



# 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

738,875 as of July 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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Students attending EMO wear appropriate levels of Personal Protective Equipment while decontaminating a simulated survivor during a mass casualty scenario. During EMO students provide medical care and perform actions to conduct decontamination, triage, treatment, transport, and tracking survivors of a CBRNE incident or a mass casualty incident.

## EMO Offers Hands-On Experience For All Disciplines Improved Training Venues Enhance Learning Environment

Known for offering extensive hands-on training in a mass casualty response, the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) for CBRNE Incidents course provides first response personnel, serving in a variety of positions, necessary skills to perform during an emergency or catastrophic event. The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), located in Anniston, Ala., focuses its training on incident management and mass casualty response to manmade or natural disasters.

The EMO course was established in 2005 and provides healthcare emergency personnel, as well as fire fighters, law enforcement, and other responders who may share a healthcare incident, the knowledge, confidence, and specialized skills to respond during a mass casualty emergency. EMO is designed to simu-

late a hazardous materials response, including treatment of multiple survivors exposed to potential chemical, biological, or radiological hazards.

### Tools for Learning

"It is very informative and interactive," said Beth Fletcher, Emergency Medical Technician. "I didn't know anything about hazardous material medical response until I came here. I know a lot more now and I am more comfortable and feel confident in what I'm doing." Dan Bledsoe, a fire captain with 27 years of service, wasn't sure what to expect from the EMO course. He said learning never stops, regardless of experience.

"I figured I had seen it all and done it all," said Bledsoe. "After the first day of training I found I was very much wrong. In one week here you can pick up so

**Emergency Medical Operations**  
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much knowledge and I feel this will benefit a person's career. I enjoyed the team aspect. We were overwhelmed with patients and this course provided us all an opportunity to work with total strangers. It gave some a chance to practice leadership and others a chance to be a functioning member of a team—with people you have never worked with before."

"The objective of the course is to take emergency personnel and give them an opportunity to train in a hazardous environment with mass casualties," said John Skinner, EMO course manager. "EMO provides a chance to work in the warm zone, as well as the cold zone and move patients to the hospital."

Students attending EMO wear appropriate levels of Personal Protective Equipment while providing medical care and perform actions to conduct decontamination, triage, treatment, transport, and tracking survivors of a CBRNE incident or a mass casualty incident.

The CDP recently initiated the Integrated Capstone Event (ICE) into training. The ICE is currently conducted once a quarter and allows courses, like EMO, to integrate with other training during a large-scale, end-of-week, exercise combining multiple courses.

**Improved Training Venues**

"Over the past year we have evolved the EMO course to include more information for the emergency responder," said Charles Platt, lead healthcare instructor. "We enhanced the training environment using didactic training methods that provide students a hands-on approach, reinforcing the lecture material presented in the classroom."

The CDP training staff has enhanced several programs to include EMO. The course now offers students an opportunity to experience multiple scenarios in life-like settings and environments depicting common, and the not-so-common, emergencies found in a variety of jurisdictions.

"We have the ability to bring responders from all different disciplines and demonstrate how vital the EMS role is during an emergency event," said Richard Barrett, healthcare instructor. "We are able to demonstrate to first responders what they can expect in



Students attending the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) for CBRNE Incidents course assess the symptoms of a potential illness during a training scenario at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). Updated training venues provide enhanced training environments that demonstrate realistic settings with a modern appeal. Scenarios include chemical, biological, or radiological hazards.

the field. We also show the smallest EMS department, up to the largest EMS department, how we all work together to accomplish the end goal of getting survivors from the scene all the way to the hospital."

**Beneficial to all Levels of Response**

According to Richard Whiddon, an emergency room physician attending CDP training for the first time, EMO seemed well organized and gave him a better appreciation for EMS field response, and how the different roles complement

each other during an emergency.

"A lot of higher level healthcare personnel have not been on the front lines to experience response from a first responder's point of view," said Whiddon. "I believe this experience—the scenarios and actually getting hands on experience is priceless and gives me a better understanding for what [responders] do. It would be nice to see higher level physicians and mid level providers take the course so they understand." Nearly 3,000 students have completed the EMO course over the past seven years. The average class size is 40 students and personnel attending EMO participate in scenarios applying Incident Command principles for medical operations and incorporating the application of emergency medical tasks to a CBRNE incident.

