

Chemical Hazards Preparedness and Response Capacity in the

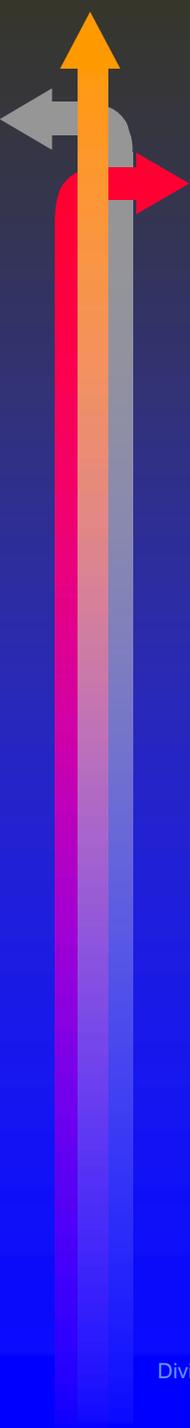
Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control

California Department of Public Health

Rupali Das, MD, MPH

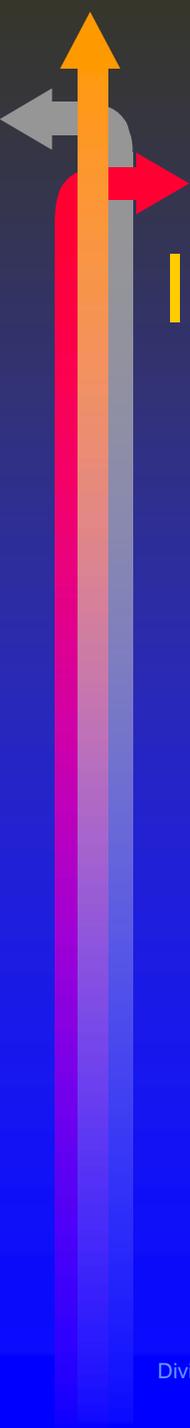
rupali.das@cdph.ca.gov

CCLHO Semiannual Conference, May 1, 2008, Sacramento



Issues To be Covered

- Who we are
- What we do
- How we provide assistance
- Opportunities for collaborations



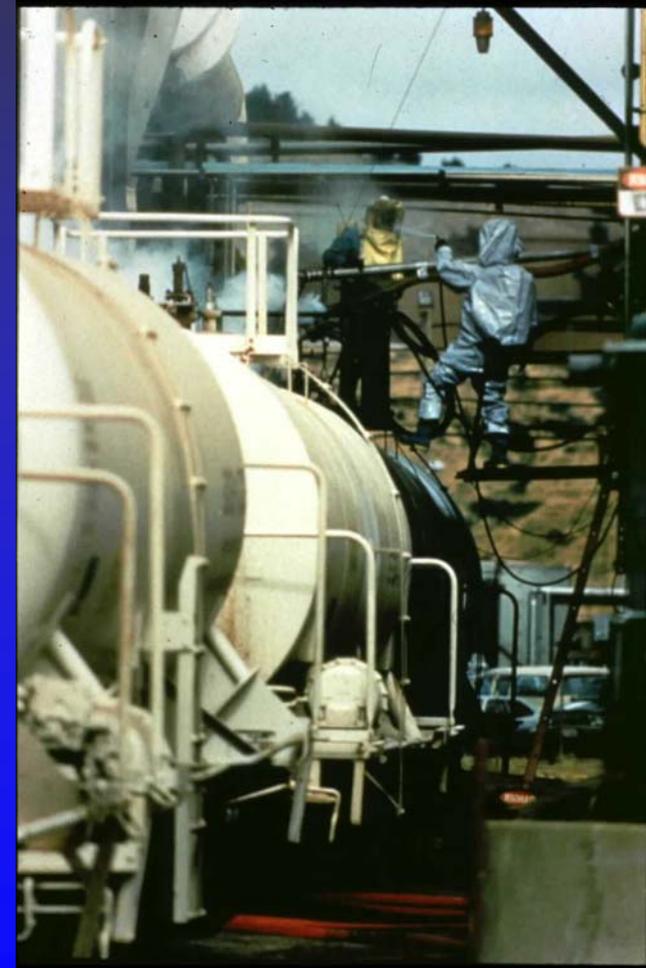
Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control (DEODC)

