

FEMA



# CDP Alumnus

Center for Domestic Preparedness – Anniston, AL

## CDP Mission

The CDP develops and delivers training for emergency response providers from state, local, and tribal governments and, when appropriate, the federal government, foreign governments, and private entities.

## CDP Vision

An emergency response community prepared for and capable of responding to all-hazards events.

## CDP Training Tally

782,505 as of June 22, 2013

## Feedback

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Role players acting as survivors following a simulated subway explosion, maneuver past EMS personnel from Pennsylvania during an end-of-course exercise.

## Statewide Healthcare Better Prepared for Mass Casualty Response

More than 140 Pennsylvanians representing emergency managers, physicians, nurses, public health officials, and emergency medical services attended training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) recently. The attendees received extensive training specific to their professions, including healthcare leadership and decision making, emergency medical response to a mass casualty incident, and how emergency medical services respond to emergency incidents in the field.

Healthcare emergency response personnel throughout the state of Pennsylvania joined together in this training effort, many meeting for the first time. Staff from these healthcare systems spent five days training at the CDP, focusing on one of three separate courses that culminated in a single training experience called the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE).

“We really got to know each other and talk about our capabilities and needs,” said Michael Whalen, regional emergency preparedness coordinator for the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania. “Because we had different agencies from EMS, hospital staffs, public health, and medical examiners, we learned each other’s needs and capabilities—that’s very important to real-world incidents.”

The ICE is a unique training approach in which students from the various courses work together in a single end-of-course exercise. ICE events may include students from up to ten different disciplines—ranging from law enforcement to healthcare. The students interact, communicate, and respond to a full-impact



mass casualty incident. Students from the three healthcare courses—Healthcare Leadership (HCL), Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents, and Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) all participated in the ICE.

Original plans for their training started in July 2012 and focused on all of the students taking one course. As discussions continued, the CDP training coordinators and planners in Pennsylvania came up with the idea of creating a statewide event including the ICE.

“We’ve conducted ICE training since [March 2012],” said Chuck Medley, associate director of CDP Training Programs. “This was the first statewide ICE and the largest group from one region to attend training. Emergency healthcare workers in Pennsylvania worked hard to make this happen, and I believe it is very worthwhile for their state and other states. Training together, face-to-face with this volume of people, has a huge impact on state preparedness and the CDP is the national leader for this training.”

During the first four days of instruction, the Pennsylvanians trained in their individual courses. Day Five brought the courses together during a disaster response. The students from the separate courses assumed assigned roles and supported the response based on the previous days’ training. The ICE scenario involved a small domestic terrorist organization carrying out multiple attacks on a fictitious city, resulting in more than 300 injured people needing triage and treatment. A combination of role players and state-of-the-art human patient simulators were used to add realism for the ICE.

“This has been an unbelievable opportunity,” said Russ Bieniek, emergency physician for UPMC Hamot Hospital in Erie, Penn. “We’re meeting people we will be working with if something happens. It is so much better to know capabilities prior to a disaster.”

“This is an unusual resource for all emergency ser-



More than 140 Pennsylvanians, representing emergency management, physicians, nurses, public health, and emergency medical services, attended training at the CDP recently.

vices,” said Joseph Schmider, director of emergency medical services for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. “We’re training just as if it were real, without impacting our current healthcare system. To exercise in a real hospital and not disrupt operations is an outstanding resource.”

Most of the ICE took place near and at the Noble Training

Facility (NTF), the nation’s only hospital facility dedicated solely to preparing the healthcare, public health, and environmental health communities for mass casualty events. More than 17,000 healthcare professionals have trained at NTF since the hospital was added into CDP training in early 2007.

“Every state should take advantage of this training,” said Schmider. “Every emergency services provider needs to get here and spend a week. You don’t want to practice this in the middle of a [real-world] event.”

“We had the opportunity to simulate a disaster and have just as much adrenalin flowing,” said Bieniek. “A very unique training opportunity—and we didn’t have to shut down a hospital, work around patients, and other people’s schedules to do it. Fabulous opportunity!”

