

Proposal: Poison Control Centers (PCC) Role in Preparedness and Response

Focus: US/Mexico Border

Patrick Young, MS, RS
LCDR, US Public Health Service
ATSDR Regional Representative
EPA Region VI
Dallas, Texas
214-665-8562



ATSDR

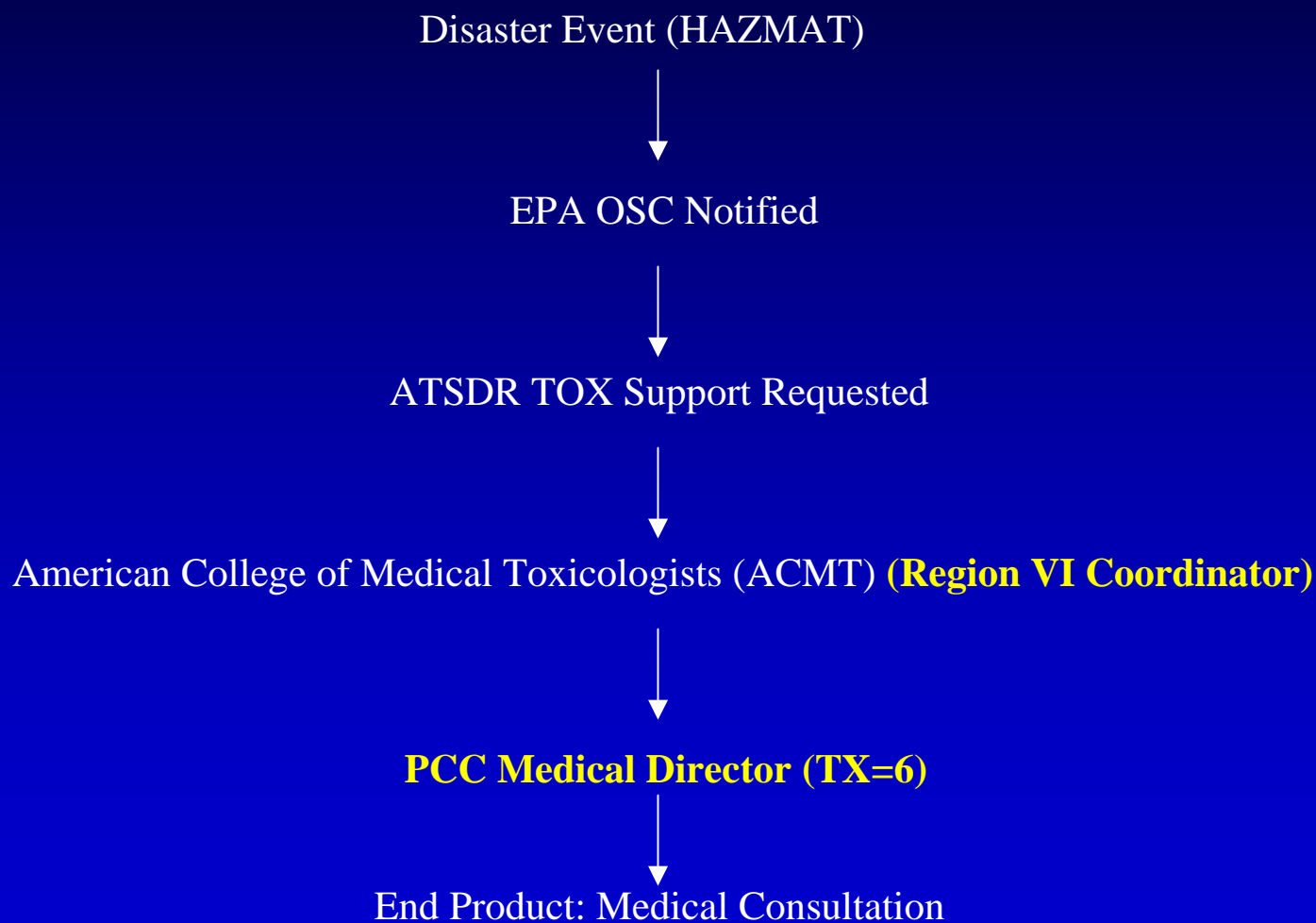


Train derailment in Bexar County, TX. Chlorine and ammonium nitrate were released. Poison Centers activated Nationally to assist EPA OSC address Public Health Questions.

Response is local and depends on local preparedness

- 911 is a local call (created 1968)
- Initial response to public health/HAZMAT emergencies is carried out by local response agencies/teams
- Plans/protocols must be developed with local response agency participation
- They must be tested and refined locally (drills/exercises)
- National policy must be translated into local action.

Current and Proposed Flow for EPA OSC Medical/Toxicological Support



Issue – Historical Communication

Stove Pipe

Environmental Agencies
(HAZMAT)

Public Health Agencies
(BIO/Medical)



Education
Profession
Preparedness
Response



Why Poison Control Centers?

9-1-1

- Poison Center tied in with 911 (National)
- 24/7 Hot Line (National)
- Rolling Phone Bank (National)
- Medical Advise
- Toxicosurveillance Program (CDC)
- Public, LEPC, Hospitals, Agency Access
- Statements to the Press/Fact Sheets
- PCC Health Educators (LEPC)



Proposal: Initiate Poison Center Regional Role: Pilot Location - US/Mexico Border

ACMT/ATSDR/PC and local training events:

- ◆ **ACMT has a training program “Agents of Opportunity” that can augment local first responder training programs**

Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of TICs (Toxic Industrial Chemicals) and TIMs (Toxic Industrial Materials).