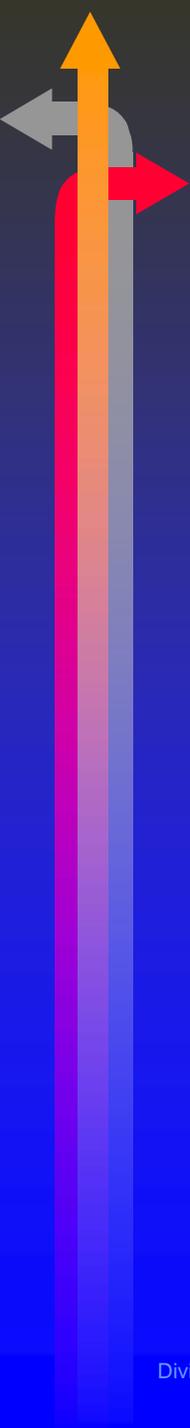
Incident Planning and Response Team

- Environmental Health Investigation
- Occupational Health
- Environmental Health Laboratory
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

DEODC Core Response Team

- Rick Kreutzer, MD, MPH
- Rupali Das, MD, MPH
- Celia Golden, MD, MPH
- Laura Fenster, PhD
- Kevin Chao, PhD
- Micky Pandit





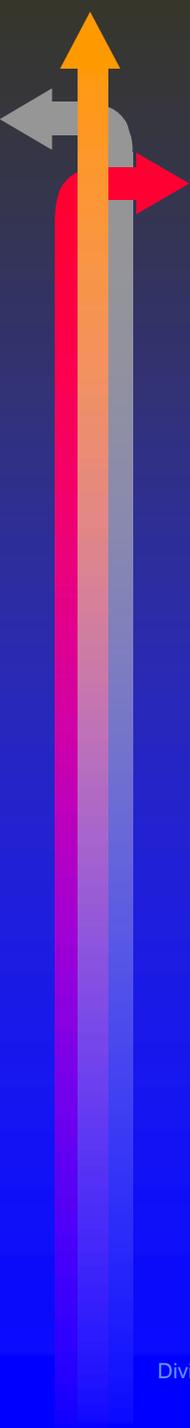
What We Offer

- Planning for preventing the effects of intentional and unintentional incidents
- Predict effects of ongoing incidents based on known toxicology, epidemiology
- Recommend mitigating measures
- Assess health effects following incidents

