

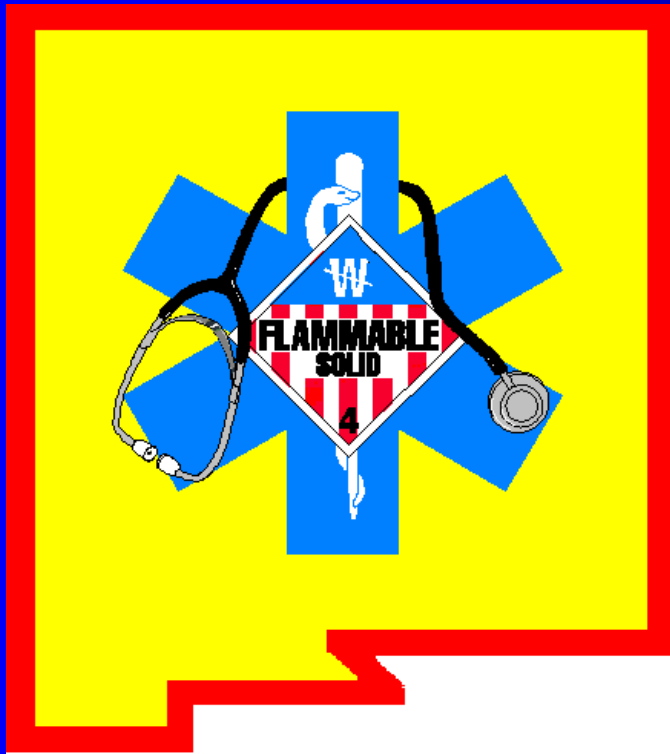
EMS Medical Preparedness for WIPP Accidents Responder Survey Results

**Injury Prevention and
Emergency Medical Services Bureau
New Mexico Department of Health**

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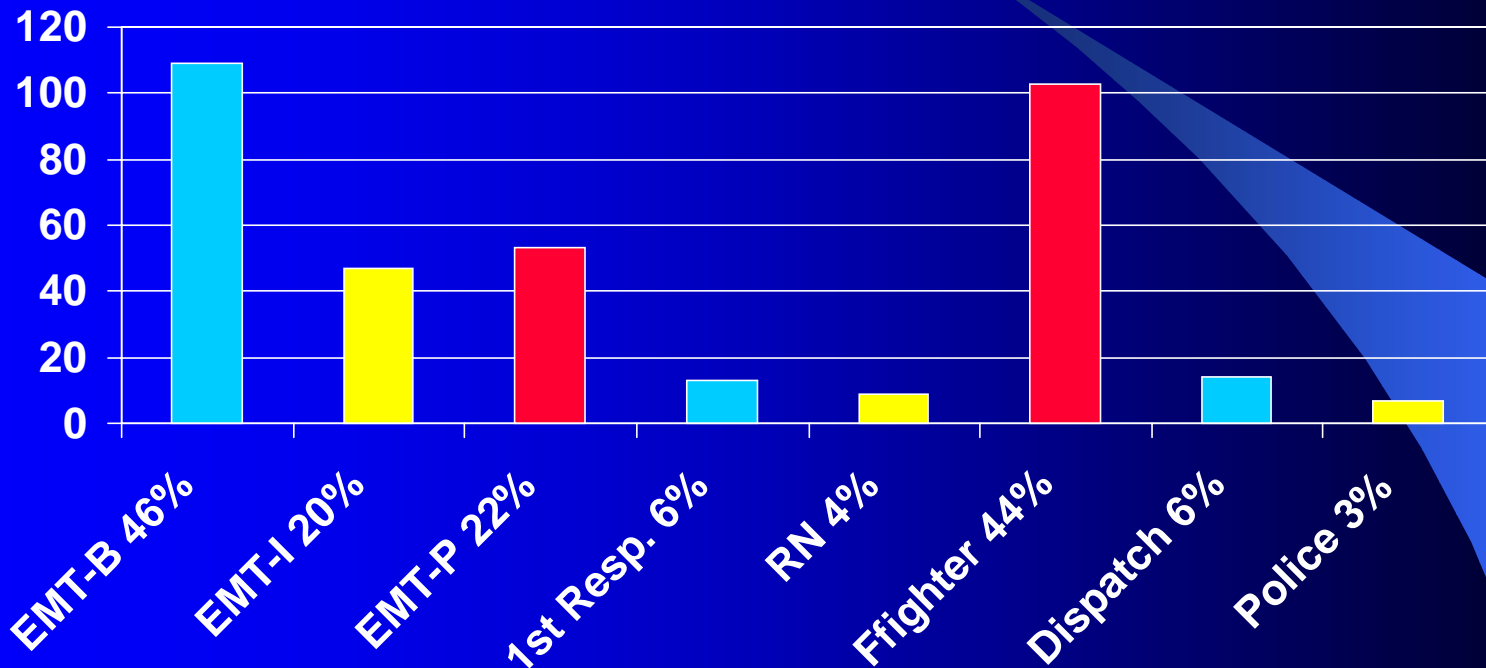
CCNS

