



# CDP Alumnus

## 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

724,431 as of April 7, 2012

## Feedback

The CDP wants to hear from you. How can we make this newsletter better? Please e-mail suggestions to: [newsletter\\_feedback@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:newsletter_feedback@cdpemail.dhs.gov)

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The Noble Training Facility's Emergency Department features an expanded trauma bay capable of treating up to 10 patients. The 8,000 square foot renovation also features enhanced technologies to improve medical surge training.

## Students Train in New Emergency Department Renovations Provide Modern, Realistic Venue for Medical Surge Training

After five months of renovations, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) reopened its hospital Emergency Department (ED) for training recently. The 8,000 square foot renovation features expanded training space and improved technologies to enhance medical surge training for CDP students.

"We've expanded the emergency department and added about three times more space," said Candice Gilliland, senior healthcare instructor. "The students have more space for surge response. The old ED had the capability of treating four beds at once. The new trauma bay is the most significant change, although it adds an additional two bed capability, there is enough space to safely treat up to 10 patients, depending on how the students respond to a patient surge or large scale event."

The ED is part of the CDP's Noble Training Facility (NTF). The NTF integrated into CDP training in early 2007, and remains the nation's only hospital facility dedicated solely to preparing the healthcare, public health, and environmental health communities for mass casualty events related to catastrophic natural disasters or terrorist acts. More than 14,000 healthcare professionals have received NTF training.

Originally built in the 1970s, the ED serves as the focal point of training for healthcare courses at the CDP. The remodeled space offers an expanded trauma bay, modern treatment areas, sound and visual effect capabilities, hidden observation and control rooms, and a large waiting room. The larger space also includes triage stations, an ambulance entrance, hazmat isolation rooms,

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**Emergency Department**  
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and a moulage area for role players.

“I trained here in October 2010,” said Marston Kimerling, a returning healthcare student. “It seemed to be stressful and space was cramped. Students were running into each other, and most modern EDs offer more space. The old ED just made a hectic environment worse. The new ED is much larger and allows the team to realistically receive patients and control patient flow.”

“The training environment you have here now provides a real feel of an emergency department atmosphere,” said Robin Kerschner, a healthcare student who previously trained at the CDP in April 2011. “Before, the waiting room, trauma bay, and patient triage



The Emergency Department provides modern treatment areas that are more familiar to healthcare professionals.

areas were essentially combined. It added confusion to an already escalating event based on the mass casualty scenario. This is more realistic, and has a much better flow similar to an actual ED.”

Behind two-way glass, simulation technicians control human patient simulators and students respond to symptoms. “These control rooms allow technicians to inject patient symptoms based on the injuries and scenario. Our patient simulators resemble actual patients and basically act human, all the while, a person controls the behavior behind glass,” said Robi Mobley, patient simulator specialist. “Before the renovations our simulation technicians



The CDP training staff has increased the number of patient simulators used inside the Emergency Department from six to 10.

were just another person adding to a crowded trauma bay, and adding artificiality to the event.”

CDP training focuses on 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 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. To learn more about the Center for Domestic Preparedness, visit <http://cdp.dhs.gov> or call 866-213-9553.



The larger space allows a more realistic setting for briefings and student activities during a mass casualty exercise.





# Stories From The Field

## Preparedness, Response a Priority in Hillsboro, TX

By Jack Harper, City Manager, Hillsboro, Texas

As the City Manager for a city of nearly 10,000 residents in Texas, I recently had the opportunity to attend resident training at the CDP, in Anniston, Ala. The city has been utilizing CDP training for several years by encouraging members from our emergency response departments to enroll at the CDP, and I was desirous of attending a course there as well.

As city manager, I have specific roles related to the overall running of municipal operations within the city. However, I am also active with emergency management, serving on Hillsboro's Type 3 Incident Management Team as its incident commander, as well as serving as a liaison officer for the Type 1 Southern Area Incident Management Blue Team.

The CDP training, without a doubt, makes a difference in the leadership decisions I make; whether in the office, or in an emergency management situation.