CDP training provides a relevant approach to the needs of first response. The Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents course returns responders to their home jurisdiction with the confidence and knowledge to respond during a mass casualty surge.



A student attending the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) for CBRNE Incidents course removes contaminated clothing from a simulated survivor following a hazardous event. The CDP uses both mannequins and role players during end-of-course exercises that depict a mass casualty event requiring urgent care to survivors.



# CDP News

## St. Louis Mayor's Press Secretary Attends CDP Training

Kara Bowlin, press secretary to St. Louis, Mo., Mayor Francis Slay, attended the Advanced Public Information Officer for Health and Hospital Emergencies (APIO) course recently. The press secretary has been in her current position for three years and found training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) invaluable for emergency response.

"We have been through several emergencies in St. Louis," said Bowlin. "If you don't have a background in emergency response you are going to be lost in a real emergency, so training like this is an important step for public information officers. It provides experience and confidence in intense emergency settings."

The APIO course was Bowlin's first CDP training experience. Although her primary position is public information, she found other CDP courses may improve her understanding of first response. She said there are several emergencies her city may deal with and this training can apply to all types of crisis communications.

"It is incredibly important, now more than ever, for public information officials to be effective during an emergency," added Bowlin. "Social media allows ru-



Kara Bowlin (right), takes notes inside the Joint Information Center (JIC) during the exercise portion of the Advanced Public Information Officer for Health and Hospital Emergencies (APIO) course. Bowlin currently works as the press secretary for the mayor of St. Louis, Mo.

mors to spread like wildfire. We all must learn to work more quickly, and this training helps us make decisions in an emergency. It's very likely that all of us will use the things we learned in APIO training in the near future. I think it is vitally important that we train, that we have the background knowledge to take control of emergency communications, and that we perform our jobs in the face of an emergency."

Bowlin said that regardless of the job, all state and local first responders must train to stay prepared. She discovered first hand following the tornado outbreak in 2010 and 2011 that devastated parts of St. Louis and other cities across Missouri. "Nobody hopes to be confronted with disaster - but, unfortunately, we don't have that choice. Disasters can happen in anyone's home town. I think no matter what you're doing, the more practice you have, the better off we will all be. And the fact we have practiced in a very realistic setting here at the CDP, will help me remain calm, more organized, and work with others more efficiently. This was a week away from work, but a week very well spent."



Kara Bowlin provides comments during a mock press conference while attending the Advanced Public Information Officer for Health and Hospital Emergencies (APIO) course, at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP).

## Texas Emergency Responders Train Together at CDP

Finding time for professional development is often difficult with full workloads and family responsibilities. One couple, Marylee and Edward Kott, recently found an opportunity to attend training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) together. The Houston, Texas husband and wife team completed the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) course.

Both healthcare professionals work as pathologists who fill unique roles during a healthcare emergency in the Harris County Hospital System in Houston. They found CDP training very informative and useful in the event of a mass casualty event or hospital surge.

"I am much more familiar now with my collateral role as a Medical-Technical Specialist," said Marylee. "Other employees of my hospital's healthcare team

# CDP News



The CDP has incorporated new technology into training that reduces production cost. The CDP hopes the modern training method enhances adult learning and reduces the amount of paper and other student materials commonly used in a classroom environment.

## CDP Uses Technology to Reduce Material Costs

In an effort to cut spending and reduce the amount of paper needed for the course materials provided to emergency responder students, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is counting on technology to save money and introduce modern training methods into learning.

“Global technology improvements, cost limitations, and the need for adult learning enhancements now cause us to consider alternatives to the paper-textbook, pencil and ink pen approach currently in use,” said Rick Schlegel, manager of communications & strategic change, Beacon Associates, Inc.

In July, the CDP introduced Apple iPads into the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) course. The iPads contain all course material and provides Internet access for students to follow in class and research discussion topics. Students are also provided electronic versions of the course material via CDs at the end of their course.

“The iPad is just one brand of e-Reader technology,” said Schlegel. “There are others, but the CDP made

a choice based on initial cost, technical support and ability for future applications for the adult learner. Our plan is to implement the technology in an instructional environment, receive student feedback, and evaluate the learning method through three (3) phases of review. The intent is not to disrupt learning, but offer a modern teaching approach and save dollars on production costs.”