“This is absolutely the best training experience I have experienced in my life; it’s top notch,” said Whalen. “Everything is real-world and everyone is engaged. There is just no better place to go for training.”

In addition to integrating courses and simulating a multi-disciplined response, each ICE scenario focuses on the foundations of CDP training—incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. CDP training for state, local, and tribal responders is fully funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Round-trip air and ground transportation, lodging, and meals are provided at no cost to responders or their agency or jurisdiction.

# CDP News

## Celebrating 15 Years of Training America's Finest

In 1998, when the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) opened its doors, the CDP was only expected to train as many as 10,000 emergency responders a year. Now, 15 years later, the CDP trains an average of 60,000 emergency response personnel each year. June 1st marked a milestone for the CDP and more than 350 guests, employees and students gathered to celebrate its anniversary, June 3rd.

“The CDP has a rich history of training America’s best for response to disastrous events,” said Mike King, acting CDP Superintendent. “Over the past 15 years, we have made a difference in the response capabilities all over the nation... That was very evident from the comments made by today’s speakers. Our entire staff should be proud of the job they do for our country, in particular the emergency responders who keep our jurisdictions safe and prepared.”

The CDP was first established under the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 1998. It wasn’t until 2003 it transferred to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Four years later, the training facility would fall under the leadership of FEMA. Since 1998, the CDP has evolved, adding into its training repertoire the nation’s only hospital solely dedicated to training, as well as training with biological materials, anthrax and ricin.

Fifteen years ago, the CDP offered two courses. Now, the center teaches more than 40 different courses—and delivers an average of seven per week. The CDP campus has grown from the original 15 buildings to the current campus of 32 buildings occupying 124 acres.

In 2012, the CDP supported 109 important National Special Security Event courses, teaching 6,045 students. The courses supported the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Program, the Democratic National Convention, the Republic National Convention, and G-8



Deputy Administrator for the National Preparedness Directorate Tim Manning provided recorded comments at the CDP’s 15th Anniversary, June 3. More than 350 guests, employees, and students gathered to celebrate.

and NATO Summits among others.

The anniversary celebration included comments from the first CDP superintendent, L.Z. Johnson, recorded comments from Administrator Craig Fugate and Deputy Administrator for the National Preparedness Directorate Tim Manning. A highlight of the ceremony was comments from former students who said their training made

a difference in response to real-world events in their jurisdictions.

Steve Graves, a retired Battalion Chief for the Washington, D.C. Fire Department and CDP alumni, spoke of Sept. 11, 2001 and how it marked the importance of training.

“At 9 a.m. on Sept. 11, we were in class here at the CDP,” said Graves. “That day changed our profile and the way we operate. It changed the way we looked at training. As soon as we learned an aircraft had crashed into the Pentagon we tried to arrange flights home, but that did not happen. All 20 of us from DCFD boarded a bus arranged by the CDP and received police escort from Alabama to D.C. State police met us at each state line. After 9/11 we continued to train here and the training is taken seriously—we have seen the results of training. CDP training is responsible for new techniques and procedures used by D.C. Fire.”

Haskey Bryant from the Jefferson County Department of Health in Birmingham, Ala., spoke about the environmental response to the 2011 tornadoes and more recent Alabama disasters where she used her CDP training; Patrick Conroy, from the University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) in Aurora, Colo., spoke about his hospital’s response to the theater shooting in 2012; and Police Officer Michael Connolly, of the Boston Police Department Crime Scene Response Unit, recounted his CDP training as his team responded following the Boston Marathon bombing.

# CDP News

Anniversary  
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## BIRMINGHAM

“My training here was put to good use within a year of completing the Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) course,” said Bryant. “The 2011 Alabama tornadoes destroyed 6,000 square miles and claimed 248 lives. During a disaster normal operations change and I was pulled for tasks outside my normal duties, but were covered during my CDP training. The training gave me the confidence and knowledge to step up and do my part to protect public health in an extremely difficult situation. EHTER brought the big picture together, and without the course I simply would not have been confident in my abilities and as capable.”