Recently, I attended the Instructor Training Certification (ITC) course. ITC allows me the ability to remain flexible and save the city money. Many of us have the ability to present courses, but ITC ensures those receiving specific training learn from authorized instruc-

tors. The City of Hillsboro also wins because we now have the capability to train locally, and save money from travel expenses. But, when resident training is

necessary, I appreciate the fact FEMA provides the opportunity to receive CDP training, at no cost to the jurisdiction. The training is fully funded for state, local, and tribal employees. Funding such as this is greatly appreciated and a huge bonus for Hillsboro and Texas.

I recommend that elected, appointed, and senior employees of government take this training for a better understanding of what it is their first responders do, as well as show them the benefits of CDP training.

I feel more prepared, and I believe it all starts at the top. If senior management places priority in certain areas then so will the entire organization. Emergency management, planning and preparedness, is very important.

The more prepared Hillsboro can be for any type of incident, the better off we all will be. I am better prepared thanks to my CDP training, and encourage more government leadership to attend the wonderful training environment that is the Center for Domestic Preparedness. Thanks CDP and FEMA!

Editor's Note: City Manager Jack Harper also featured his CDP experience on the FEMA Blog



Jack Harper, city manager for Hillsboro, Texas, shares his final presentation with his classmates. Harper recently attended the Instructor Training Certification (ITC) course that provides him the ability to present training to the first responders in his jurisdiction. The ability to train locally saves the City of Hillsboro money and allows those dollars to be used in other areas of preparedness.

City Manager Jack Harper, from Hillsboro, Texas, presents his final presentation to his classmates recently during the Instructor Training Certification (ITC) course at the CDP. ITC provides an overview of instruction in adult learning, communication skills, and methods of delivery and testing.



Keep the stories coming. 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. Email: [pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov](mailto:pao@cdpemail.dhs.gov) or call (256) 847-2212.

# CDP News

## First Responders Benefit from New Biological Training

FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), in Anniston, Ala., successfully incorporated forms of anthrax and ricin into two training courses in February and will eventually include them in three additional courses over the next year. Student reactions to the enhanced training demonstrate the importance of preparing the nation's responders to deal with biological incidents.

"Biological materials are more prevalent now," said Chris Kollin, a police officer from Cleveland, Ohio. "The threat has increased dramatically and we need to be appropriately prepared to deal with them."

Just last November the FBI arrested four men in

Georgia accused of plotting terrorist attacks on U.S. cities using ricin.

"The biological threat is real. Probably a greater threat than other weapons of mass destruction," said Andrew Higgins, a paramedic from Denver, Colo. "Having the ability to train in a live biological environment, feel comfortable in protective equipment, and receive up-to-date training on the latest survey and monitor-



First responders are given a unique opportunity to use detection equipment distinctive to biological materials. The CDP is the only place where civilian first responders can now train using both biological materials and toxic chemical agents.



The CDP created scenarios similar to scenes where anthrax and ricin may be deployed. The CDP renovated two of its training bays commonly used with chemical agent training into a restaurant environment (pictured above) and a post office setting. The training bays add to the reality of the threat, and provide first responders a realistic scenario to conduct an analysis of the biological material and demonstrate the appropriate response.

ing techniques was beneficial."

The objective is for emergency personnel to effectively respond to a possible biological incident and trust in their ability to identify potentially harmful situations, use detection equipment properly, and trust that their personal protective equipment will shield them from exposure.

"Biological materials, probably more than any other, are

the ones we should be most concerned about," said Josh Erdman, a fire fighter and paramedic from Madison, Wisc. "There are very few places that offer this level of biological training with access to the materials—with results like you would see in the real world."

The CDP has trained using nerve agents GB and VX for nearly 14 years, and adding biological materials adds to the diverse training experience using real world threats. Demand for specialized training using biological agents has grown over the last few years as the potential for biological attacks has been identified in several key homeland security publications.

"We're excited to offer this training to the first response community because it fills a critical need in our country," said Denis Campeau, CDP director of training and education. "The integration of biological agents will enable first responders to learn the proper and safe response to a biological agent release and resulting emergency response."

"I feel more comfortable dealing with the bio threat

Nonpathogenic forms of anthrax and ricin are used in two CDP training courses and will eventually include them in three additional courses over the next year.



because of this level of training," said Tim Halberson, a paramedic from Nakoosa, Wisc. "I can take this knowledge and pass it on to my department and other EMS services I work with."