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety

Survey Results from October 1999

- 236 EMS Survey Participants, including:
 - Dispatchers
 - Medical First Responders
 - EMTs
 - Firefighters
 - Law Enforcement
 - Hospital Personnel

Survey Respondents



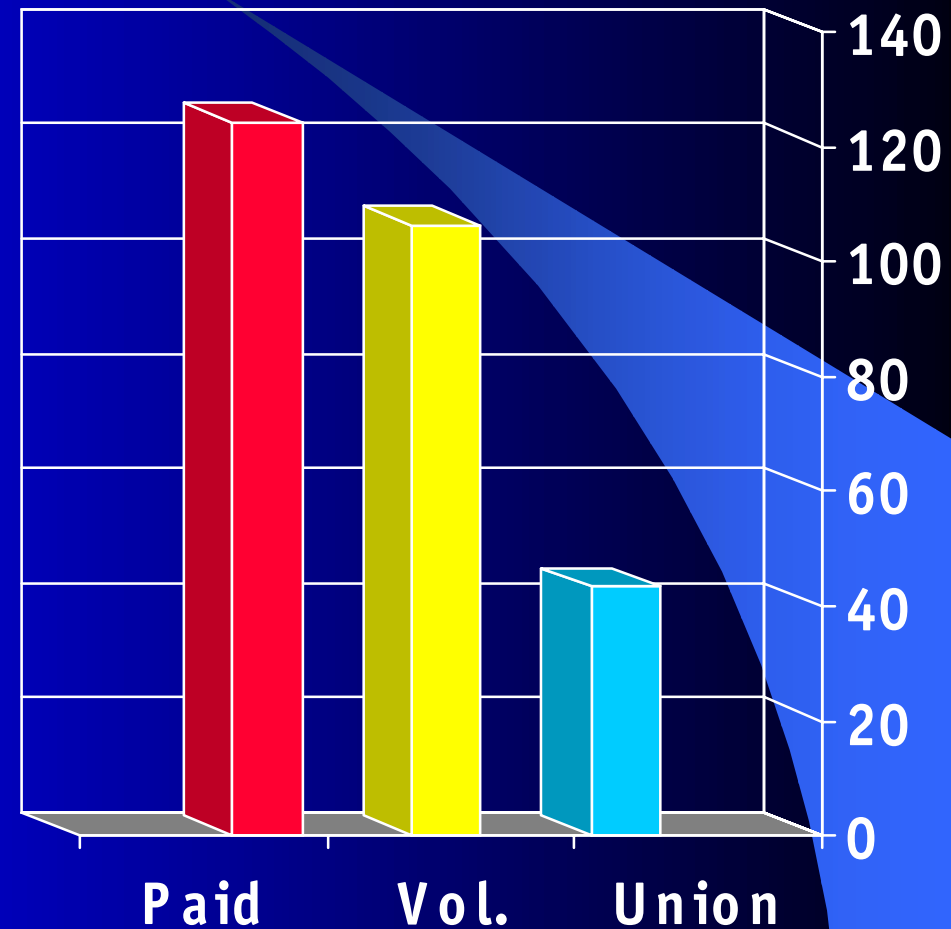
**Total number of respondents was 236;
multiple job titles may have been checked.**

109 respondents – EMT-Basic Level

- 70 Firefighters EMT-B
- 5 Law Enforcement EMT-B
- 40 EMT-B Only

Paid vs. Volunteer

- Paid 53% (124)
 - Union 49
 - FireFighters 43
- Volunteer 45% (106)
- Other 2% (6)