## AURORA

“In my 30-years plus as a paramedic, fire fighter, and emergency manager before working at [UCH] I experienced my share of significant events,” said Conroy. “All of those experiences paled by comparison to what we saw and experienced [July 20, 2012]. I had trained here twice before. At 1:38 a.m. it was a normal night—we were incredibly busy—the 50-bed emergency department was already full, no inpatient beds were available. At 1:39 a.m. all the statistics, staffing, and capacity issues became irrelevant. The ensuing hours were unlike anything we could plan for. In a very, very short period of time, 23 patients arrived. Most had multiple gunshot wounds to the head, chest, abdomen, and extremities. In the past five years 31 of our leadership team have attended the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) course. That night 11 HCL graduates were part of the initial response to our Hospital Command Center. All of us



(Left to right) Patrick Conroy, from the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora, Colo.; Haskey Bryant, from the Jefferson County Department of Health in Birmingham, Ala.; and Police Officer Michael Connolly, from the Boston Police Department Crime Scene Response Unit spoke at the CDP's 15th Anniversary celebration. Their topics focused on the healthcare response to Aurora's theater shooting, the environmental response to Alabama's 2011 tornado outbreak, and response following the Boston Marathon bombing. Each speaker previously trained at the CDP and credit their response to training.

benefited from the training and remained calm and effective. The training here prepares you for events just like this. The leadership and guidance displayed was brought home from training here. This was the most extraordinary response I had ever witnessed. It was reported that no [Emergency Department] in the history of the state of Colorado had ever seen this number of critically injured victims in such a short period of time.”

## BOSTON

“What was a happy, fun, family event quickly turned into a battlefield of chaos and carnage,” said Connolly. “Setting aside our feelings, it was painfully apparent that we had a crime scene to process, and my unit, the FBI, ATF, and State Police worked together. Less than a year ago, several of us from Boston PD attended training at the CDP. We took the training here in an effort to create a [chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives response] Crime Scene Response Unit. Because of our training we knew that a safe, calculated and systematic approach to the bomb site was required. The skills we learned here made us able to proceed with knowledge and confidence—our two main takeaways. The knowledge and confidence allowed us to talk a common language with other first responders and proceed in a biologically contaminated site. We were able to process the crime scene and preserve evidence safely. I can't express the importance of the availability of CDP training.”

To date, the CDP has trained more than 775,000 students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories. The CDP has also provided training to emergency responders from 15 countries.

# CDP News

## Boston Police Officers Benefit From CDP Training

After two explosions disrupted the final minutes of the Boston Marathon, April 15, three people were killed and more than 260 others injured. Although, shocked by the event, Boston's and federal law enforcement would spend the next four days pursuing a full-scale manhunt. Police Officer Michael Connolly responded as the crisis unfolded, and provides his accounts of how training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) assisted him and his team at the site of explosions. These are his words:

As a proud member of the Boston Police Crime Scene Response Unit (CSRU) I, along with my fellow brother and sisters in the Unit, did not expect a beautiful, sunny Patriot's Day to be marred by two horrific and devastating explosions near the finish of the Boston Marathon. Traditionally, this is a day in Boston that represents the hard work, dedication, and resiliency of the human spirit of the runners, family, and friends. However, these are the very words that describe the immediate response by the Boston Police, Fire, EMS, finish-line medical staff as well as observers and strangers. A type of response that is unnatural to most and innate in many – running toward the blast while others run away. It is because of this response and concerted effort that so many were saved.

After the smoke had cleared and the debris had settled, it was painfully apparent that many had died, even more seriously injured, and that a very large crime scene had to be processed. Alongside the ATF, FBI, and the State Police, my lieutenant, the officers of my unit and I proudly took ownership of the crime scene. After all, it was our city, Boston had been attacked! Armed with that pride and determination as well as our training and experience, we set out to process the scene of a terrorist bombing.

Less than a year prior, several of us from CSRU had spent a week in Anniston, Ala., at the CDP for the Emergency Responder Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents course (ERHM). What the professional and experienced instructors gave us that week served us well for eight straight days and nights on

Boylston Street.

