

**West Valley Volunteer Hose Company Radioactive Material Transportation Exercise
October 19, 2006**

*Sponsored by Cattaraugus County, NY Emergency Services
and the
United States Department of Energy
Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report documents the efforts and results of the Cattaraugus County, NY emergency responders in planning, preparing, and conducting an exercise to validate responders' abilities to respond and mitigate a transportation accident involving radioactive material. Early in the planning and preparation stage of the exercise, County officials completed the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Needs Assessment that assisted in determining the current level of preparedness for responding to transportation accidents involving radioactive material. Based on the Needs Assessment results, several planning and training sessions were held to prepare responders for the tabletop and full field response exercise. Cattaraugus County Emergency Services (CCES), West Valley Volunteer Hose Company (WVVHC), West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), and the TEPP successfully completed the conduct of a tabletop and full field response exercise involving a wrecked shipment of simulated radioactive material. Emergency responders from several emergency response agencies within Cattaraugus County, NY participated in the tabletop exercise on October 18th and the full response exercise on October 19th, 2006. The exercise involved a multiple vehicle accident in which one vehicle was hauling a simulated shipment of low level radioactive material waste in B-25 boxes. As a result of the accident, one B-25 waste box was knocked from the transport truck trailer and was simulated to have broken open, releasing its contents onto the roadway. The accident involved a total of two casualties with the local hospital receiving and treating the casualties. In addition to the county's emergency response organizations, the exercise extent of play included the WVDP Incident Command, activation of the WVDP Transportation Emergency Management Organization (TEMO), and participation of the Bertrand Chaffee Hospital. As responders arrived, Incident Command was established, and priorities for life-saving and protecting property were implemented. Responders also quickly recognized that hazardous materials were involved in the accident and requested the appropriate mutual aid support to assist with the accident. To assist in scene size up, mitigation, and recovery operations, Cattaraugus County Hazardous Materials Team (CCHMT) members arrived, obtained needed briefings from the Incident Commander, and implemented scene contamination surveys for responders who entered the accident scene. Upon the arrival of the WVDP Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Team, the CCHMT provided a status briefing on activities completed and discussed needed support items. After a discussion with the WVVHC command staff to establish entry and scene assessment activities, the WVDP RAP Team partnered with CCHMT to conduct a detailed scene assessment. The assessment included surveys and mapping of the accident scene documenting the extent of the released radioactive material. At the beginning of the exercise planning process, each agency elected to develop exercise specific objectives. To assist each agency in the evaluation of their objectives, the TEPP Planning Tools—which are modeled after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Program Manual on Hazardous Materials Exercise Evaluation Methodology (HM-EEM)—was used as the basis for the exercise evaluation. TEPP also used exercise evaluation guidance developed by the Department of Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) to evaluate responders' performance in the exercise. In the opinion of the Controller/Evaluators, all 23 objectives were met or partially met. The Exercise Controller / Evaluator Team identified several noteworthy practices that the various agencies can continue to build upon. Also, Controller/Evaluators identified several improvement areas for each agency.