Human Health Focus: Effects of chemicals

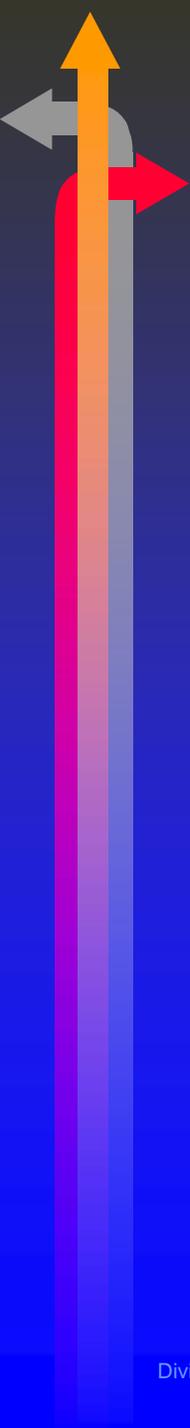
- Community
- Workplace





Beyond Chemicals

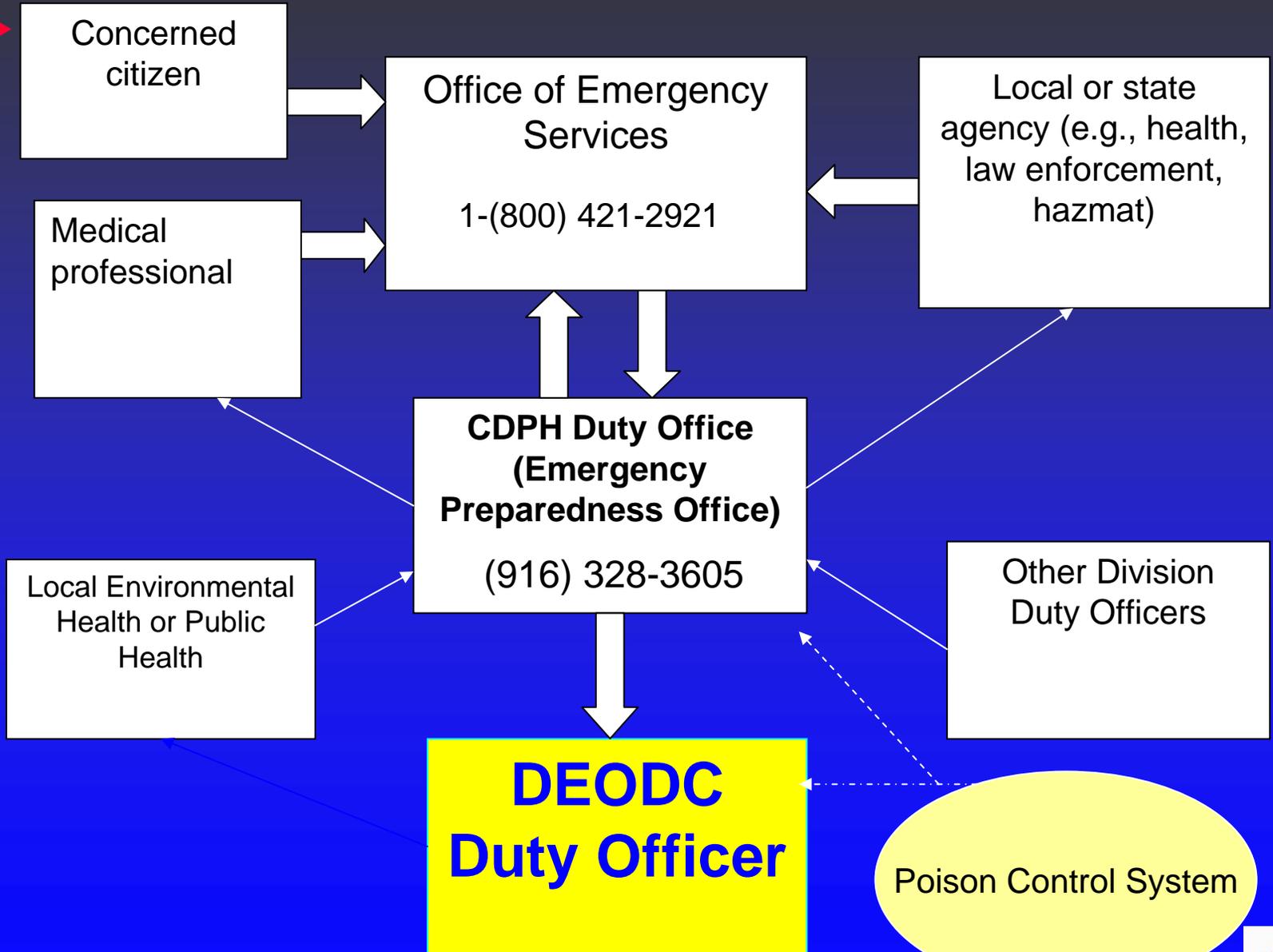
- Worker health issues include
 - Infectious diseases : pandemic, avian flu
 - Physical factors: ergonomics, PPE
- Other: toxic mushrooms
- We collaborate with others (i.e., Division of Communicable Diseases)

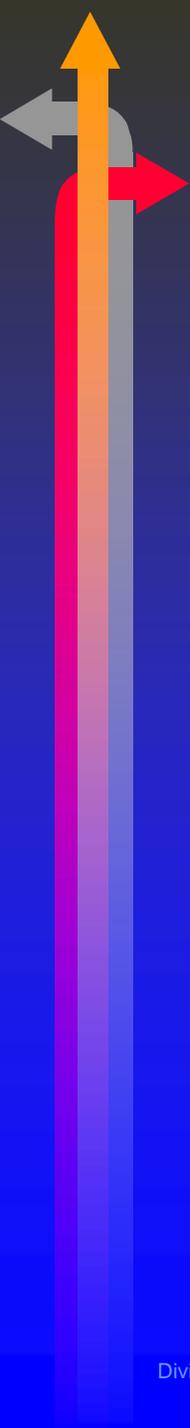


Technical Advice and Expertise

- Medical toxicology
- Medical management
- Epidemiologic follow-up
- Interpretation of exposure assessment
- Incident Investigation
- Laboratory monitoring
- Risk communication and education