Soon after the two explosions were detonated, our training instantly came back to us and we realized that there could be more to the explosions. A CBRNE element could be involved and a calculated, safe, and systematic approach was in order. The FBI soon cleared the scene with surveying equipment, alongside the ATF and Boston bomb technicians. Next, the importance of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) was discussed.

Following what we had learned at the CDP, it was the Boston Crime Scene Response Unit who had properly stocked our trucks and provided the scene with the appropriate PPE for two days. Due to our training, we often operated in a clean/dirty environment to help preserve evidence and avoid cross contamination. Because of our training, we had the confidence and knowledge to proceed through the crime scene the right way! Please know that this was truly a team effort.

The ERHM course is not a course only for hazardous materials technicians. I and four other officers from my unit found that law enforcement need this training as well. Just having the knowledge that contaminants could be present provided us the knowledge to pre-stage and select the appropriate levels of PPE. We preserved evidence, collected valuable information for investigators, and safely with confidence followed procedures to ensure integrity of the scene.

My hope is that an incident like this never happens again. Unfortunately, the reality is that we need to be prepared if/when it does. My unit is currently looking into more training that the CDP can offer us so we can be better prepared and trained. The training that we received served as a valuable asset to our approach in the identification, preservation and collection of important evidence from a scene that not only affected Boston, but the world.

Police Officer Michael Connolly  
Training Coordinator  
Boston Police Department  
Crime Scene Response Unit



(Left to right) Sergeant Kevin McGolderick, Police Officer Michael Connolly, and Police Officer Michael Griffin from the Boston Police Crime Scene Response Unit (CSRU) and graduates of CDP training. All three were part of the response following the Boston Marathon bombing and found their CDP training made a difference. (Photo courtesy of Boston Police Department)

# CDP News

## CDP Training Pays Off Following Aurora, Colo. Theater Shooting

In July 2012 citizens of Aurora, Colo., were shocked when a gunman entered a dark theater and senselessly began firing weapons. In the aftermath, 12 people were killed and a staggering 58 were injured. This event caused several Aurora hospitals to implement emergency plans as the surge of mass casualties became a reality.

Stephanie Sparks, the Director of Safety and Emergency Preparedness for The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA), was on duty as emergency calls responding to the scene alerted the hospital to inbound casualties.

According to Sparks, in 2008, the city Emergency Preparedness Coordinator arranged for her staff to train at the CDP. Along with leaders from her hospital, principals from other city departments attended, as well. Over the past five years, 13 representatives from TMCA have attended CDP training.

“The training we participated in at the CDP was a key success for us during the Aurora shooting response,” said Sparks. “We received training at the CDP that was like an actual disaster event. The structured process we were taught was executed during the Aurora shooting event.”

Initially four CDP alumni were on duty the night of the theater shooting and others would be called in as the night grew longer. The hospital has 14 employees who have attended CDP classes, training in courses like Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) and Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents (HERT). Another 24 TMCA employees have received indirect training through CDP Train-the-Trainer programs.

“The training provided strength and consistency and allowed individuals to stay clear and focused during a chaotic situation,” said Sparks. “Our [Emergency Operations Center] was active for five days and the CDP structure of training managed the event and provided an organized, controlled atmosphere.”

Sparks said other “sister” hospitals have collabo-



Stephanie Sparks, Director of Safety and Emergency Preparedness, The Medical Center of Aurora.

rated in the past with TMCA. University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) is one and was also receiving an influx of casualties that night. Pat Conroy, facilities manager and safety officer for UCH, was responsible for implementing the hospital’s emergency operations plan. He was also the initial hospital Incident Commander after the shooting.

“Of the 23 patients we received only three had received some type of treatment either at the scene or en route,” said Conroy. “This was the single largest influx of critically injured patients in a short period of time for a Colorado hospital. The majority of the critically wounded individuals arrived within approximately 30 minutes.”

Conroy said more than 40 UCH employees have attended CDP training—10 were on duty the night of the shooting and all had completed the CDP’s Healthcare Leadership (HCL) course. He added, the emergency department received 15 gunshot victims and eight other types of injuries in less than an hour.

