



**Department of State Health Services (DSHS)
Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board
(TRAB) Consumer Protection Division**

September 24, 2021

Business Filing and Verification Section

Radioactive Material Unit – Karl Von Ahn, Manager

The RAM licensing staff continues to work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff continues working in the office and from home on a rotating schedule.

We are continuing to prepare for moving our offices to the main campus, tentatively scheduled for September 13th. We have had to make significant reductions in the office footprint. The staff has been scanning paper files to upload electronic file copies into our SharePoint filing system or attach in the VR database records for industrial radiographers.

Radiation Machine Source Unit – Jo Turkette, Manager

No Updates.

Radiation Surveillance Section-Radiation Unit

Radioactive Materials Inspection Group – Eric Skotak, Manager

No Updates.

Mammography and X-Ray Group – Trae Windham, Manager

No Updates.

X-Ray and Remote Inspections Group – Shannon Quinn, Manager

No Updates.

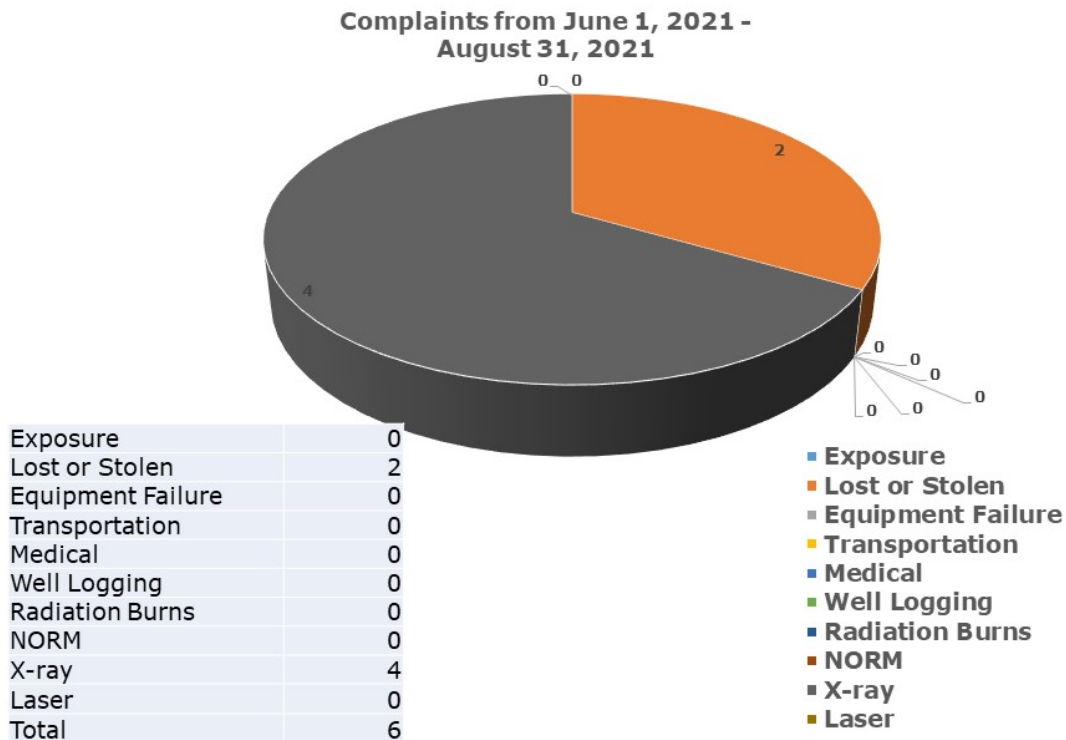
X-ray Group – Stephanie Lopez, Manager

No Updates.

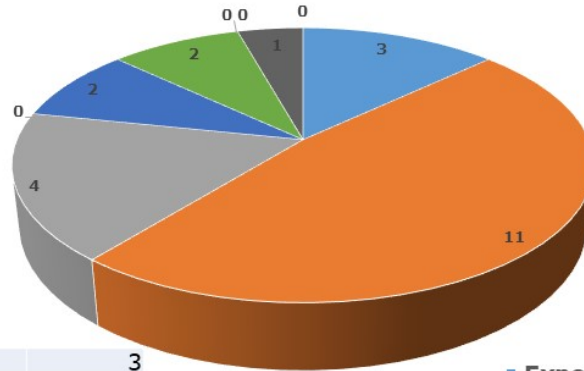
Environmental Monitoring Group – Bob Free, Manager

Incident Investigations:

There were no significant events reported during this reporting period. The pie charts below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents and complaints received during this reporting period.



Incidents from June 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021



Exposure	3
Lost or Stolen	11
Equipment Failure	4
Transportation	0
Medical	2
Well Logging	2
Radiation Burns	0
NORM	0
X-ray	1
Laser	0
Total	23

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South Texas Project (STP):

DSHS successfully completed its FEMA evaluated full-scale exercise on July 28. The current FEMA draft After Action Report shows no findings or planning issues for the state or any local jurisdictions participating in the exercise. Additionally, the FEMA Evaluated Medical Services (MS-1) drill scheduled for August 31 at Matagorda Regional Medical Center was rescheduled to December 2 due to an increase in COVID patients.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CP):

There were no Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant (CP) exercises or major activities for DSHS during this period. DSHS monitors and responds to emails, phone calls, and conference calls regarding COVID-19 updates regarding Comanche Peak and Hood and Somervell Counties. At the request of CP and Hood and Somervell Counties, DSHS is in the process of requesting FEMA's approval to postpone the scheduled September 8, 2021, FEMA Evaluated Medical Services (MS-1) drill at Texas Health, Cleburne. The postponement request is due to an increase in Covid patients at the THC medical center

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP):

Radiological Emergency Response Training was provided to the Midland Fire

Department the week of June 7-11, 2021, with forty-four 1st responders participating.

