

National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC)

NIAC Chemical, Biological and Radiological Events and the Critical Infrastructure Workforce

Martha H. Marsh
President and CEO
Stanford Hospital and
Clinics

Chief Rebecca F. Denlinger
Fire Chief
Cobb County, GA Fire and
Rescue

Bruce Rohde
Chairman and CEO
Emeritus
ConAgra Foods, Inc.

1

Overview

- ▣ Objective/Scope
- ▣ Key Questions
- ▣ Chemical Recommendations
- ▣ Radiological Recommendations
- ▣ Biological Recommendations

2

Objective

- ❑ Provide recommendations for preparing those who work in and maintain areas considered Critical Infrastructure (CI) for a chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) event and ensure they have the tools, training, and equipment necessary to identify, respond to and recover from a CBR event.

3

Key Questions

- ❑ Question #1: Do organizations have employee awareness, preparedness and response training programs?
- ❑ Question #2: Is there a market incentive to invest in CBR preparedness and response programs?
- ❑ Question #3: Is there sufficient communication infrastructure in place to respond to a CBR event?
- ❑ Question #4: What tools and technologies currently support CBR response capability?
- ❑ Question #5: Is there sufficient coordination between Federal, state, local and private-sector entities?
- ❑ Question #6: What can the Federal government do to encourage or facilitate enhanced preparedness and response capabilities across and between the public and private sectors?

4

Chemical Event Recommendations

- ❑ **Evaluate chemical** threats against comprehensive, national assessment priorities, and establish a risk-based prioritization schema for chemical response measures.
- ❑ **Support the development of second-generation surveillance and detection devices** for both indoor and outdoor use, including mobile applications for first responder vehicles; engage chemical industry more fully on research priorities; accelerate deployment of tools /technologies under development.
- ❑ **Provide accelerated development, training, and support of local Fusion Centers** to enhance robust on-the-ground capabilities. Continue joint training exercises conducted at chemical facilities to enhance and expand knowledge of chemical event responsiveness.
- ❑ **Improve information sharing** and outreach efforts via the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) chemical portal.

5

Chemical Event Recommendations

- ❑ **Ensure the availability of adequate funding and personnel** to support the implementation of the new Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS).
- ❑ **Expand the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Review Program** to multiple regions of the country to help reduce duplicative efforts and promote all hazards planning by emergency responders. Expand participation in the program to include other first responders, including local law enforcement.
- ❑ **Fully integrate lessons learned** into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and other preparation and response programs.
- ❑ **Ensure full implementation** of the WARN act and SAFECOM.
- ❑ **Eliminate conflicting regulations** for the chemical industry among federal agencies; eliminate or reduce duplicative requirements.

6

Chemical Event Recommendations

- ❑ ***Continue to improve operability and interoperability of communications*** among responders. Consider solutions to propagate communications technologies to those who may potentially engage in a chemical event response, including the private sector.
- ❑ ***Improve controls over hazardous material transportation.*** Work with the private sector to ensure controls are consistent with risk assessment results.
- ❑ ***Assist responders in the identification and acquisition*** of the most appropriate and effective tools for surveillance, detection, and mitigation. This is of particular importance to local fire, police and EMS.
- ❑ ***Continue to build public/private-sector relationships*** through the sharing of information and the protection of competitive and sensitive data. Assist the private sector to better identify information needed by governmental agencies.

7

Chemical Event Recommendations

- ❑ ***Enhance efforts to obtain international support*** for chemical safety and security initiatives. Work with International Coalition of Chemical Associations, or continue to work with U.S. based companies with significant overseas footprints to improve global chemical controls and response capabilities.
- ❑ ***Evaluate the efficacy of border control measures*** (e.g., C-TPAT) and ensure a robust customs and border control program.
- ❑ ***Ensure all agencies follow the DHS*** lead on facility, navigable waters, transportation and supply chain security, and disaster planning and response initiatives. Provide training for both the public and private sectors, especially local governments and responders, on implementation of NIMS and the new NRP Framework.

8

Radiological Event Recommendations

- ❑ **Develop and deploy training materials for all first responders.** Content is readily available and deployable; awareness and distribution could be enabled through directed marketing and communications, inclusion structured exercises, or other mechanisms already in place.
- ❑ **Clearly establish, communicate, and reinforce a radiological event focal point, lead agency, chain of command, and protocol for response coordination and communication.** Define roles and responsibilities for lead and supporting federal agencies.
- ❑ **Leverage industry knowledge, tools, or experience in radiological event planning, preparedness, and response efforts.** Establish, in advance, mechanisms to leverage industry resources in radiological events. Employ tools and technologies in place today to advance capabilities.