The three phases of review began with the assessment and writing of objectives to determine a measured approach of efficacy. The second phase will update the challenges found in the first phase and further consider course evaluations, testing capabilities and demographic enhancements for each adult learner. The third phase will continue to be an evaluation of future applications that will challenge each responder student.

The CDP offers more than 40 courses available to first responders. Printing and production costs thousands of dollars a month, and varies depending on the number of courses offered. Introducing electronic tech-

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# CDP News

New Technology  
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operations, and necessary improvements to training venues.

“We are a training facility,” said Denis Campeau, director of training and education. “Our priority is the emergency responder and reducing training material costs through innovative technology benefits communities throughout the nation. Cutting costs and spending

nology will allow the CDP to create savings and focus dollars on maintenance,

that savings on more training deliveries and enhanced training programs is a wise use of our taxpayer dollars. All agencies in government, and the private sector, must look at better ways to save and spend—the CDP is doing that.”

“The only limitation we have found with the iPads thus far is the human brain...what electronic-based strategy and solutions can we think up next?” said Schlegel.

## CDP Alumni Featured During EMS Week

In May, as first responders and Americans celebrated National EMS Week, Paramedic Don Faeth was attending the Instructor Training Certification (ITC) course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). Faeth is a 25 year veteran of the New York Fire Department (FDNY) and overall has worked in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for more than 27 years.

As Faeth accepted his certificate of course completion at the CDP, a poster bearing his likeness was unveiled in New York City. 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.



Paramedic Don Faeth, New York City Fire Department, is a highly trained rescue paramedic, specializing in hazardous materials, confined space tactics, crush syndrome medicine, and tactical rescue operations. Faeth is a two-time graduate of CDP training, completing the Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE Incidents course and Instructor Training Certification. Photo by Joe Conzo, FDNY/EMT.

“I was honored and humbled by the opportunity to be on the poster,” said Faeth. “I don’t like to be the center of attention, so this has moved me from my comfort zone. My kids think it is ‘cool

and awesome.’ I’m just proud to be a part of honoring Emergency Medical Services in one of the greatest cities in the United States. It is also fitting that I was at the CDP training when the poster was first displayed. I only hope I do a good job representing my peers in this year’s poster.”

Faeth first attended CDP training in 2011. His first course was Hazardous Materials Technician for CBRNE

Incidents (HT). “I would recommend CDP training to any first responder,” he said. “The training is hands-on and excellent, and the networking opportunities with others in the same field or related fields across the country is unparalleled. I have made new and lasting friendships with people from Boston to California.”

The FDNY hopes the poster honors the contributions of EMTs and paramedics and also creates interest in the profession. As Faeth’s likeness is strategically placed in telephone kiosks and other public venues throughout NYC, the FDNY hopes the image raises public awareness about the mission of EMS and the services they provide. According to Faeth’s division chief, Ross Terranova, “We want the public to see EMS as more than a job—they should see it as a calling.” These words are prominent at the base of the poster.



A poster celebrating National EMS Week was unveiled in New York City bearing the likeness of Paramedic Don Faeth of the New York Fire Department. Faeth is a CDP alumni and is committed to emergency services.

# CDP News

## Dining Facility Reopens: More Space, Modern Serving Area, Sunroom

After almost a year of renovations, the main dining facility at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) is open for breakfast and dinner. The dining facility, known as building 17, closed in the Fall of 2011 for extensive remodeling.



The main dining area boasts more space.

Highlighting the improvements, no pun intended, is the additional seating in a full glass sunroom. The serving area has also relocated near the front entrance offering more convenience, more efficient services, and a larger area for employees and students.



A new sunroom provides the ability to seat more students.

Other interior enhancements are new flooring, ceiling, paint, and serving equipment to improve appearance and efficiency for responders dining at the CDP. The new space offers less crowding in the kitchen area, and seats up to 30

more students during meal times.

Additionally, the improvements offer a more pleasant dining experience, including a modern appearance comparable to most commercial cafeterias.



The serving line is much larger and offers the capability to serve more students at once.

Texas Couple  
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Committee we are strongly encouraged to attend this course. HCL encapsulates the knowledge we all need to know. The training is real life and I found the Incident Command training fabulous during a healthcare emergency when our Emergency Operations Center is activated."