- ◆ **Additional training will serve to complement and standardize activities (BLS, ADLS, CDLS)**
- ◆ **Resources are available for bilingual course instructors**
- ◆ **Several groups from Mexico are interested in training opportunities (MX Physicians, Centro Control En venenamiento, Saluvridad, Protection Civil, Bomberos)**
- ◆ **Provides opportunity to educate “first responders” on wider role Poison Centers provide**

Questions and Answers

- How will this proposal be binational?

Organizations want to work with corresponding agency to develop response plans. Utilization of Poison Centers to serve as a vital link between medical response and public health/environmental aspects of response.

- What kind of support is needed?

Initial grants are needed for mutual training. Need matching funds from Mexico. Further needs unclear.

- How will this affect me as a first responder?

Provide for enhanced safety and response in an emerging situation on the border by providing structured links to combined efforts and expand the scope of practice to include Poison Centers

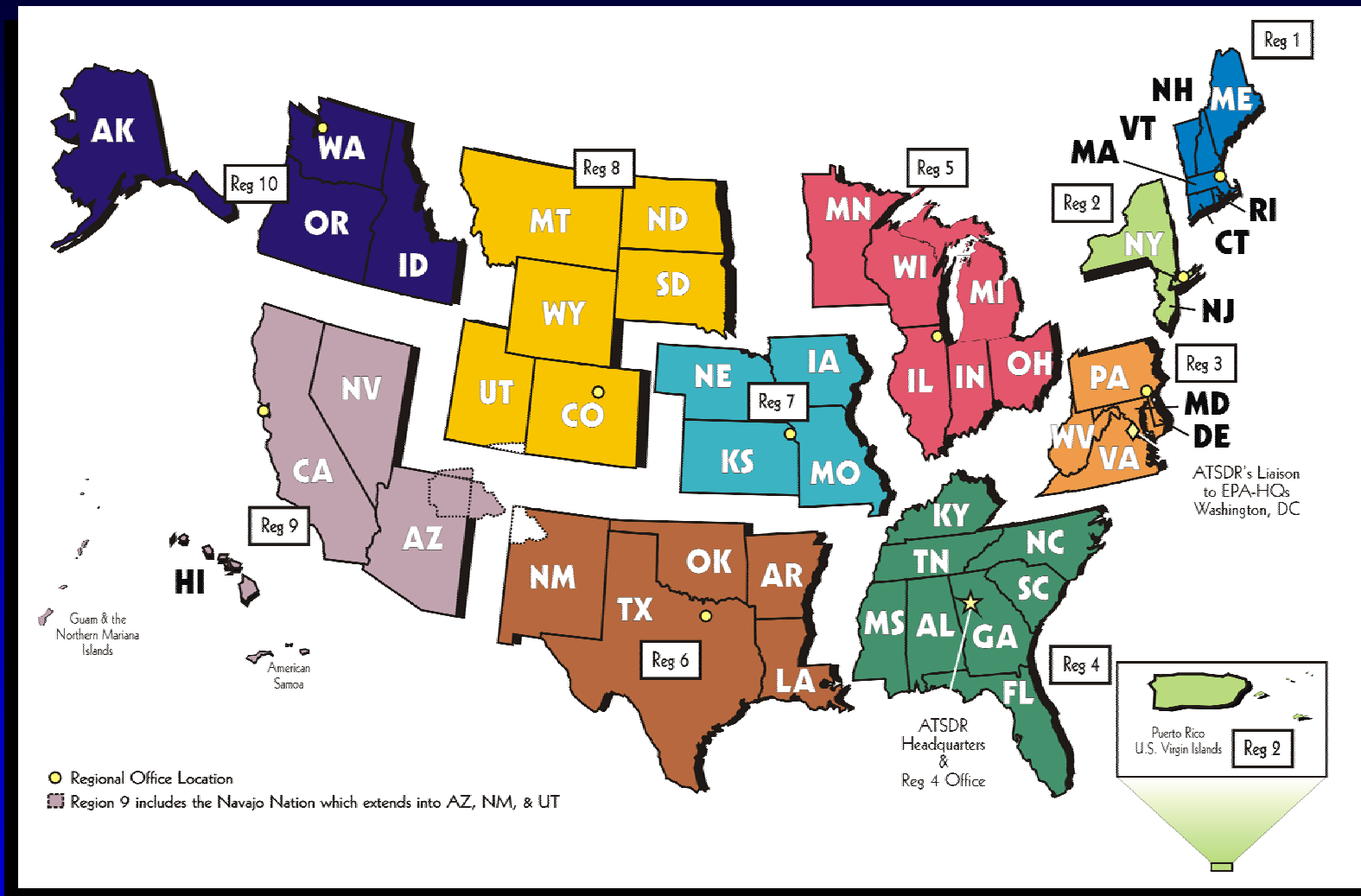
- Next step?

Organize partners for training to prepare border response plans.

Brief RRT and NRT.

Establish ACMT as the Region VI Lead to include US/Mexico border.

The future.... ACMT Regional Support to Poison Centers???



Preparedness – Combining both Fronts



VS



Example: EPA Border Program Working with Local Hospitals (US/Mexico Border)

Healthcare & HAZ MAT



Being Prepared



Contacts

Rebeca Gracia, Director North Texas Poison Center 214-589-0910

John F. Haynes, M.D., Medical Director, West Texas
Regional Poison Center 915-545-7333

LCDR Patrick Young, Regional Representative, USPHS 214-665-8562