“CDP training is realistic. Because of the mass casualty exercises there, our



Pat Conroy, Facilities Manager and Safety Officer, University of Colorado Hospital.

staff was able to focus on their tasks in a manner that was familiar. As a result of the CDP experience, as well as our overall preparedness program, we were able to stay ahead of the incident and respond effectively.”

Sparks said CDP training made a difference and affected the way her hospital was able to communicate with outside agencies.

“The CDP training simply provided structure and helped us to avoid chaos,” said Sparks. “It organized

our response [and] provided focus and guidance. No question was unanswered; everyone knew their role—we were ready.”

Healthcare training is among the 40 plus courses available at the CDP. CDP training focuses on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or manmade act. The courses including travel, lodging and meals are fully funded for state, local, and tribal response personnel.

# CDP News

## Minnesota Cities Plan for Response; Identify Gaps, Weaknesses

In the world of emergency response many citizens only consider traditional disciplines, such as fire fighters, law enforcement officers, or Emergency Medical Services. Following implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in March 2004, the role of traditional emergency response expanded to include a more diverse group of operators and city leaders. City mayors, administrators, public works, planners, and others who have vital leadership roles are key to making sound decisions during an incident or disaster.

More than 20 leaders representing fire departments, police departments, public works, and even administrators and mayors attended training at the CDP recently. The group, representing five neighboring cities in central Minnesota, attended the Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning, and Response Actions for All Hazards (IC) course.

These cities are part of a 15-city mutual aid agreement and by planning and working together they increase their ability to communicate and respond effectively and efficiently. The group members know all too well the importance of a combined response. In May 2012 a paper mill explosion rocked the city of Sartell, Minn., requiring emergency response from the 93 cities across the state of Minnesota over the course of eight days. The cities of Sartell, Waite Park, Sauk Rapids, Saint Joseph, Saint Cloud, and Saint Augusta were first to converge on the resulting catastrophic fire. Eight different police departments secured the scene and more than 30 business entities donated food and beverages to assist the Red Cross in supporting the emergency response crews.

"A lot of the instruction from the IC class reinforced our response actions," said Jeff Taufen, the fire chief for the Saint Joseph's Fire Department. "As an incident commander, I need to know how I am going to distribute 90 firefighters, 40 fire trucks, and their supplies."

Taufen added that as the head of the St. Joseph Fire Department, he and those who work for him must remember everyone who needs to be involved during the response. "This training showed the importance of not forgetting the mayor, administrator, public works,



Community leaders from five Central Minnesota cities recently attended training at the CDP. These 21 leaders are part of a 15-city mutual aid agreement. By planning and working together they increase their ability to communicate and respond effectively and efficiently.

and everyone involved who operates a city—not simply EMS, police, or fire."

"I wanted to come to this training to understand what my role is," said Richard Miller, mayor of Waite Park. "I know that I am not the fire chief; and I can't walk into a command center and say 'Chief, get out of the way, I'm

running this.' I can't tell them where to send the police either. I wanted to better understand my role."

The IC course focuses on planning and assessing current standards against possible hazards that may threaten communities. The course reinforces the development of strategic plans that aid emergency responders and elected and appointed city leadership with drafting tools. The 24-hour course culminates with a six-hour exercise using modern forms of communication and scenario injects that could easily change the way the city's first responders react to the incident.

"The emergency responder landscape no longer solely mirrors law enforcement and fire departments," said Chuck Medley, assistant director for Training Delivery. "Mayors, administrators, public works, and city managers play a response role, as well. Incident Command training allows community leaders and traditional emergency response an opportunity to work together and develop plans explaining roles and responsibilities."

"This training is similar to a knife sharpener," said Perry Beise, Sauk Rapids police chief and emergency manager. "The more a knife is sharpened the better it gets, and a better tool is created. This class makes us better at what we do as a team. The cities don't generally train together, so this is a good fit and will help us develop consistent response plans."

According to Patti Gartland, Sartell city administrator, this training will strengthen her city and neighboring jurisdictions. "By bringing a good cross-section of leadership to the CDP we identified how we can tighten and improve our mutual-aid response. We also identified gaps and weaknesses. This training is a significant investment for our cities."

