularly. Visit [CRCPD](#).



CALL FOR NEWS

CRCPD is interested in what you are doing and would like to share your knowledge and experiences with other CRCPD members through a feature article in the *Newsbrief*.

If you would like to submit an article, please contact Lisa Bruedigan (lbruedigan@crcpd.org) suggesting a topic you'd like to present.

The *Newsbrief* is published six times a year, in even numbered months. Deadline for submission is the 15th of the month of publication.

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Kristina Verderame (CT)
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kristina.verderame@ct.gov

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