



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

**March 25, 2022
Radiation Section**

Licensing Unit - Karl Von Ahn, Manager

The unit created a central industrial radiographer email address IndRadCertification@dshs.texas.gov for email communications and application submissions. This corresponds to our current RAM licensing email address RAMLicensing@dshs.texas.gov.

As part of streamlining the payment process within the Consumer Protection Division and the office location change, the application forms have been updated to be pdf fillable documents. Any application that does not require the submittal of a payment is directed to submit the application and supporting documentation to either the RAM licensing or industrial radiographer central email addresses.

The application forms will be revised as needed to reflect the recent business realignment within the Consumer Protection Division and the Radiation Control Program.

An email notification was sent to all licensees of the radioactive materials rule changes effective on January 4, 2022, after the pdf rule files were updated on the RCP web page. A copy of the email notification text is attached.

RAM Licensing staff are participating in the training and drills for several upcoming radiological emergency response exercise drills.

We continue to work on process improvements and preparing for the upcoming NRC IMPEP review scheduled for the week of February 28, 2022.

Registration Unit – Jo Turkette, Manager

Staff are participating in the training and drills for several upcoming radiological emergency response exercise drills.

Continuing to work on website updates and the new document management project.

Inspection Unit

Radioactive Materials Inspection Unit – Eric Skotak, Manager

We have been performing updates to our inspection manual & procedures due to recent NRC updates to rules and NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2800.

Mammography and X-Ray Unit – Trae Windham, Manager

One inspector in Mammography Quality Safety Assurance (MQSA) training.

X-Ray and Remote Inspections Unit – Shannon Quinn and Stephanie Lopez, Managers

Shannon Quinn (X-Ray-North Manager) was nominated to participate in the HHS Executive Leadership Academy (ELA). ELA prepares high-potential team members' professional growth training to be executive-level leaders.

X-Ray-South is currently seeking applicants to fill a vacant X-Ray / Mammography inspector position in El Paso. X-Ray-North is currently seeking applicants to fill a vacant X-Ray inspector position in Arlington.

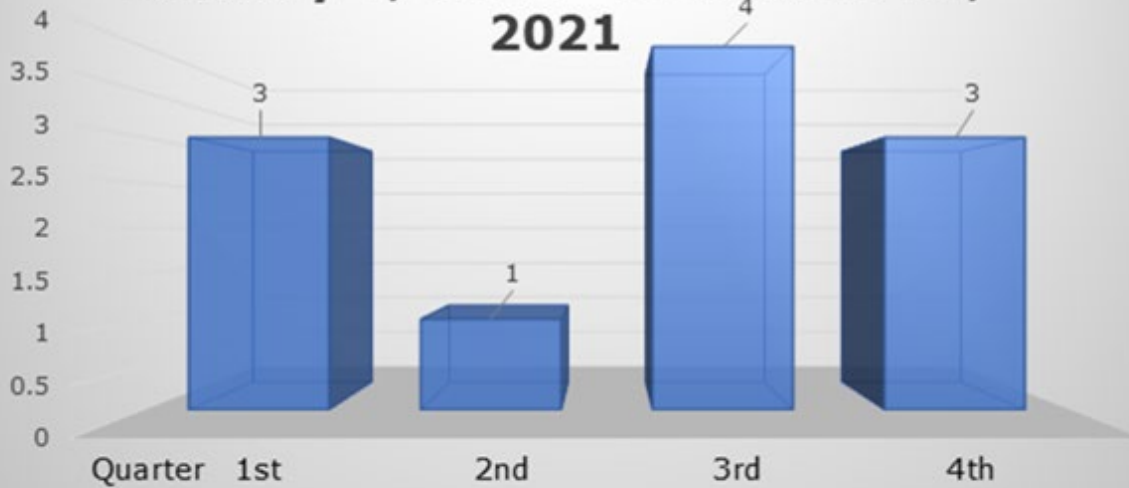
X-Ray Inspections Management & Radiation Section team members are preparing for the Pantex, March 2022 exercise.

Stephanie Lopez (X-Ray South Manager), Carley Cardwell (X-Ray Inspector Trainer), and many other Radiation Section team members recently participated in the South Texas Project (STP) Familiarization Course, presented by the STP Nuclear Power Plant Operations Training staff.