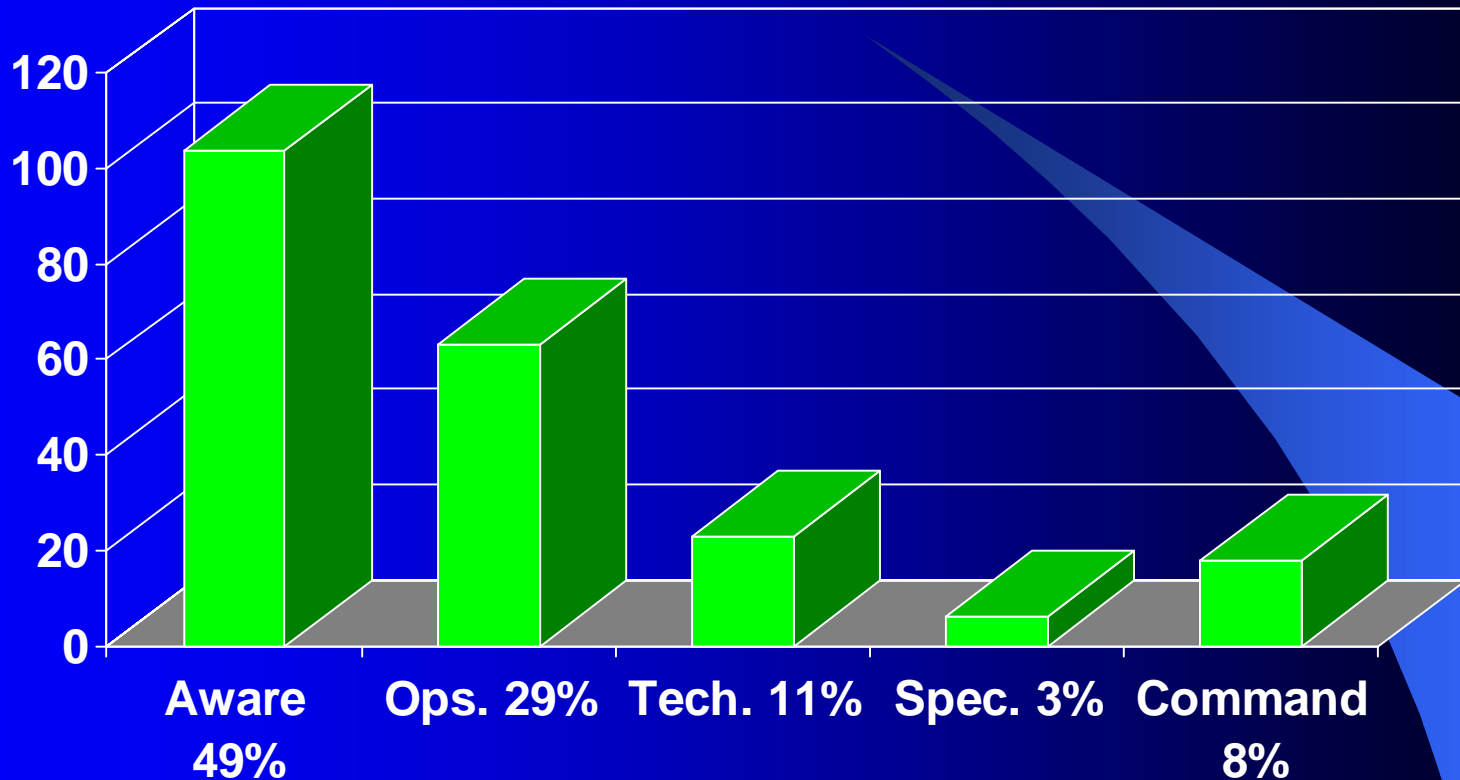


Hazardous Duty Pay...



Only 3% of the paid responders indicated that they receive compensation or other benefits above their regular pay for responding to radiation / hazmat incidents.

