

Q&A

- **SOARescue:** Regarding fire incident response, where is that data collected from?
 - **Robert Kadlec:** Primarily from CDC surveys. Great question – preparedness is not only experience, but it is something we must continually train for. Training means investing significant amounts of time and money.
- **U.S. EPA:** One challenge is a lack of medical resources available for federal responders. Many federal agencies do not have the funding for this. We are trying to coordinate medical responses in the field and would like any assistance we can get.
 - **Robert Kadlec:** I will send you my card to see how we can help you address that. We would be involved in events like that, and it is an important issue to address.
- **U.S. EPA:** One challenge is “how clean is clean?” We typically analyze different chemical and biological samples, and CDC has a large network for analyzing clinical samples. There is still a big challenge in how we address decontamination.
 - **Robert Kadlec:** Great question. In the National Biodefense Strategy, every year there will be an evaluation of where we are and what improvements we can make. That is a vital question to address. It did not show up this year as a top priority, but it may next year or the year after. It is a critical deficiency in how we can remediate large areas. It is not just about detection, but also how to undertake decontamination.
- **American Bio Recovery Association:** There is lack of knowledge and funds for small companies undertaking recovery. If an event happened, a small company would likely not have the employees or resources to help with mitigation and recovery. Are there any funds for companies to assist the government with recovery and trainings?
 - **Robert Kadlec:** Our main question is how to sustain these capabilities over time. There will always be new issues that demand enhanced capabilities. We must educate Congress about the function of small businesses in recovery. There is a certain cost to being prepared. If the government cannot cover different recovery efforts, we will look to the private sector. We have a dependency on the private sector and need to figure out how to sustain it.
- **EPA Region 1:** Do you have any thoughts about how to deal with antibiotic resistance?
 - **Robert Kadlec:** For antimicrobial resistance, we examine viruses and fungi too. This is primarily an environmental and global issue, which is no small task to address. We must educate the public and provide doctors the tools to give appropriate diagnoses and treatments. The other side is for pharmaceutical companies; it is hard to promote the development of new antibiotics. We do not have many antibiotic producers in the United States because of environmental regulations. It is a challenge.