



## Nevada Site Office News

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### The National Nuclear Security Administration Participates in Drill with Southern States Emergency Responders

Federal radiological response teams from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) are gearing up to participate with the Environmental Protection Agency, the States of Alabama, Georgia, and Florida and other local emergency responders in a radiological exercise near Dothan, Alabama. The five day exercise, named Southern Crossing, is scheduled for August 14 through 18; however the planning and preparations are in full swing. An interagency planning team will script out details of the exercise during a two-day planning meeting to take place in Dothan on May 31 and June 1. Southern Crossings is being led by NNSA, and sponsored by several Federal agencies and the above States.

The scope of the exercise is being developed to initiate the activation of various Emergency Operations Centers at the county and state level, as well as, necessitate field monitoring teams to be brought in from federal organizations. As exercise play continues, decision-makers from all levels of the government will be put through the rigor of making vital decisions related to public health and safety during the simulated emergency. Specific details of the exercise will remain close-held to add a sense of realism for exercise participants.

"This exercise provides participants the opportunity to test and validate protocols and procedures for responding to a radiological accident or incident," commented Joseph Krol, NNSA Associate Administrator for Emergency Operations. "During a radiological accident, the NNSA-led Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center performs the vital function of collecting and assessing radiological data related to the event and makes recommendations to the decision makers to help ensure public health and safety." Additional NNSA participation includes Radiological Assistance Program personnel from the Savannah River site in South Carolina.

NNSA routinely participates in drill simulations involving radiological issues throughout the United States. "We are very pleased that the State of Alabama is hosting this event and has welcomed NNSA into their community" noted Krol.

Details on media access to exercise venues will be announced prior to the exercise in August.