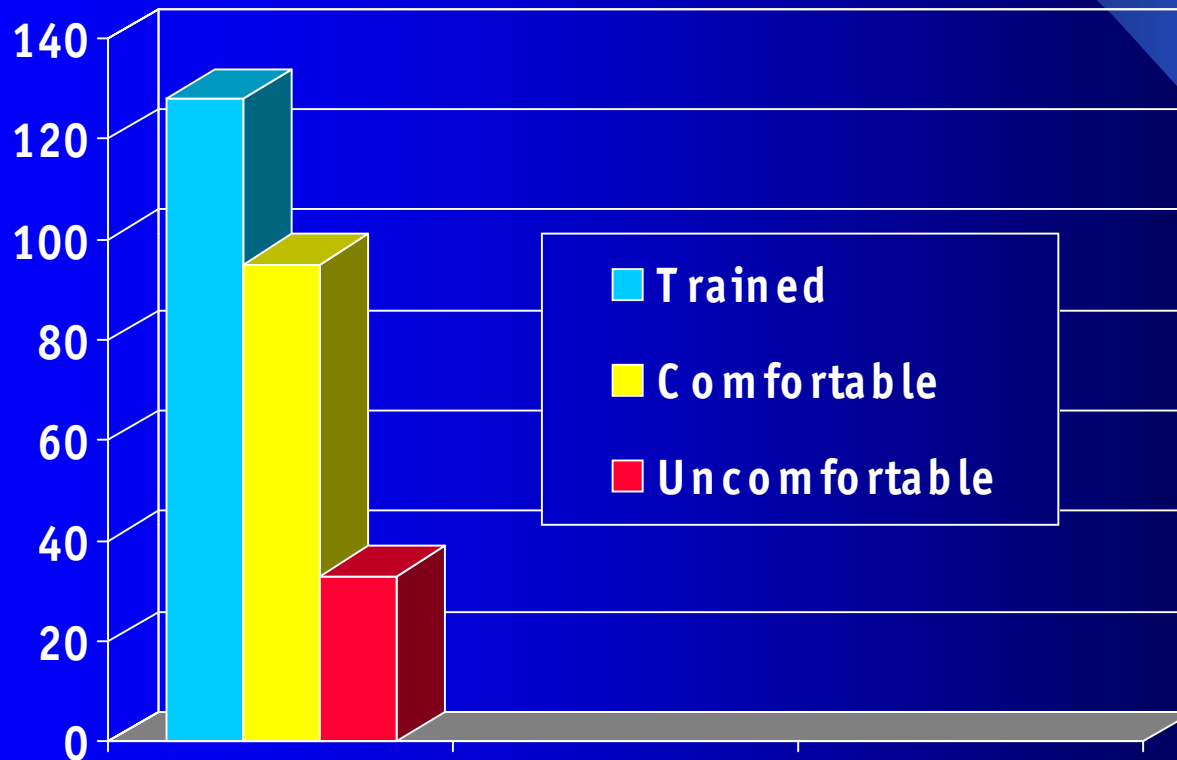
Survey Results - Training



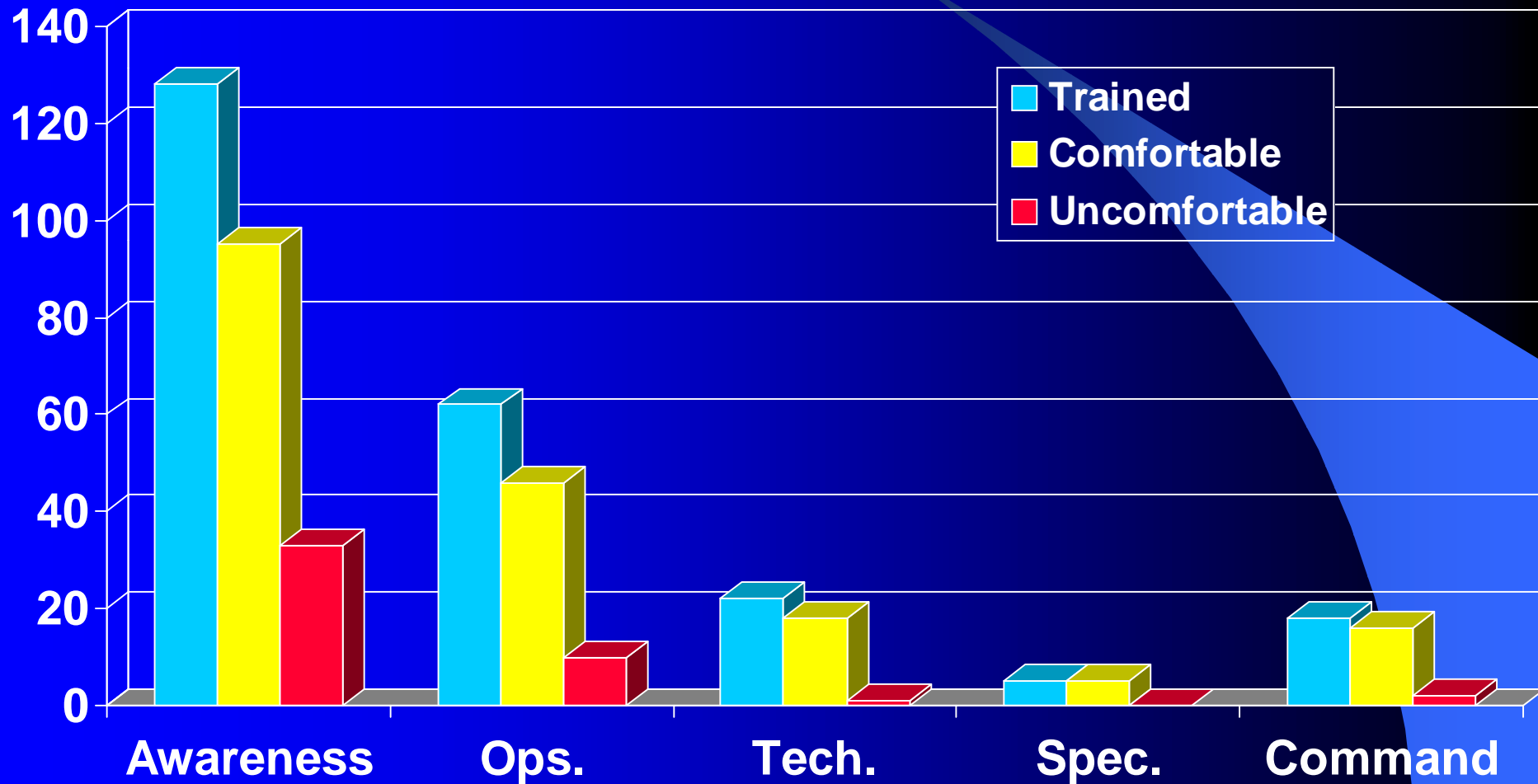
Reflects the 5 levels of OSHA / EPA haz mat training requirements.