Calibrated radiation detection sets were exchanged at the Odessa Fire Department as part of a grant agreement to supply equipment to first responder organizations along the WIPP transportation corridor to supplement existing capability or to provide that capability.

An initial planning meeting for a full-scale Waste Isolation Pilot Plant transportation exercise, or WIPPTREX was held on August 24, 2021, in Abilene, TX. Representatives from state, local, and federal representatives participated in the meeting. The exercise is planned for November 2022.

Pantex:

Planning for the FY2021 Pantex exercise is underway, with a target date for the full-scale exercise in March 2022.

Environmental Monitoring around the Pantex site was completed the week of July 12th-16th.

An operations readiness drill was conducted on July 20, 2021, at the Amarillo Reception Center to test the ability of Amarillo Fire to set up and staff the reception center. DSHS provided Just-In-Time training on new radiation detection equipment acquired by the City of Amarillo and training on the setup and use of personal contamination monitors.

Staff continues setting up the new staging area in Washburn to calibrate radiation detection equipment on-site.

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently posted several new "Best Practices" videos showcasing how some of their partners have used and benefited from some of the CDC Tools. Two of the four new featured videos cover events held in Texas.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/emergencies/success.htm>

Both videos showcase preparing and training volunteers for community reception centers (CRCs) used in a radiological emergency. CRCs are locations designated by emergency response officials to provide screening for radioactive contamination and other services to people who have been affected by a radiation emergency.

The first video features DSHS team members Chris Moore and Rae Walker

discussing what is needed to set up a reception center during a radiological emergency and Texas's approach to building our response program while working with our regional medical operations centers. Chris is currently an Emergency Planner and Incident Investigator for DSHS Radiation Control. Rae is currently the Emergency Preparedness/COOP Coordinator for the Consumer Protection Division. Rae served as the DSHS Emergency Planner for the South Texas Project and as the Operations Team Lead for the DSHS Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in her previous positions.

Statewide Collaboration for Preparedness



Texas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmXoTmgxGaI>

The second video highlights the CRC exercise held in El Paso in 2019 and the Bi-National Radiological Emergency Advisory Council (BREAC), a joint response effort coordinated by the City of El Paso, New Mexico, and Juarez, Mexico. Chris and Rae were integral in the planning, training, and execution of the 2019 CRC exercise.

Local and International Partnerships



Texas (El Paso)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGSvm-qggx4>

In addition to their busy jobs and working with the CDC, Rae and Chris share their knowledge of emergency preparedness and response by working on volunteer projects for the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors and the National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Compliance Section

Environmental Health Unit – Alyson Henry

From June 2021 – August 2021, the Compliance Section issued 157 Orders against individuals and companies that were found to have violated the Texas Regulations for Control of Radiation (25 Texas Administrative Code §§289.201 – 302). These Orders have resulted in the assessment of \$318,090 in administrative penalties. 30 X-ray registrations, four (4) laser registrations, one (1) Radioactive Material license, and one (1) General License Acknowledgment were revoked during this period

Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Section

Radiation Unit – Brian Vamvakias, Manager

Recent Rule Changes:

- §289.233 - Radiation Control Regulations for Radiation Machines used in Veterinary Medicine (Project 20R030).
 - The revised rule was adopted and became effective on April 15, 2021. The rule was published in the April 9, 2021 issue of the Texas Register. The DSHS Radiation Rule webpage now has a copy of the rule formatted for easier reading.
 - A guidance document is under review that will explain the changes in the revised rule as well as go over the general regulatory requirements for veterinarians using radiation machines. When the guidance document is complete, we will send it to stakeholders electronically and also provide a copy on our website. Staff will be available to answer questions at any time.
 - The Surveillance staff will not enforce any new requirement until January 1, 2022.

- §289.226 - Radiation Control Regulations for Registration of Radiation Machines Use and Services (Project 20R029)
 - The Adopted rule was published in the July 16, 2021 issue of the Texas Register and became effective July 18, 2021,
 - This revision removes the dual responsibility of the routine EPE. Only the registrant is responsible for the routine Equipment Performance Evaluation (EPE). This revision maintains the dual responsibility of the facility registrant and the service provider to make sure the 30-day EPE is done.

Upcoming Rule Projects:

- §289.252, §289.256, §289.257 - Medical Use of Radioactive Material (Project 21R035)
 - The NRC made significant changes to 10 CFR 30, 32, and 35 in January 2019 concerning the medical use of radioactive material (RAM). Texas must amend the associated Sections in Chapter 289 TAC by January 2022. Other NRC revisions since 2019 are also being incorporated into this project.
 - No comments were received during the 10-day draft public comment period, so essentially the draft rule text went forward as the proposed rule.
 - The NRC has provided comments concerning cross references that were incorporated into the proposed rule.

- The project was not presented at the HHS Executive Council meeting in August 2021 due to scheduling, but the rule project is still on the same timeline. The proposed rule is expected to be published in the Texas Register in September and will have a 30-day public comment period. The rule is scheduled to be effective in January 2022.