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Responder Training and Exercise



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

ENRICHING RESPONDER TRAININGS

National Urban Security Technology Laboratory's (NUSTL's) Responder Training and Exercise (RTE) Program assists responders using radiation detection technology in their homeland security missions. RTE helps federal, state, regional and local agencies evaluate, test, train and use radiation detection equipment—and develop supporting protocols—by providing radioactive material and by acting as a technical resource.



INTERVENTION AND RESPONSE EXERCISES

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office's [Securing the Cities \(STC\) Program](#) is one example of RTE assisting responders in the New York metropolitan area. STC designs and implements an architectural framework of coordinated, integrated detection and interdiction systems to protect major metropolitan areas against the use of illicit radioactive materials.

STC leverages surrounding law enforcement agencies as a force multiplier in counterterrorism efforts of cities and regional law enforcement agencies.

RTE also assists the New York City Fire Department in their training to respond to incidents involving radiation.

IMPORTANCE TO FIRST RESPONDERS

Use of actual radioactive materials to create radiation fields is critical to provide safe but realistic levels to detect during training scenarios. Responder capabilities to counter malicious nuclear or radiological attacks also extends to reducing the impact of such events and facilitating an effective recovery. The technology used for deterrence, detection and prevention can also be used during post-event activities.

Since inception, the RTE Program has assisted about 2,200 state and local first responders during more than 150 training, exercise and technical assistance events throughout the New York metropolitan area. Partners include the DHS Transportation Security Agency's Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response Program, Federal Bureau of Investigation's Special Agent Bomb Technician Program, Metropolitan Transportation Agency Police, National Guard 24th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, New York Police Department's Counter Terrorism Division and the Harbor Unit, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation Police, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police and the U.S. Army (North, Fifth Army), among others.

RTE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Through RTE, NUSTL provides actual radioactive sources, training equipment and technical expertise. NUSTL transports these sources and safely and securely manages them at the training site. Responder trainers conduct classroom and exercise sessions addressing topics such as radiation dispersal devices, improvised nuclear devices, use of detectors and concepts of operations. The NUSTL RTE team provides:

- Technical staff to manage and monitor the safe, secure and legal use of radioactive sources used in trainings
- Training materials, equipment and support manuals
- Advice and analysis by technical experts on operational usage and optimization
- Testing of radiation detection equipment