The Kotts have been married for 38 years. They have worked in health-care during that entire time but only recently have made emergency preparedness a part of their professional lives. Edward said his week at the CDP was impressive and the hands-on experience provided insight into working through stressful situations when medical emergencies cause confusion. He believes his training will make him a stronger member of his hospital's emer-



Edward Kott (standing) listens to updates in the EOC, while Marylee searches for information.

have trained here, and as a member of the Hospital Emergency Management

agency operations team.

"The level of detail made a great training experience," he said. "We do not have the ability to interrupt medical procedures for training in our hospital. The CDP was able to duplicate a medical emergency environment and I was amazed at how well it was put together. Training is taken very seriously here and planned out well."

The HCL course is designed to assist healthcare professionals in decision making while responding to a mass casualty incident. The training takes place at 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.



Marylee and Edward (far right) Kott take notes as the Incident Commander in the hospital EOC receives an update during their end-of-course exercise.



# Introducing...

## Spotlight on CDP Instructional Staff

### Ricky Carroll

- Healthcare Instructor
- Background includes critical care paramedic and hazardous materials specialist.
- Employed at the CDP since 2002 as a COBRA Paramedic. Began work as an instructor in 2004.
- Served in emergency services for more than 25 years.
- Qualified to teach Emergency Medical Operations, Hospital Emergency Response Training, Technical Emergency Response Training, Hands-On Training, Incident Command System, and Law Enforcement Response Actions



## Teaching Mass Casualty Surge Response

**What moments in your career stand out most?** *Being able to work with Chemical Warfare Agents. Knowing that the environment you are in, or responding to, can kill a person in mere minutes is totally exhilarating.*

**Why is it important to train Emergency Medical Services?** *A paramedic is out there on the front line responding to all types of incidents and events. We often find ourselves in precarious situations, working in austere environments and being forced to think outside of the box. CBRNE training is a key element in our overall preparedness and readiness.*

**During a mass casualty event, how does CDP training affect response?** *CDP training is as real as it gets. The CDP courses focus on mass casualty response and simulate realistic events. After a responder trains here they will have the appropriate knowledge to respond when an emergency occurs in their jurisdiction.*

**How do the training lanes and practical application affect the course?** *I believe hands on training is critical to the learning process. It provides the opportunity to actually perform the tasks and is a confidence builder for the learner. It is the last piece of the puzzle.*

**What is your favorite part of teaching?** *The interaction with the learners. Each class brings new personal experiences from all over the world. We share our stories, learn from each other and build everlasting friendships.*

**Compare your work now to past career opportunities?** *I love this job more than any other I have ever had! It is an awesome feeling to know, that each day I stand before a classroom full of my brothers and sisters, that we are making a difference—one class at a time.*

*Did you know the Emergency Medical Operations (EMO) course uses approximately four gallons of soap during a year. The EMO courses use up to eight patient simulators and eight role players (live patients) during one exercise. The EMO class can cut up to 120 pairs of clothes during the triage portion of training. During EMO most air tanks (designed to last 60 minutes) using Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses last approximately 40 minutes, however some students are able to take a 60 minute bottle of air and stretch the time to 80 minutes. The average EMO class may consume 240 bottles of water per day or up to 2,880 bottles of water during a quarter. During the summer months EMO courses may drink close to 120 cases of water.*

# Worth Repeating

## *Lifelong Learning*

"I figured I had seen it all. After the first day of training I found I was very much wrong. In one week here you can pick up so much knowledge and I feel this will benefit a person's career. I enjoyed the team aspect. We were overwhelmed with patients and this course provided us all an opportunity to work with total strangers. It gave some a chance to practice leadership and others a chance to be a functioning member of a team—with people you have never worked with before."

Dan Bledsoe, Fire Captain, Elko, Nev.

## *Beneficial to all Levels of Response*

"A lot of higher level healthcare personnel have not been on the front lines to experience response from a first responder's point of view. I believe this experience—the scenarios and actually getting hands on experience is priceless and gives me a better understanding for what [responders] do. It would be nice to see higher level physicians and mid level providers take the course so they understand."

Richard Whiddon, Emergency Room Physician, Charleston, W.V.

