

Status: Active

DOE Lead: Jim Cruickshank, EM-76, (301) 903-7272

Start Date: January 20, 1998

End Date: Open

Purpose: To support the TEC/WG Training Topic Group by identifying emergency medical care training issues, resolutions to the issues, and how this information should be provided to emergency medical care practitioners and other affected personnel.

Approach: At the July 1997 TEC/WG meeting in Albuquerque, NM, the Training Topic Group noted that emergency medical training issues needed to be addressed. A Medical Training Issues Topic Group (MTITG) was proposed. This group subsequently became an offshoot of the Training Topic Group which was requested to continue operations by TEC/WG members to address a broad range of training issues as they arose. DOE Defense Programs Office of Emergency Response (DP-23) was requested to Chair the Medical Training Issues Topic Group. Dr. Ron Goans, Medical Team Leader, Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS) was selected by DP-23 to serve as the Chair.

Some of the training areas the MTI Topic Group are examining include: pre-hospital care; emergency department treatment; allied health care; mortuary concerns; patient decontamination and monitoring; contamination control; National training standards; training curriculums; procedural and legal issues; and specialized equipment.

Updates:

(as of 1/98): The initial organization meeting for the MTI Topic Group was held January 1998 in Las Vegas, NV. The MTI Topic Group divided into three sub-groups to examine the areas of pre-hospital care, hospital care, and delivery of training. The Group is doing a literature search and review with the results to be presented at the July 1998 meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

(as of 7/98): The second meeting of the MTITG was held in Milwaukee, WI on July 13th. Members reviewed and discussed the various information that had been gathered. Members discussed the number of Federal training programs for Hazard Class 7 (RAM). It was noted that one of the purposes of the MTITG was to try to consolidate the information from various programs into a usable curricula for all responders, both pre- and in-hospital. The NFPA 472 and 473 standards for hazardous material response were discussed. This might be a means for ensuring RAM first responder training competencies reached a wider audience, as an alternative to a Training Registry to ensure jurisdictions had properly trained personnel.

(as of 10/98): EM-76 agreed, with the concurrence of the DOE Senior Executive Transportation Forum, to work with the NFPA to provide technical inputs to NFPA Standards 472 and 473 to address training competencies for RAM events for first responders. Jim Cruickshank, EM-76, was selected as the DOE Lead for this effort. ANL Fire Department Chief Gordon Veerman was selected as the liaison to represent DOE at the NFPA 470 series meetings. The MTITG was requested to review and provide inputs for the NFPA 473 standard on EMS personnel competencies for HAZMAT events.

Also, the MTITG was asked by the Rail Topic Group to review the medical section of a WIPP document that group was developing.

(as of 12/98): Comments on both NFPA 473 and Section 6 were discussed. The comments on NFPA 473 will be consolidated and a revised draft will be reviewed at the MTITG's meeting in Jacksonville, FL in January 1999. The comments on Section 6 will be consolidated and provided to the Rail Topic group. The Section 6 comments were all fairly minor with no major policy or operational issues identified by the MTITG.

The January meeting will consist of a review of the NFPA 473 document, in preparation for transmittal of a recommendation package to the NFPA via EM-76. Due to a time constraint placed on DOE by the NFPA this is a high priority effort to meet the NFPA's timetable for revision. The MTITG expects to provide the final recommendations by the first week of February 1999. This will close out the majority of training competency issues for the pre-hospital task and allow the MTITG to focus on in-hospital training issues, training delivery, and interfaces.

(as of 7/99): At the January MTITG meeting the Group reviewed the current draft of NFPA 473 and refined the recommendations to the NFPA 470 series committee. The recommendation document was completed in February 1999 and forwarded to NFPA through EM-76, Jim Cruickshank. The NFPA 470 Committee is currently addressing NFPA Standard 472 and will begin its review of 473 when this is done. Also, at the January meeting it was announced that DP-23 would be withdrawing from its roles as Chair and Coordinator of the MTITG at the direction of DP-20. EM-76 will appoint a new Chair for the July 1999 meeting.

Schedule:

11/97	Task Plan proposed and drafted
12/97	Outline of medical issues paper drafted
01/98	Initial organizational meeting held during the TEC/WG meeting in Las Vegas, NV
06/98	MTI Topic Group Conference Call held
07/98	Second MTI Group meeting held during the TEC/WG meeting in Milwaukee, WI
10/98	DOE and NFPA agree to work together to revise NFPA Standards
12/98	MTI Topic Group Conference Call held
01/99	Third MTI Topic Group meeting scheduled during the TEC/WG meeting in Jacksonville, FL
07/99	Fourth MTI Topic Group meeting scheduled during TEC/WG meeting in Philadelphia; Group may merge with Training Topic Group