After a brief concerning an explosion and possible mass casualties, teams from the Emergency Medical Operations course prepare to enter the accident scene, triage, and decontaminate survivors. (Photo by Tom Wilczek, CDP/FEMA)

## Integrated Capstone Event Expands Training for Responders

Long known for its unique, hands-on training classes for emergency response personnel, FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), recently combined three courses and 108 responders into an Integrated Capstone Event (ICE), giving students from multiple disciplines the opportunity to experience the full impact of a mass casualty incident.

Typically, each CDP class culminates with an end-of-course scenario specific to the objectives learned during the training, and many facets are notional. The ICE, however, eliminates much of this artificiality, and provides a realistic setting for the students to perform.

The scenario started with students from the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) course responding to a simulated explosion at a nearby college. As EMO teams arrived on scene, hazardous materials experts from the Hazardous Materials Technician (HT) course joined EMO as they received the first brief from the incident commander.

"This [training event] gives you an idea of what is going to happen and how the different units are going

to work together," said John Combs, a police officer from Fayetteville, N.C. "As a first responder this gives me an idea of how the fire service, hazardous materials, EMS, and healthcare work. As a police officer I normally do not take part in this kind of training—this is a good training day for me."

As the scenario unfolded, calls alerted the local hospital (the CDP's Noble Training Facility) of the on-going emergency. Students from the Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) course quickly prepared to receive patients injured by the explosion, and the HERT team would soon see patients arriving by ambulance and on foot.

"I feel we need to practice like this all across the country to prepare ourselves for any kind of emergency or disaster," said Trudy Mueller, an emergency room nurse from Conneaut, Ohio. "This training helps us work together and understand strengths and weaknesses. It is important to train with all the groups together, not just a single group."

"Combining the EMO class, hazardous materials

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# CDP News

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class, as well as the hospital emergency response course is amazing,” said Ryan Sell, a fire fighter/paramedic from Iolla, Kan. “We had groups involved from the inception of the incident, through each stage.”

The Integrated Capstone Events are scheduled each quarter and combine three or more courses in a variety of response operations. The goal is to work within the Incident Command System (ICS) and demonstrate how response disciplines work together in real-world events.

“This was our second ICE and we continue to find things that we can fine tune and improve for future Integrated Capstone Events,” said Chuck Medley, CDP Training Delivery Branch Chief.



Hazardous material technicians encounter an injured protester during entry at the disaster site. Technicians entered the building and transported survivors to responders attending the Emergency Medical Operations course. Technicians later discovered the hazardous source. (Photo by Tom Wilczek, CDP/FEMA)

“We’ve

already identified steps we can take to enhance the scenario, manage our role players, and improve logistics.”

The next ICE is scheduled for the end of June. Each event allows students to identify team leaders, recognize planning, logistics, and manpower needs to provide a realistic training experience.

“Integrating multiple courses into a combined event is extremely important because it replicates what will happen in an actual community,” Medley said. “During a mass casualty event, every element of emergency response will engage. Emergency responders need to learn to integrate now, and the CDP is committed to providing the training environment where they can learn to do that.”



Healthcare workers attending the Hospital Emergency Response Training course receive survivors of the explosion outside the hospital. (Photo by Tom Wilczek, CDP/FEMA)

## Student Identification Number Soon To Be Required For All FEMA Training

A new registration system is being developed to reduce the use of the Social Security Number (SSN) when applying for FEMA training.

Once complete, students will have to register to obtain a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number, which will be used in place of the SSN.

In cases where required (for example, in order to process funds for travel reimbursement), the SSN will be collected by the CDP one time only.

The new registration system is expected to be operational towards the end of summer 2012.

### What can I expect from the new FEMA SID system?

- The system will generate and assign a unique 10-digit FEMA SID number to you when you create your account online.
- If you already have a 9-digit CDP SID number, it will automatically transfer to a FEMA SID 10-digit number by adding one zero to the beginning of your current CDP SID number.

- The FEMA SID number will be unique to the assigned student throughout all FEMA training entities.
- Individuals applying for FEMA training will be required to provide a FEMA SID to register, enroll, and participate in any FEMA provided training.

### Which CDP Programs does this new system impact?

Resident, Non-Resident, Indirect and Academy Training Programs will need to ensure that all applicants provide a FEMA SID in advance of the training.