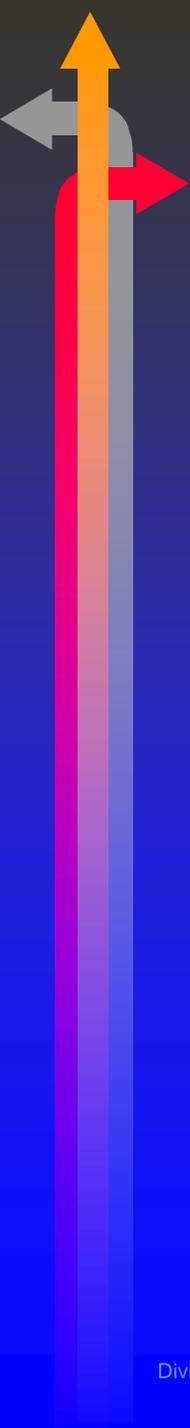
How DEODC Learns About Incidents





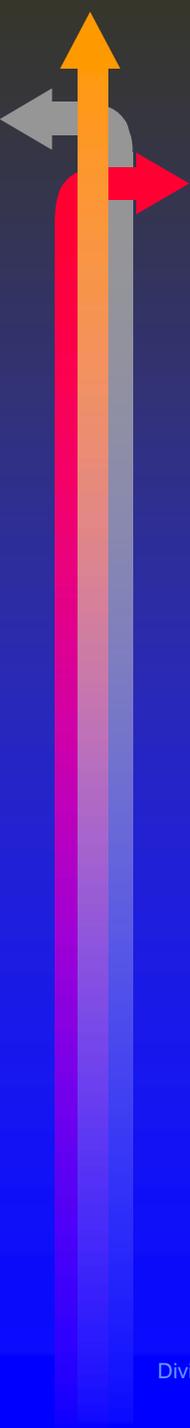
DEODC Response Capacity

- 24/7 on-call DEODC duty officer
- Protocols for response
- Communication integrated with other state agencies
- Single point of contact for CDPH: Emergency Preparedness Office
 - CDPH Duty Officer (916) 328-3605



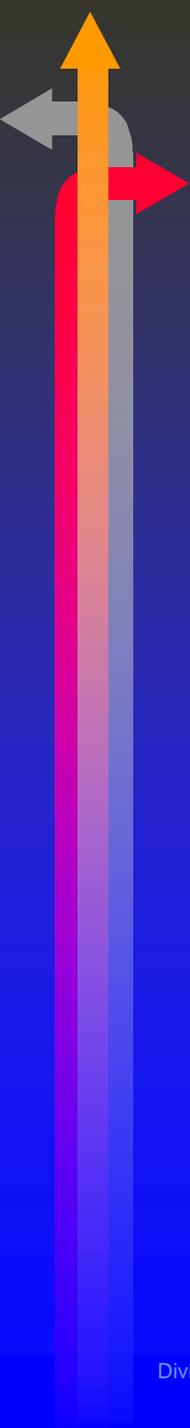
DEODC Response

- Response teams
 - 3 teams with 24/7 response capacity
 - Staff training: protocols, tabletops
 - Mix of technical expertise, SEMS positions
- Emergency Response Plan
 - Will be publicly available
 - Will include guidelines for public health response to chemical incidents



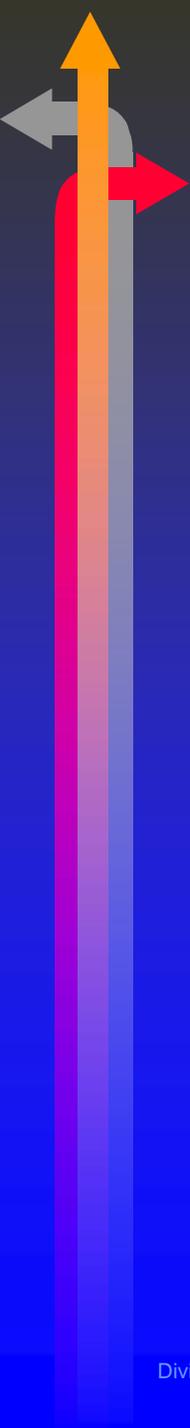
DEODC Assistance

- All-hazards trainings
 - 2-day local trainings
- Rapid Response Registry
 - Identifies and registers individuals exposed to an emergency event
 - Will be available on CAHAN
 - www.rapidresponseregistry.org/ (ATSDR version)
- Library of questionnaire modules
 - Occupational, environmental exposure, history



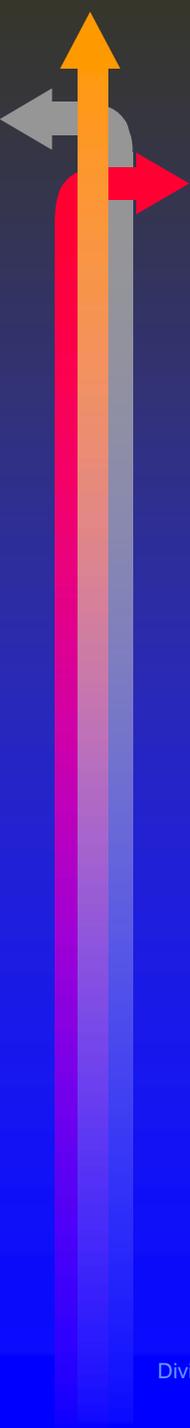
DEODC Assistance

- Interstate Chemical Terrorism Workgroup
 - Monthly calls discuss various topics
 - RRR to be discussed May 8
- Technical assistance during incident
 - Fact sheets
 - Respirator recommendations, So. Cal. fires



Challenges

- Occupation, environment not a priority
- Uncommon, unfamiliar, diverse
- Limited capacity at the local level
- Limited capacity at the state
- Tools, methodologies under construction
- Need for improved coordination within, between agencies



Collaborations

- CCLHO Environmental Health Committee
- At the local level
 - All-hazards training
 - Epidemiologic tools
 - Training on prevention, assessment of occupational, environmental incidents
- We welcome your input

