

CBRNE Working Group

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- Dick Arentsen - presentation on air sampling pilot project in The Netherlands (AGS PPT)
 - Began with 6 regions
 - Have analyzed 10 incidents
 - Remote air sampling capabilities using a canister which is later analyzed.
 - The canister can be set automatically and does not require a human with it.
 - Sampling times and frequency can be set and changed.
 - Canister only captures air sample - it does not analyze the air.
 - Can analyze smoke and CBRN
 - Fairly low cost (800,000 €) for entire organization
 - Canisters are reusable
 - Train the trainer can be used
- Discussion of CTIF Hazmat Commission website - what to do with it.
- Discussion of the status of the CBRN Action Plan and related CBRN First Responder Handbook. No one in the group knows whether this document has been developed. Last status is that the draft form out for comment in March 2012.
- Last meeting (Weeze) the CBRN working group discussed the definition of CBRN. The group recalls defining the term but not what the intent was in its use within the committee.
 - There continues to be varied use of the term and misunderstanding among first responders.
 - NFPA 472 used the term weapons of mass destruction.
- Fire smoke and vapours
 - Emerging issue in the U.S. regarding site characterization after structure fires to prevent firefighters from being exposed to carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide from the smoke.
 - Studies have shown that today's fires produce far more chemical compounds due to building materials and furnishings than in the past.
 - Some fire departments have developed operating procedures to decontaminate protective equipment and remove smoke and soot from the firefighter's gear following fires.
 - The website Firesmoke.org contains information and resources to assist with these concerns.
 - Hazmat teams may be requested to assist with site characterization (air monitoring) during and following.
 - There is also a German operating procedure that addresses firefighter decontamination processes following fires.
- The German document *Recommendation on Sampling for Hazard Control in Civil Protection* has been translated into English. Dick and Ove have a copy.