

# Adopting International System of Units for Radiation Measurements in the US

Radiation Training Perspective

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## Topics for Discussion

- ▶ CTOS background
- ▶ Process for updates to training
- ▶ Instructor concerns
- ▶ Equipment concerns
- ▶ Options to ease transition



# CTOS Background

- ▶ Member of the FEMA National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC)
- ▶ Trained over 170,000 responders since 1998
- ▶ Courses range from radiological/nuclear awareness to implementing detection techniques for large team operations
  - Span the preventive and response mission sets
  - Course offerings: web-based, resident, and mobile
  - Several other entities offer radiological/nuclear courses for responders (and will have similar considerations)



## Process for updates to courses

- ▶ All courses are reviewed annually
  - Would likely update unit references during those reviews
- ▶ Recertification with changes is fairly easy
- ▶ In many cases, course modules are repeated, especially general radiation awareness modules

Overall, updating materials is the most trivial portion of the transition



# Instructor Familiarity

- ▶ ~70 instructors consisting of:
  - Police Officers
  - Rad/Nuc SMEs
  - CST Members
  - Retired Responders
  - Active-Duty Responders
  - EMS Personnel
  - Firefighters
  - Military Personnel
  - HAZMAT Personnel
  - Emergency Managers
  
- ▶ Traditional unit vernacular is much more common
  - Will impact the flow of the course instruction
  - May take a significant amount of time to overcome
  
- ▶ Currently have struggles with traditional units, i.e. mixing of R versus rem

# Equipment Concerns

- ▶ Equipment displays will have to be adjusted to reflect SI units
  - Feasible for most instrumentation
- ▶ Large caches of equipment at multiple locations
- ▶ One-time effort with verification



# Options to Ease Transition – Get the word out!

How can training groups help socialize the transition?

- Leverage large contact network and distribution lists
- Webinars
- Publications
- Newsletters
- Handouts/reference sheets
- Posters
- Joint drills and exercises



Questions?