Some respondents checked more than one box.

Can you safely perform skills at the awareness level?



Training – Can you safely perform skills at level trained?



WIPP Training Survey Results— 236 respondents

- Did you know that the State of NM sponsors free WIPP training?

99 answered yes.

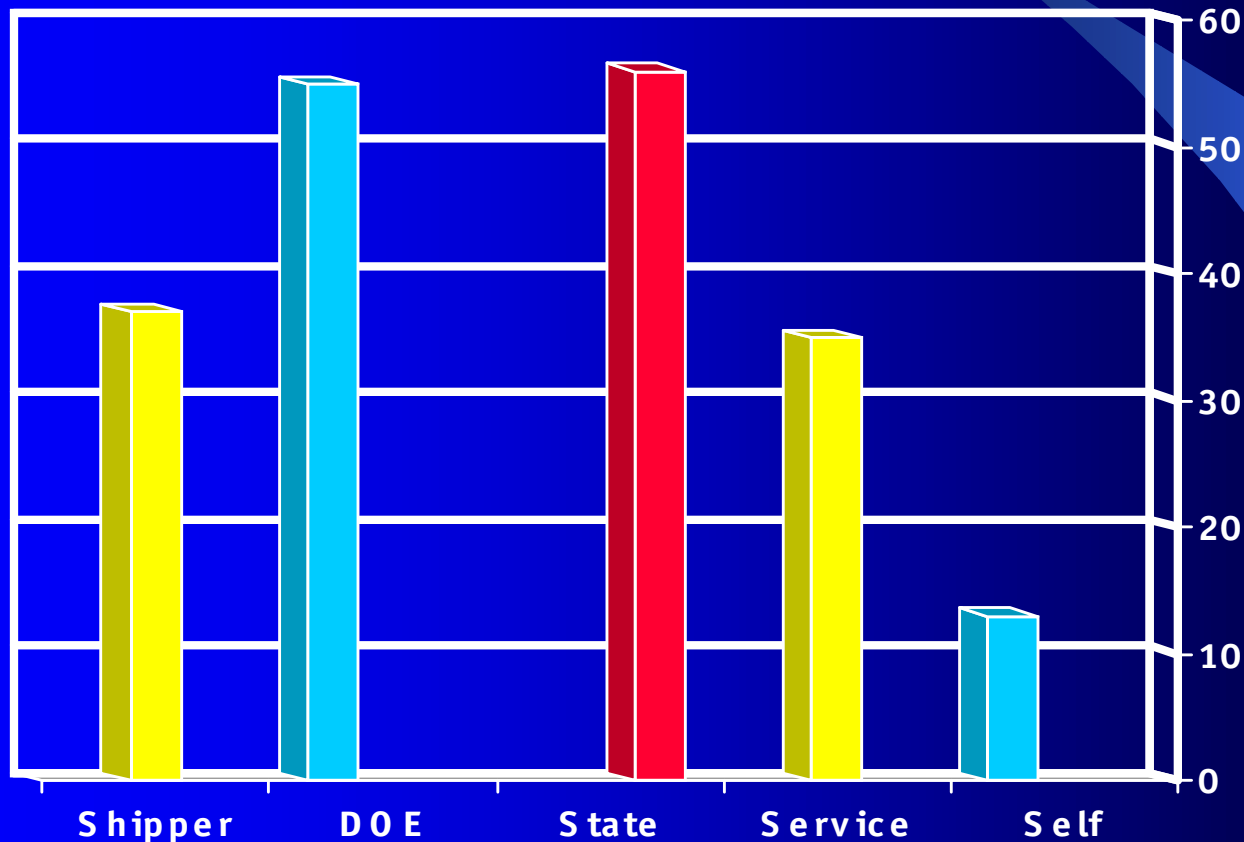
- Have you attended training that included information about the WIPP Transportation Program?

125 answered yes.

- Have you attended training that included information about the medical treatment of WIPP accident victims?

81 answered yes.

Who do you think is responsible for cleaning/replacing your personal equipment?



