



# Office for Domestic Preparedness

## Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program (HDER) Program Fact Sheet

March 2003

### HOMELAND DEFENSE EQUIPMENT REUSE (HDER) PROGRAM

#### Background

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), in coordination with the Department of Energy, Office of Assets Utilization, National Center of Excellence for Materials Recycle (DOE), is pleased to make available the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program. The goal of the HDER Program is to provide surplus radiological detection instrumentation and other equipment, as well as training and technical support, to emergency responder agencies nationwide to enhance their domestic preparedness capabilities. The Program is currently being validated through a Pilot Project.

#### The HDER Program Pilot Project

The HDER Program Pilot Project is focusing on the ten (10) largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Based on 2000 U.S. Bureau of the Census data, these metropolitan areas are: *New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco, Philadelphia, Boston, Detroit, Dallas and Houston.* ODP worked with its state administrative agency (SAA) contacts in each state containing a selected area to establish a framework for administration of the HDER Program Pilot Project. Responder agencies in each of the selected areas have access to a substantial inventory of radiological detection instrumentation and other equipment that is no longer required by the Federal government. This equipment is rehabilitated and provided at no cost to the recipient.

In addition, training on the use of the equipment items and long-term support for their maintenance and calibration is available.

#### Pilot Project Equipment

Surplus instrumentation and equipment available through this program includes hand-held dose rate meters (e.g. ionization chambers), electronic pulsers, microrem meters, count rate meters used for contamination surveys, instrument probes (I.E. alpha and gamma scintillation and Geiger Mueller (G-M) probes) and pocket ionization chambers (self-reading pocket dosimeters). Additional instrumentation and equipment items will be added as the program matures.

#### Pilot Project Training

Training on the use of the equipment is available to the emergency responders in the selected metropolitan areas through ODP's Domestic Preparedness Equipment Technical Assistance Program (DPETAP). DPETAP is a comprehensive, national equipment technical assistance program for emergency responders conducted in partnership with the U.S. Army's Pine Bluff Arsenal. DPETAP's mobile teams provide on-site equipment operation and maintenance training, as well as detailed technical information on domestic preparedness equipment. DPETAP created a HDER training course focusing specifically on radiological detection equipment. However, if a jurisdiction is interested in additional training opportunities available through DPETAP, a complete description of the program may be obtained from the ODP website at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/dpetap.htm>

## Pilot Project Support

Local support for the equipment is available through a partnership with the Health Physics Society (HPS). HPS is a 6,000 member scientific organization of professionals who specialize in radiation safety. Volunteers from local HPS chapters in the selected metropolitan areas are available to arrange annual calibration and basic maintenance for the equipment, provide hands-on refresher training if required and serve as a local source of expertise for questions regarding the instrumentation.

## Participation in the Pilot Project

Each SAA point of contact is provided with a quarterly equipment list of instrumentation and equipment available through the HDER Program Pilot Project, as well as a form for requesting the desired items and any associated training and local long-term technical support. ODP coordinates with DOE on the delivery of the equipment, with DPETAP to schedule the requested training and with HPS regarding technical support. Requests may be made quarterly, and an inventory list of available equipment will be provided at the start of each calendar quarter.

The quantity and type of items available through the HDER Program Pilot Project will vary. In addition, the specific number of each type of instrumentation that may be requested by each selected area per quarter may be limited to ensure equality in their distribution. All shipments of instrumentation and equipment are made to the designated SAA point of contact for distribution. Finally, training is provided on classes of equipment, not specific makes and models. Availability of this training for specific dates is also subject to the availability of the DPETAP mobile training teams. The inventory list provided each quarter to the SAA point of contact will clearly identify any restrictions.

## HDER Contact Information

Questions about the HDER program may be directed to:

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Additional information may also be obtained by contacting the ODP Helpline at: ***1-800-368-6498***.