# CDP News

## Los Angeles Siblings Train Together, Prepare Together

Lisette Garcia, 41, and her younger brother, Jesse Cardenas, 31, have taken a path to increase the safety in their hometown of Los Angeles, Calif. Garcia, a police officer assigned to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and Cardenas, a patrol officer on the city's Southside, believe in preparedness and have committed themselves by learning as much as possible in an effort to respond safely and effectively in any disastrous or emergency event.

The sister and brother duo recently left their West Coast palms for Northeast Alabama pines. No stranger to the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), the siblings are on their third training visit to



(Left to right) Jesse Cardenas and Lisette Garcia decontaminate a fellow classmate during a course exercise at the CDP.

the CDP, training here since 2011. According to Garcia, CDP training is realistic and up to date. She says, "You just don't

get that in other places.

"The hands-on training at the CDP is great," she added. "This training doesn't just make me a more



(Left to right) Jesse Cardenas and Lisette Garcia take a timeout for a photo at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). The brother and sister team are police officers from Los Angeles, and attending their third CDP course together.

effective police officer, but I feel comfortable responding to any event and working with other disciplines like fire fighters and EMS. I can recognize dangerous materials and that makes me more of an asset. Before the CDP, I did not have the skills I bring to work now."

Cardenas, a police officer for the past 10 years, is following his sister's

18-year career. His sister's love for law enforcement influenced his decision to join the department. He said Los Angeles is a target for terrorism and natural disasters and joining his sister for training keeps them both safe and prepared to respond properly.

"The CDP courses have trained me better to respond to a mass casualty event," said Cardenas. "Downtown LA is a terrorist target and this training prepares me to respond. If I did not have this training, I might make mistakes and put myself in danger. After the CDP, I can put my mask on with confidence and know I am protected."

Garcia said she is concerned for her brother, as he for her on the job. But the more prepared they are, the better they feel. They both agree their jobs are exciting and are proud of their careers in law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department. They both plan to urge coworkers to attend CDP training and ensure their respective leadership is aware of all the opportunities.

"LAX is the number one terrorist target on the West Coast," said Garcia. "That's another reason why I train. It is only a matter of time."

*We need your story. If you have used CDP training during a real-world event we want to know about it. You might be featured in future Stories From the Field. We will do the work. Just let us know.*

*Email: [pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov) or call (256) 847-2212.*

# CDP News

## Honoring EMS Week: Training For Better Response

National Emergency Medical Services Week is celebrated each year during the third week in May. This year's theme—EMS: One Mission. One Team. National EMS Week highlights and honors EMS providers who dedicate their profession to saving lives daily. EMS Week is an opportunity to recognize those emergency medical personnel serving on the front line of medicine and emergency care.

Danielle Hazen, a Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from Morris Township Fire Department, N.J., said it is significant to recognize EMS and bring attention to the medical personnel and the services they provide.

"It's important for the community to see what EMS workers do," said Hazen. "We never think about recognition, but I'm proud that some attention can be given to our community. This is something we are all drawn to and it is what we do. Regardless if there is a week to recognize us or not it is something we all have a passion for."

Hazen has been on the front lines for the better part of 10 years as a fire fighter and more than two years as an EMT. She recently trained at the CDP, attending the Technical Emergency Response Training for CBRNE Incidents (TERT) course. Hazen said training is a major part of her culture and training only makes the first response community better.

"I actually went to school to be a teacher and I have a degree in education," said Hazen. "Education to me has always been very important. Training

like this is another branch of education and constantly educating yourself or training yourself to be better and remain current with new performance methods keeps me sharp in my profession.

"As a fire fighter or EMT we work with other professions like police officers and other EMS workers. If everyone is doing their part to train it helps each of us work together that much better."

During EMS Week Hazen hopes that all EMS professionals focus on the profession and remember the reason they chose the job.

"I think it is also important for EMS workers to celebrate together and what we do, day in and day out," she said. "It is valuable to me to work with others and help people. Usually when I see someone it is probably a pretty bad day for them and there is something that triggers me to make their day better—we can't forget that."