Survey Results



Only 27% of the people surveyed indicated that they had participated in a drill or exercise as part of training.

Survey Results



28% of EMTs and FireFighters felt adequately trained to handle a radioactively contaminated patient.

Will You Personally Respond to a Radioactive Materials Incident?



Out of the 236 Surveys completed, 61% indicated that they would respond.

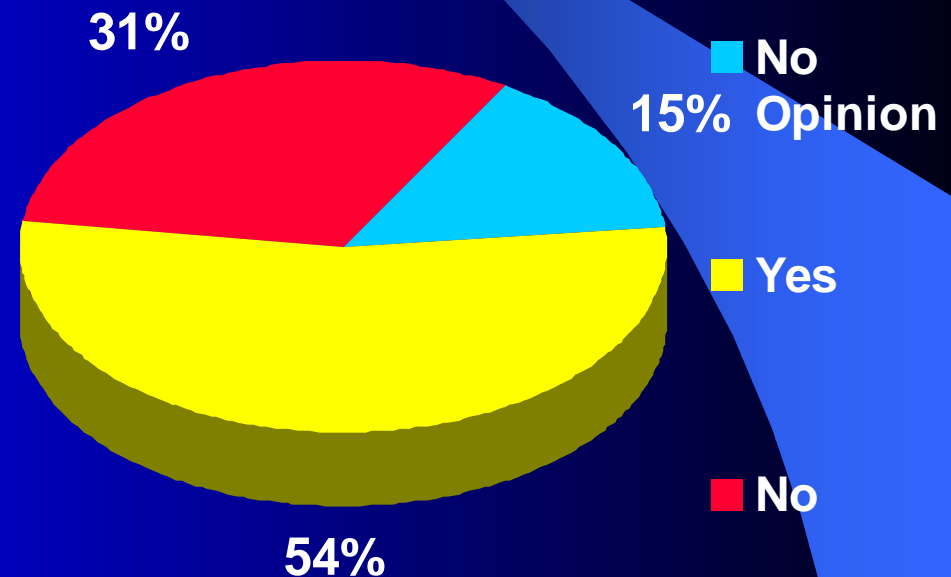
Will You Personally Respond to Hazardous Materials Incident?



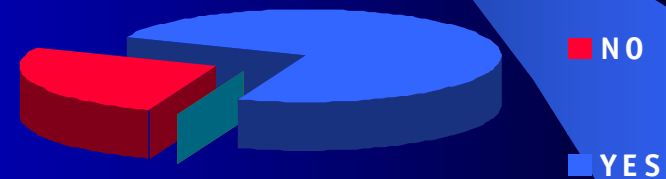
Out of the 236 surveys collected, 63% answered yes.

Do You Want to Know the Schedule of WIPP Shipments?

- Most of the people surveyed indicated that they do want to know the WIPP shipment schedule.



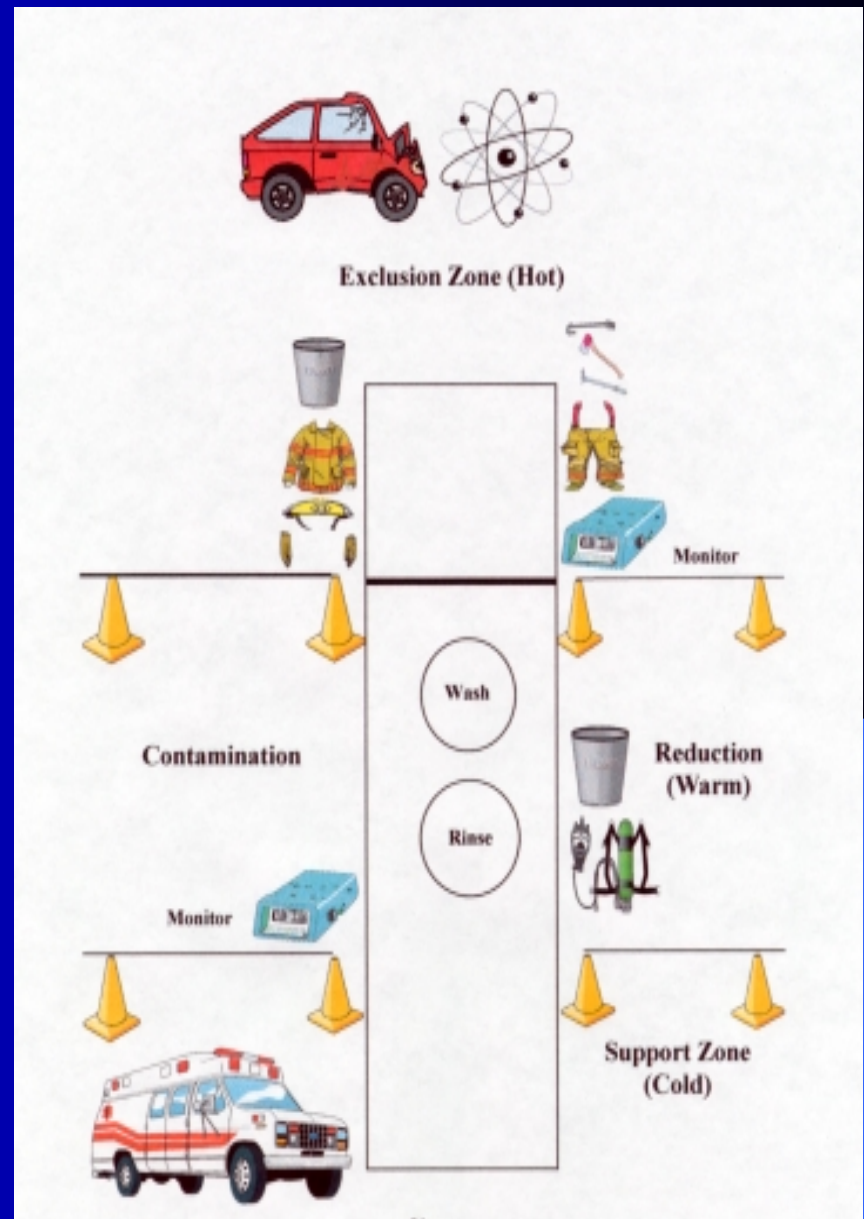
Does your department/agency carry workers compensation and/or injury insurance for you as a responder?