The CDP will collaborate with each training program to assist with this transition.

CDP and contract employees applying for FEMA training will also need to obtain a FEMA SID.

### What do I need to do now?

Continue to use the current registration process. You do not need to obtain your FEMA SID yet.

You will be notified and provided additional instruction once the implementation date has been set.

# CDP News

## FEMA Chief of Staff Celebrates Emergency Department Opening

After five months of renovations, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) reopened its hospital Emergency Department (ED) for training recently. FEMA Chief of Staff Jason McNamara celebrated the opening by cutting the ribbon before the first student training exercise started. “It makes me proud to know a facility like this is part of FEMA,” said McNamara. “The realistic atmosphere and ability to exercise a hospital’s surge response is difficult to mirror. The hardest thing in training to overcome is artificiality. This facility has overcome it.”

The ED is part of the CDP’s Noble Training Facility (NTF). The NTF integrated into CDP training in early 2007, and remains the nation’s only hospital facility dedicated solely to preparing the healthcare, public



FEMA Chief of Staff Jason McNamara observes Robi Mobley, patient simulation specialist, demonstrate the use of patient simulators in healthcare training.

health, and environmental health communities for mass casualty events related to catastrophic natural disasters or terrorist acts. “This is truly a one-of-a-kind training venue for mass casualty scenarios,” said Dr. Christopher T. Jones, CDP Superintendent. “I am so proud of the staff who took the lead on this project. It is a great improvement over the old Emergency Department that had not been renovated since it was built in

the 1970s. Our nation’s emergency responders and receivers are going to benefit from training in a modern ED that more accurately reflects hospital environments in their own communities.”

A class of more than 60 healthcare professionals christened the new ED.

## Alumni Base Camp Store Accepts Debit, Credit Cards, Supports Local Charities

Since opening in April 2011 the CDP Employee Association (CDPEA) Alumni Base Camp (ABC) store has expanded its inventory and now includes the ability to accept credit and debit card purchases.

“When we first started the store we had the intention of eventually adding credit card payment to give the customers the additional payment option—many people do not routinely carry cash or checks,” said Grant Bissey, CDPEA president. “The successful integration of credit card processing was evident on the first day we had credit card capability; over half of the purchases were made using credit and debit cards.”

The integration of credit and debit sales allows students without cash or checks on hand to purchase CDP souvenirs. The store’s original inventory of 14

items has expanded to 29 products and includes everything from hooded sweatshirts and caps to toddler T-shirts and teddy bears. The credit and debit sales are an answer to repeated requests from students and

staff, Bissey said. Proceeds from the store also support several local charities and events.

“The purpose of the CDPEA is to raise funds to support local charities and defray the cost of morale and welfare activities for all CDP employees,” said Bissey. “This year the CDPEA is focused on supporting charitable organizations that support children, veterans, and

animals. We have also hosted two family day events, a 5K Run, a golf tournament, a Halloween haunted house, Breakfast with Santa, and sponsored a float in the Anniston Christmas Parade. We’re staying busy and making the most of what we can offer.”

### CHARITABLE SUPPORT FROM THE CDP EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION

(Total of \$5,700 Donated to These Agencies since CDPEA Inception)

- Holiday Food and Toy Drive (December 2010)
- Non-perishable food items for tornado survivors (April 2011)
- Austin Joplin Golf Tournament (April 2011)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Alabama (June 2011)
- Family Links, Inc. (June 2011)
- United Cerebral Palsy (August 2011)
- Fort McClellan Military Cemetery Wreaths Committee (September 2011)
- CPT Kyle Comfort Foundation (September 2011)
- Combined Federal Campaign (November 2011)
- Holiday Food and Toy Drive (December 2011)
- League of Animal Welfare (March 2012)
- Calhoun County Humane Society (March 2012)
- Calhoun Women Behind the Badge (April 2012)



# Introducing...

## Spotlight on CDP Instructional Staff

### Bob Heintzelman

- Healthcare Instructor
- Employed at the CDP since 2009
- Served in emergency services for more than 30 years: Fire Service, Emergency Medical Service, Hazardous Materials, and Emergency Management
- Currently serves locally as the Commander for the Calhoun County HazMat Team
- Instructor for Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents, Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management, Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents, and Radiological Emergency Response Operations



