

## PLENARY SESSION

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### Welcome & Introduction

Kathleen Salyer, Director of the Office of Emergency Management in the Office of Land and Emergency Management | *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Dr. Kathleen Salyer welcomed everyone to the final day of EPA's International Decontamination Research and Development Conference.

EPA's emergency-response program is the backbone of the federal government's response to, preparation for, and prevention of environmental emergencies. From Agency response to oil spills, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents, large scale national emergencies – including homeland security events – and even a world-wide pandemic. In carrying out these responsibilities, the emergency response program coordinates with other Agency programs, including EPA's research initiatives, other federal agencies, states, tribal communities, and local governments. Coordination is done through EPA's national and regional responders, federal on-scene coordinators, and special teams.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) houses one of EPA's four special teams, known as CMAT – or the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (or CBRN) Consequence Management Advisory Team. CMAT provides leadership expertise and response capabilities by deploying both subject-matter experts and physical assets to address CBRN concerns. During emergency response incidents, they provide operational and tactical guidance for EPA federal on-scene coordinators by working collaboratively with various partners including those from ORD.

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