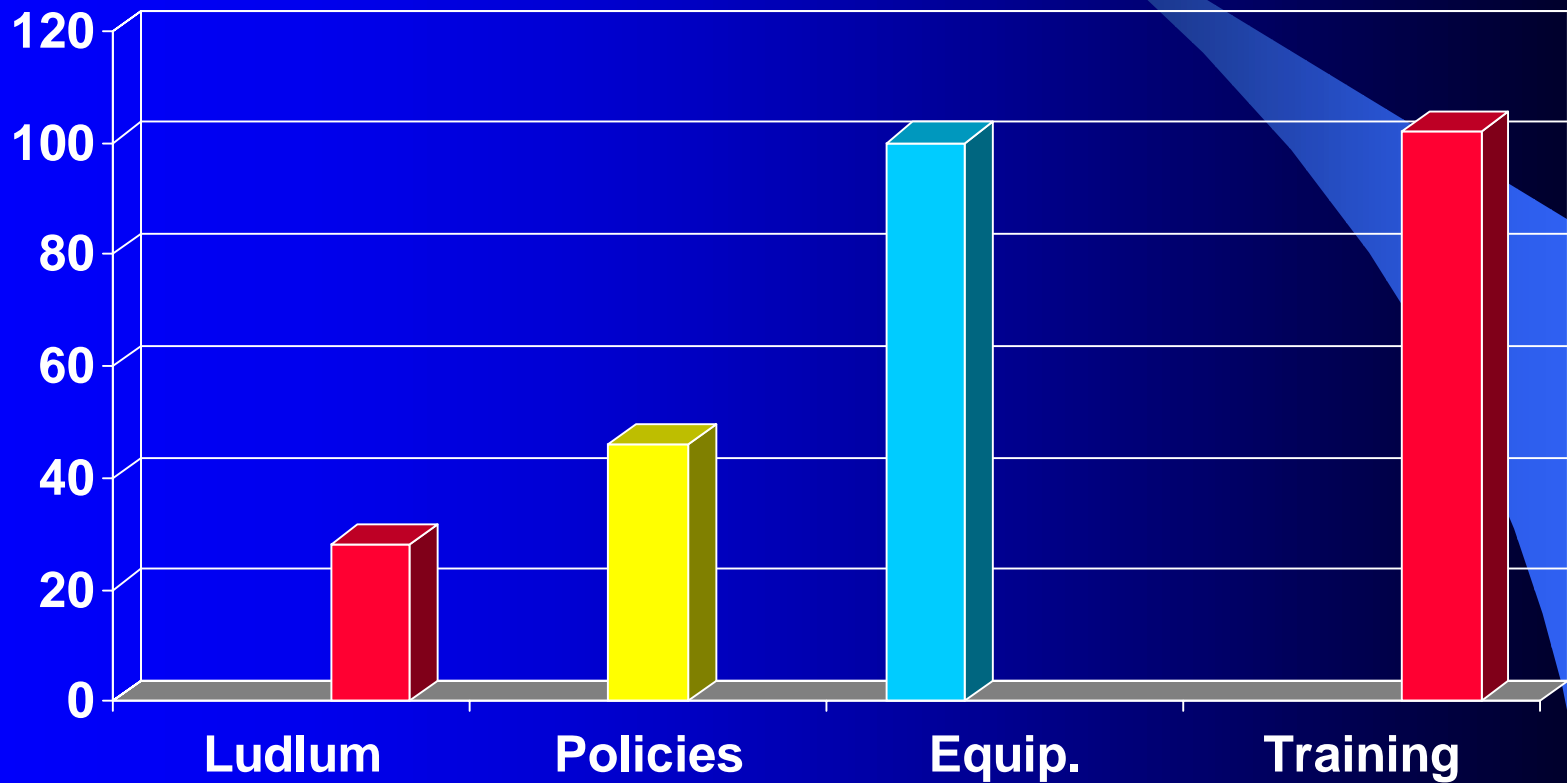
Approximately
85% of EMS/Fire
Departments are
insured.