Environmental Monitoring Unit – Bob Free, Manager

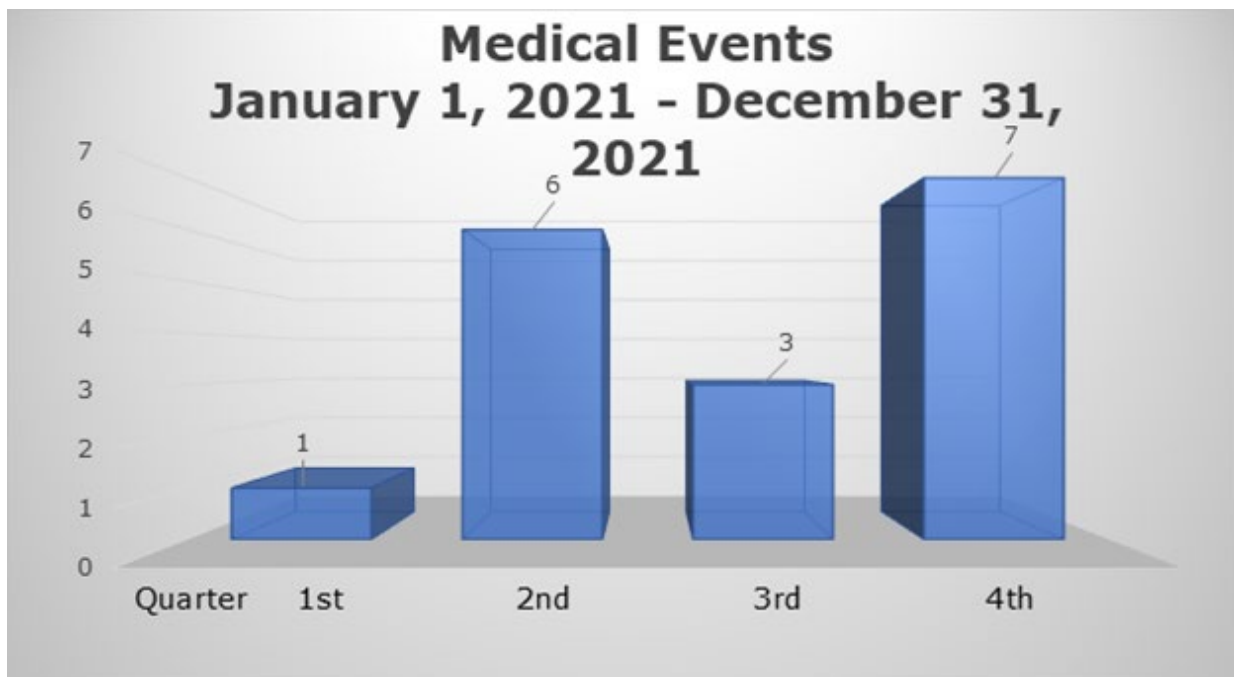
Incident Investigations: There were no significant events reported during this reporting period. The graphs below reflect the numbers and categories of incidents received during this reporting period.

Exposure Events January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021



Equipment Events January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021





South Texas Project (STP): DSHS held an initial planning meeting for the upcoming STP exercise in July. DSHS hosted the Pressurized Water Reactor Overview Class taught by STP at the DSHS main campus. DSHS response personnel benefited from this course and were given a high-level overview of how a nuclear power plant operates. Planning and training are currently underway for this event.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CP): DSHS held an initial planning meeting for the upcoming CP exercise in July. Planning and training are currently underway for this event.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP): Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Energy (DOE) has limited the shipments of transuranic waste through Texas to the WIPP site located southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Three TRU-Waste shipments traversed Texas in December 2021. The WIPP exercise scheduled in November in Abilene has been suspended. DSHS is currently choosing a new hosting site for a WIPP exercise and will continue to provide transportation emergency preparedness training for jurisdictions near the WIPP transportation corridor. The WIPP program for the period exchanged Radiation Detection equipment in Hockley County.

Pantex: The Pantex Full-Participation Exercise for March 30, 2022, is on schedule. Two exercise meetings were held in February, one in conjunction with the Agreement In Principle Quarterly meeting the week of February 16 in Austin, TX. Several DSHS emergency response personnel attended a course on Community Reception Centers hosted by Austin Public Health the week of February 8 and a Consequence Management course the following week. This training is beneficial for the Pantex exercise on March 30. About 70 AIP radiation detection instruments were calibrated in February.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: Planning continues for Cobalt Magnet 22 exercise scheduled for May 16-20, 2022, in Austin, Texas. 40 DSHS personnel attended two days of training in February 2022 in preparation for the exercise. Training included NARAC operations, field monitoring, RadResponder use, accident assessment, and public information. The week finished with a Tabletop exercise attended by federal, state, and local agencies. The next major event is a full-day public health seminar on March 2, 2022, focusing on Population monitoring after a radiological event. The seminar's goal is to develop a Central Texas Community Reception Plan for Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties. DSHS will provide several presentations on the radiation program and state response. Major planning decisions for the exercise include the DOE flyaway radiation lab setting up at DSHS. DSHS will support sample preparation, the hotline, and contamination monitoring for federal and state teams. The FEMA Joint Field Office will be hosted at the main DSHS Campus. Finally, DSHS and the 6th Civilian Support Team will integrate with DOE federal field monitoring teams during the exercise. DSHS has invited five qualified or qualifying ROSS personnel to support The Agency during the exercise.

Compliance Section

Environmental Health Unit – Alyson Henry

From September 2021 to February 2022, the Compliance Section issued 290 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

\$468,545.00 in administrative penalties. 41 X-ray registrations, 16 laser registrations, one (1) Industrial Radiographer, and one (1) Radioactive Material license were revoked during this period.

Operations Unit – Brian Vamvakias, Manager

§289.252, §289.256, §289.257 - Medical Use of Radioactive Material (Project 21R035) went into effect on January 4, 2022.

The following rules are expected to be opened for review and revision during this fiscal year.

- §289.229 Radiation Safety Requirements for Accelerators, Therapeutic Radiation Machines, Simulators, and Electronic Brachytherapy Devices
- §289.301 Registration and Radiation Safety Requirements for Lasers and Intense-Pulsed Light Devices
- §289.253 Radiation Safety Requirements for Well Logging Service Operations and Tracer Studies
- §289.255 Radiation Safety Requirements and Licensing and Registration Procedures for Industrial Radiography
- §289.258 Licensing and Radiation Safety Requirements for Irradiators

Currently interviewing for two vacancies, Radioactive Material Rules Coordinator and Quality Assurance Reviewer positions, due to the retirement of staff. These positions are expected to be filled by the March 25, 2022 meeting.