The TERT course Hazen attended integrates emergency responders and receivers from multiple disciplines and multiple jurisdictions in a realistic training environment that gives the students a better understanding of each discipline's capabilities, roles, and responsibilities in catastrophic events. She also had the opportunity to train in a toxic environment using nerve agents, GB and VX, and biological materials, anthrax and ricin.

"EMS Week is chance for us to focus on professional development. I'm very impressed with the CDP. The facility is amazing and the instructors are top notch. I'm looking forward to coming back to future classes. I've gained a lot this week."



Danielle Hazen, Fire Fighter and EMT, takes time out of CDP training to discuss her thoughts about EMS Week.

# What's New



The CDP created an urban area street scene featuring businesses, apartments, alleyways, a loading area, and other features found in a city environment.

## CDP Takes Training to the Streets With New Streetscape

Creating a training environment that captures a person's attention and mirrors a real-life atmosphere is almost a mandatory training requirement in a modern age of technology and creative design. Recently the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) introduced an impressive addition to their adult-learning environment: A cityscape that models a city block, complete with buildings, sidewalks and a two-lane street made of rubber.

The planning has been ongoing for the better part of three years, and the area stretches more than 10,000 square feet. Located in the Advanced Responder Training Complex (ARTC), the urban area is the CDP's newest training enhancement. It's conveniently located next to the subway system venue in the same complex.

"We converted a high bay warehouse to a two-story street scene with first floor functional offices that include a newsstand, shipping store, corner bar and a political campaign office," said Grant Bissey, CDP training specialist. "It also includes a subway exit that will feed into the street entrance, Italian restaurant, pharmacy, doctor's office, police substation, sidewalk, alleyways and loading docks. The second story apartments and shops are

replicated by tapestry facades."

Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) and two hazardous materials courses will use the street scene in training. The tapestries replicate an actual scene in lower Manhattan, New York City. The images were taken in late 2012 by CDP staff members who were deployed in support of the Hurricane Sandy response. According to Bissey, the setting is a realistic scene with functional businesses and office space.

"This is an all-hazards response training venue that can be used for multiple courses in all-weather conditions since it is completely indoors," said Bissey. "The street scene also allows access to the subway railcar system we created last year. We plan to include a shoe-shine stand, turnstiles, ticket machines, subway maps and a control room that will control light, smoke and sound effects."

The CDP Training Department plans to integrate the street scene into training with the next 30 days and will continue to add props and other appearance modifications over the next three months to make the scene even more realistic.

# What's New



Northville, located at the CDP's COBRA training facility, recently received a facelift to more resemble facilities found in an actual town including indoor furnishings.

## Northville – Not Your Average Gated Community

Nestled amongst the McClellan pines lays a small town visited weekly by guests from around the nation. This town is unlike a storybook city or holiday retreat enjoyed by vacationers. It's called Northville and its Zip Code has gone unlisted for nearly 15 years.

Sitting on a plot of about one-and-a-half acres, Northville is a fictional town, near Noble City, located in Liberty County. Its population fluctuates and is driven by emergency response personnel using Northville as a training site. Northville is part of the Chemical, Ordnance, Biological, and Radiological (COBRA) Training Facility, a training venue at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) that uses actual nerve agents and biological materials in training.

New paint, signage, and other exterior and interior changes recently added to the realism of the training venue at this unique facility. Six buildings make up the town, each given a unique role: a school, fire department, police department, sandwich shop, florist, newspaper stand, and bus depot.

"In the past, Northville resembled plain cinderblock buildings and everything else was left up to the student's imagination," said Grant Bissey, FEMA training

specialist. "Today, we have realistic buildings that offer an appearance and functionality of actual businesses and government offices found in towns across America."

The addition of sidewalks, outside light fixtures, siding and brick facades, windows and doors create a setting at which emergency responders can detect chemical or biological materials and respond to a mass casualty event that may be intentional or accidental.

In 2007 simple masonry buildings were erected as storage facilities. Later that year, the CDP staff came up with the idea to incorporate the buildings into training. For the past six years students have approached the entry to Northville as instructors give the command to "go on air." Clad in protective equipment and breathing apparatuses, the students cautiously search for survivors, perpetrators and contaminated sources.