## Teaching Mass Casualty Surge Response

**What moments in your career stand out most?** *There are several. I worked the Anthrax clean up at both the Hart Senate Office Building and the Hamilton, N.J. Post Office in 2002. I worked the crash of Flight 1549 in the Hudson River in New York. I also worked emergency services on the set during the filming of Rocky V.*

**Why do you believe training healthcare responders is worthwhile?** *Healthcare facilities are an important component in our emergency response system. Healthcare responders are in a unique situation in that, even while experiencing a disaster itself, normal patients will still be arriving and seeking treatment. In addition, the hospital often finds itself directly affected by the disaster as was seen clearly in Joplin, Mo. last year. Situations like this present healthcare responders with unique challenges during a response and they need to be able to coordinate with other responders.*

**During a mass casualty event, how does CDP training affect response?** *I feel that the training provided by CDP at the Noble Training Facility (NTF) provides the healthcare responder with a strong foundation to be able to effectively respond to and manage a mass casualty event. Through the use of realistic scenarios students have the opportunity not only to reinforce what was taught in the class but to also gain experience and confidence in the roles that they may fill when they get home.*

**What role did you play in the Emergency Department (ED) renovations?** *I was involved in the planning and design process as well as coordinating the set up of the area following the completion of construction, relying on my hospital experience to make the ED closely resemble what is found in a current hospital.*

**How will the renovations enhance a student's experience at the CDP?** *I have enjoyed my role in working as part of the team bringing this much needed change to the healthcare instruction provided here at NTF. The renovations will provide them a more modern looking facility with technological enhancements. The new layout of the trauma/resuscitation bay allows the students to interact with the patient simulators as they would an actual patient. Previously the HPS technician was right beside the student allowing them to know when something was about to happen. Now with the technician in the control room away from the mannequin, the student needs to interact and talk with the mannequin as if it were a real patient, not knowing when they might take a turn for the worse. In addition, the student will realize that technology may also be problematic during a disaster causing the student to develop an appropriate backup plan for when the technology fails.*

**What is your favorite part of teaching?** *I enjoy interacting with the students, learning from their experiences, striving to provide them with the most current and up-to-date information available and sending them home with more knowledge, which makes them better prepared to handle the next emergency.*

*Did you know patient simulator technicians attend a 40-hour basic course, must be competent in ICS, and have the ability to apply moulage? The CDP maintains 20 simulators that receive monthly, quarterly, and yearly maintenance. One training scenario may require the rotation of all 20 simulators.*



# Worth Repeating

## Meaningful Training

"I had a blast attending the Emergency Response Hazardous Materials Technician course. The week of training felt like one day, as each class was full of exciting information and the exercises were real and meaningful to my job. The instructor's knowledge made it easy to stay involved and engaged."

Leo Njongmeta, Ph.D., Biological Safety Specialist, Illinois

## All The Right Ingredients

"I've worked with my hospital's Incident Command System for at least 10 years, and the training this week continued my learning. The instructors are professional and expert. The facility cannot be improved. The classrooms are conducive to learning and a great addition to the [Noble Training Facility]. You all have the right ingredients for a perfect center. I can't wait to come back. Thanks for making our country safer."

Karen Frank, Registered Nurse, Tennessee

## 110 Percent Perfect

"The opportunity to attend the Technical Emergency Response Training for CBRNE Incidents was excellent. Thank you to the staff and the tremendous effort they put forth to ensure our training event was 110 percent perfect!"