9

Radiological Event Recommendations

- ❑ **Continue to make progress on plans and response programs that assess and prioritize radiological threats and vulnerabilities within the context of other events (e.g. chemical and biological).** Improve knowledge around specific scenarios, impact, and likelihood of events. Assess the usability and availability of data; make necessary information available to first responders who will benefit from additional intelligence. Continue to deploy tools to support planning and response scenarios.
- ❑ **Maximize opportunities to advance technologies that will improve response capabilities.** Continue to fund collaborative, public-private efforts to develop more advanced detection solutions. Establish or align S&T roadmap with radiological event collection, analysis and reporting tools and technologies to improve event detection. Accelerate promising detection or response technologies currently under development; identify and seize commercialization opportunities for the same.

10

Biological Event Recommendations

Communications-related

- ❑ Pre-define, to the greatest extent possible, a consistent biological event communications plan, complete with tailored communications to specific target audiences based on various possible scenarios.
- ❑ Develop and pre-position, to the greatest extent possible, communications in all distribution channels, including radio, television, telephone, print, and online media.
- ❑ Continue to engage the private sector to augment the distribution of communications to the critical workforce.
- ❑ The public- and private-sector Critical Infrastructure partners should continue refining their existing communications plans, processes, and success metrics through series of response exercises. These exercises should include participation from appropriate state and local representatives where feasible. The Federal government, in consultation with the critical infrastructure owners and operators, should develop a mechanism to refine and identify those priority workforce groups within and across the 17 CI/KR sectors.

11

Biological Event Recommendations

Dissemination-related

- ❑ Continue developing a clearly defined vaccine and anti-viral medication distribution strategy. Consider the Study Group's work on biological events planning and preparedness as a starting, not an ending, point for further discussion and clarification about the Federal government's ultimate distribution strategy.
- ❑ Consider alternative distribution strategies and guidance to give critical infrastructure owner-operators a stronger voice in determining which employees receive higher prioritization for vaccines and anti-viral medications. Build flexibility into distribution frameworks to allow the private sector to receive, distribute, and, with appropriate medical support, dispense vaccine and anti-viral medications to their critical workforce.
- ❑ More clearly define response and containment roles and responsibilities. The Study Group directionally recommends the Federal government continue to better define its expected response timelines and milestones.

12

Biological Event Recommendations

Dissemination-related

- ❑ All public- and private-sector partners should continue educating their relevant stakeholders on biological plans, processes, and priorities.
- ❑ Engage appropriate resources to ensure adherence to the distribution strategy and the economical use of limited vaccine and anti-viral resources.
- ❑ The public and private sectors should align their communications, exercises, investments, and support activities absolutely with both the plan and priorities during a biological event. Continue data gathering, analysis, reporting, and open review.

13

Biological Event Recommendations

Dissemination-related

- ❑ The Study Group directionally recommends that the Federal government improve its effort to engage key elements of the private sector in proactive surveillance and monitoring activities, including:
 - **extend public health surveillance to occupational health professionals;**
 - **develop a formal framework designed to engage international components of U.S. corporations in global bio-data collection efforts;**
 - **supplement exiting surveillance investments, acquisition, monitoring, and response capabilities to increase threat visibility and geographic coverage; and**
 - **engage data acquisition and management resources within the commercial workforce in surveillance, collection, and analysis.**

14

Biological Event Recommendations

Response and Containment

- ❑ Develop a clearly defined vaccine and anti-viral distribution strategy to ensure deployment as planned, and consider alternative distribution methods that engage the private sector in directly distributing antiviral medications and vaccines to in-scope critical workforce.
- ❑ Public and private partners should work closely to define more clearly response and containment roles and responsibilities, as well as response timelines and milestones.
- ❑ The Federal government must do a better job in educating all stakeholders on plans, processes, and priorities.
- ❑ Using this report's findings as a baseline for future work, the Federal government should develop an innovative and easy-to-use mechanism to identify the priority workforce groups clearly.
- ❑ Engage appropriate resources to ensure adherence to distribution strategies and the economical use of limited vaccine and anti-viral resources.

15

Questions?

16