Survey Results

- Only 25% of EMS and fire department personnel think they have adequate equipment for hazardous materials or radioactive materials incident response.

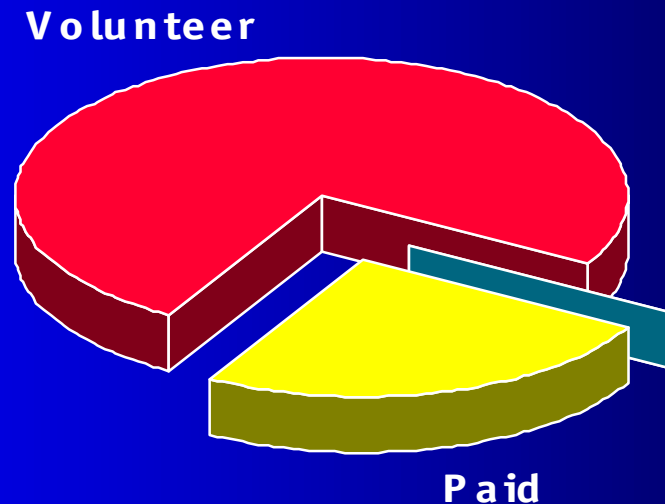


Survey Results Equipment Needed...

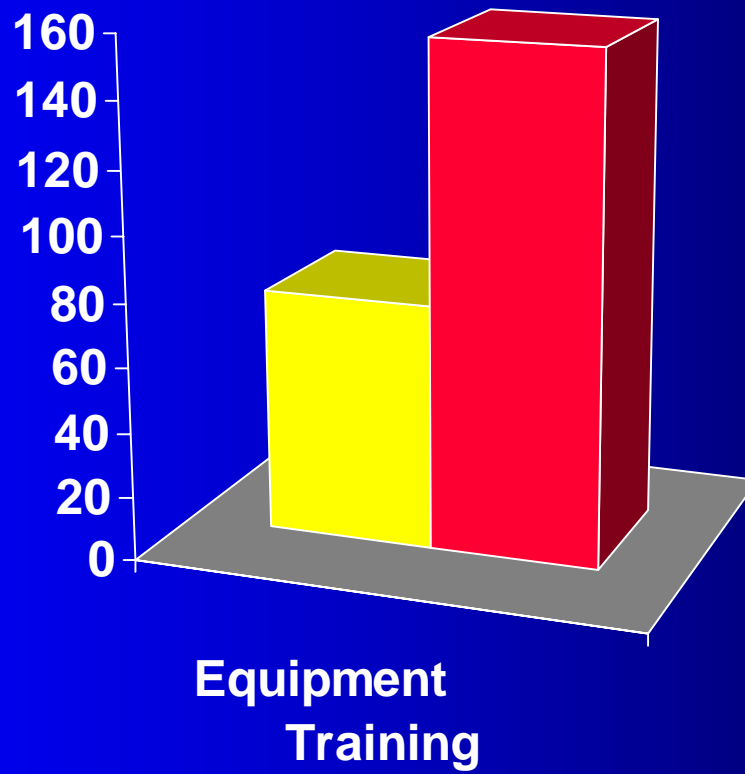


Survey Results:

75% of EMS/Fire Departments that require equipment or training are volunteer services



Most respondents want more equipment and training.



Summary/Recommendations

- Because of the high turnover rate of EMS, Fire and Hospital Personnel, training should be updated at least every 2 years.
- Equipment for a HazMat/Radioactive response should be inspected annually and replaced when needed or required.

Summary/Recommendations

- **Joint exercises should be conducted on a regular basis by EMS, fire, law enforcement and hospital personnel to be prepared.**
- **IP & EMS Bureau will conduct a survey every 2 years about New Mexico's state of medical preparedness for a HazMat or radioactive materials incident.**

New Mexico Department of Health

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