Daniel O'Connell, HazMat/Rescue Division Chief, California

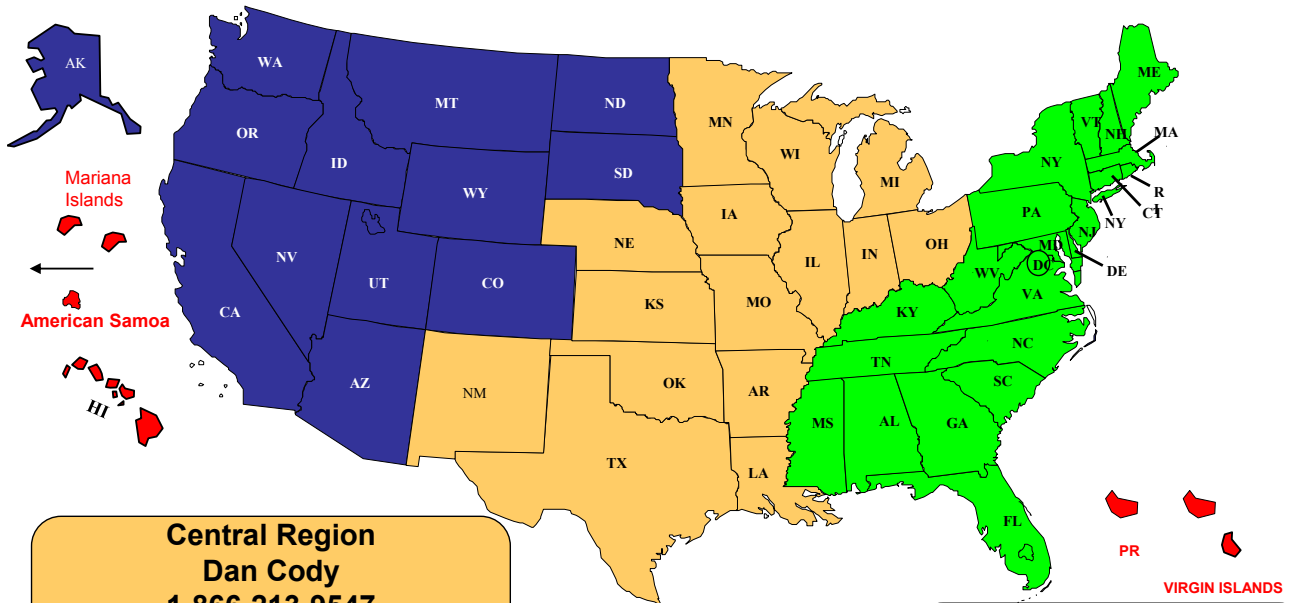
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# Out and About

Below is an abbreviated schedule of conferences the CDP will attend through July 2012. Please stop by and see us if you are attending one of these conferences. Spread the word to your colleagues.

Conference	Dates	Location
Officer World Expo	May 13-14, 2012	Washington, D.C.
Fire Expo	May 18-20, 2012	Harrisburg, Penn.
Disaster Response and Recovery Expo	May 23-24, 2012	Nashville, Tenn.
Southwest Emergency Nursing Conference	June 1-2, 2012	Albuquerque, N.M.
South Carolina Fire Rescue Conference	June 6-9, 2012	Myrtle Beach, S.C.
New England Fire Rescue and EMS Expo	June 22-24, 2012	West Springfield, Mass.
Firehouse Expo	July 19-21, 2012	Baltimore, Md.

## On the Horizon Mobile Command Vehicle Rolls Into Training

In 2011, the CDP received three surplus Recreational Vehicles (RV) used by FEMA during disaster response and recovery. The CDP has incorporated one vehicle into training and now refers to it as a Mobile Command Vehicle (MCV) because of the unique ability to serve as a command center on wheels during an emergency.

According to Rob Low, course lead for hazardous materials training, the MCV serves two purposes.



The MCV doubles as an emergency operations center for students and as a platform to manage exercises by instructional staff.

mand System structure. Many jurisdictions will have some sort of mobile command center during an emergency or disaster.”

The MCVs are equipped with Internet capability and double as a WiFi hot spot



The MCV received modifications in order to provide appropriate work areas including laptops and communication equipment. The MCVs are also equipped with Internet capability.

“The instructional staff uses the vehicle to manage exercises,” said Low. “Most importantly, though, the students are able to incorporate the MCV into scenarios by utilizing the Incident Com-

mand System structure. Many jurisdictions will have some sort of mobile command center during an emergency or disaster.”

for operations inside a 300 foot radius. According to Low, the MCV enhances the training experience by providing a resource that is often used in real world applications throughout the country. “This is a realistic remote command center and adds an extra touch of realism to our scenarios and exercises,” added Low.

The MCV received modifications in order to provide appropriate work areas including laptops and communication equipment. During course exercises, the MCV allows the class to communicate with the Incident Commander and other parts of command necessary for decision making. The MCV provides the perfect setting for an authentic emergency response. Plans are in place to incorporate the remaining two RVs in the near future.