## *Realistic and Informative*

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

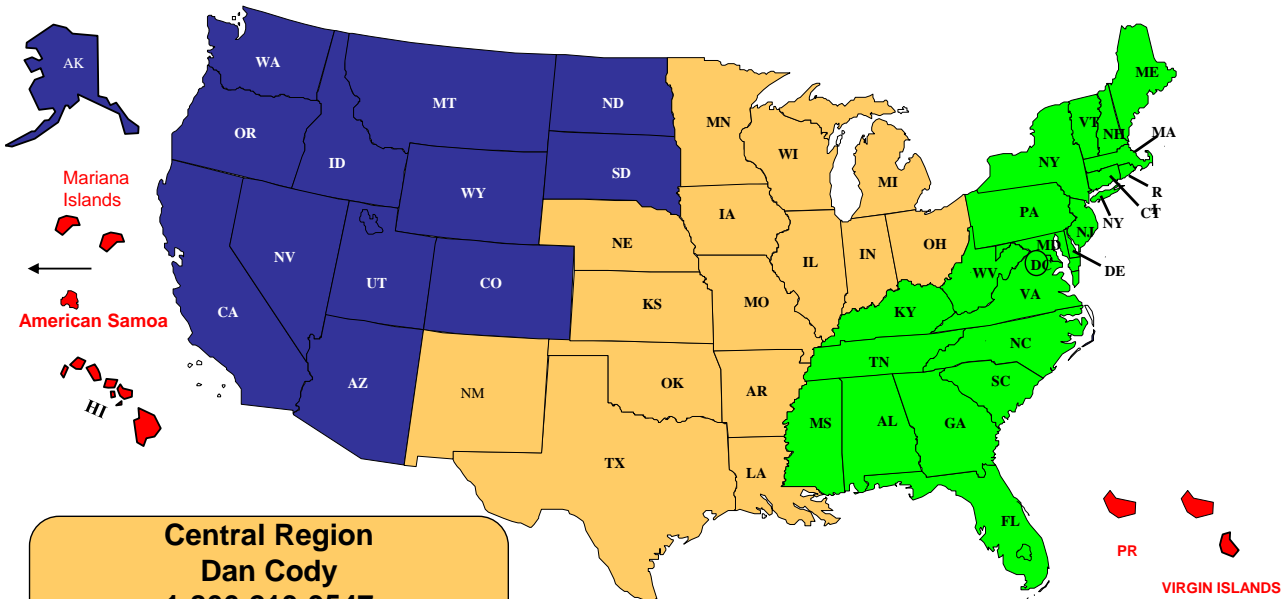
John Combs, Police Officer, Raleigh, N.C.

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# Out and About

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

Conference	Dates	Location
Fire Rescue International	Aug. 3-4, 2012	Denver, Colo.
23rd Annual Continuing Challenge	Sept. 5-6, 2012	Sacramento, Calif.
Emergency Nurses Association	Sept. 13-15, 2012	San Diego, Calif.
International Association of Chiefs of Police	Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2012	San Diego, Calif.
Emergency Medical Services World Expo	Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2012	New Orleans, La.

## On the Horizon

### Subway System Hits Tracks Among Enhancements



The CDP is including four subway cars inside a mock subway system during upcoming training courses.

The CDP strives to remain current and innovative when it comes to realistic threats and modern training venues. Among several training enhancements at the CDP is the inclusion of a mock subway system that will provide emergency responders the ability to respond to a rail emergency involving hazardous materials and mass casualties.

“We have been working on the subway system for a little more

than six months,” said Chuck Medley, branch chief for training management. “The staff designing the concept used creativity and originality to create the rail cars. This new and innovative concept will significantly enhance our hazardous materials, emergency medical services, and law enforcement courses. The threat is real, and this rail system will simulate a realistic environment providing multiple new scenarios.”

The rail system includes four cars, each

with seating and sliding doors similar to common subway systems in the United States.

Lighting has also been added, to include smoke delivery systems and sound. The subway system is expected to be complete in September, and the first course using the enhancement could be piloted in October.

“Emergency responders returning to the CDP are noticing improvements and new additions to our training venues,” said Medley. “The subway cars are just one of several; we have a new sandwich shop, and office complex as well. All of these scenarios complement each other, and provide us the ability to create a realistic emergency environment.”



The rail cars are complete with seating and also include sliding doors, lighting, smoke delivery and sound systems.



Among the multiple training improvements is a new sandwich shop. The deli atmosphere requires responders to collect evidence and monitor an area for hazardous or toxic materials.