"The buildings are fully configured with furnishings and training props similar to facilities in an actual town," said Bissey. "We've incorporated smoke delivery systems, two fire trucks, a school bus, police car and a motor coach bus."

# Worth Repeating

## *Responsive and Ready*

"This training gave me the knowledge I need to respond safely to an explosive or chemical incident. Some police officers feel only fire fighters are responsible for hazardous materials. But, law enforcement and EOD need to have this training. Chemicals are also present in explosives, and whether you are on routine patrol or a member of a bomb squad this training will prepare you for a safe response. Training keeps you alert. There are always new procedures to do things, and I want to stay up to speed with updated techniques and threats."

Bob Ahern, Sergeant/Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Massachusetts State Police

## *Learning the Essentials*

"Because of the isolation of American Samoa, our emergency responders need response and awareness training. Our ports receive large shipments of imports from container ships moving through the South Pacific to the United States. This training is essential for your emergency workers. This is my second course at the CDP in over six years. It is good to return and gain a better understanding of the courses the CDP provides so I can make better decisions on who to send to what training."

Duane Fuimaono, Fire Chief, American Samoa

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**FEMA Regions 8,9,10**

# CDP

# Region Map

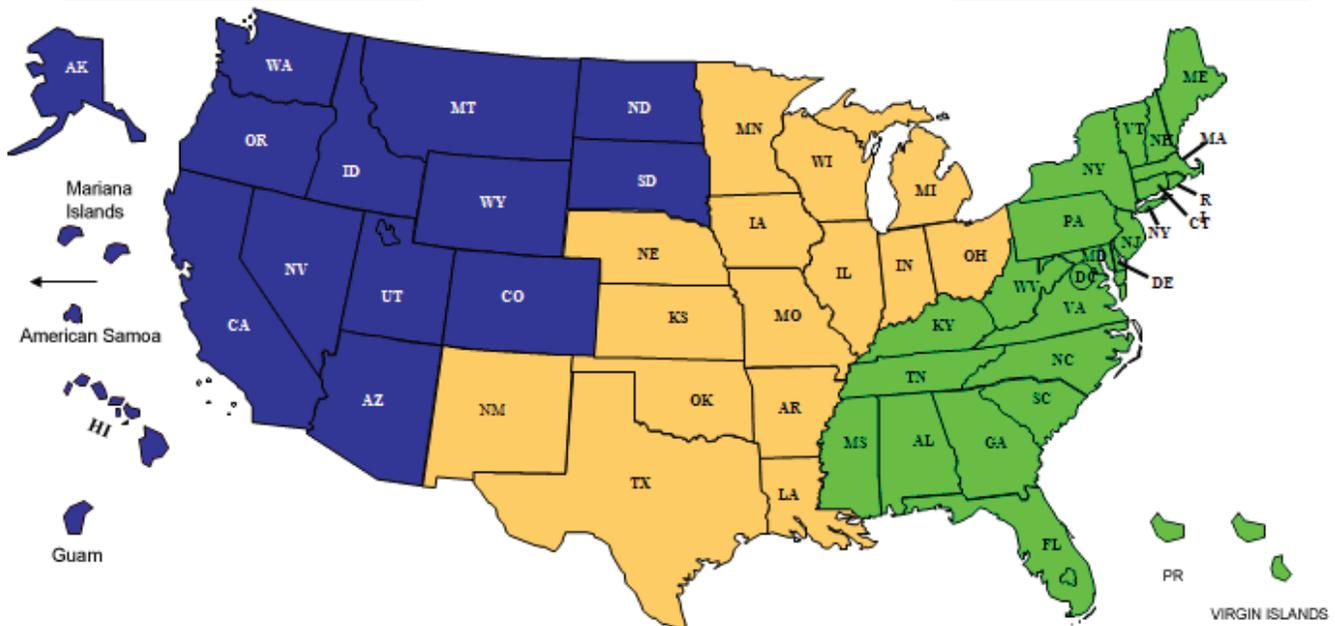
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