

CHP Corner



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH PHYSICS email: AAHP@burkinc.com

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Plans for the AAHP's Special Session

Kent Lambert, AAHP Past President

The theme for this year's American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) special session at the 2017 Health Physics Society Annual Meeting is "What Every Certified Health Physicist Should Know About . . ."

The term "certified health physicist" (CHP) is in the session's title because, well, this *is* the AAHP's special session. It is not intended, however, to discourage other interested radiation safety professionals. Feel free to substitute the term "radiation safety expert" for CHP throughout. And join us, please!

Nine presentations of pragmatic interest to all radiation safety professionals were chosen, as discussed below.

Successful CHPs need to have reasonable written communication skills. This does not mean that they need to be able to write fiction, but they should be able to produce well-written technical reports. Among our ranks, Linnea Wahl was a technical writer before entering the health physics profession, making her the perfect person to tell us *what every CHP should know about technical writing*.

Because CHPs are likely to be seen in their community as the subject-matter experts on all things radiation, friends, family, and neighbors may seek you out for information on indoor radon. If for no other reason than to protect your credibility, you should be able to provide basic information before suggesting a specialist for more details. We have two such specialists: the current president and the immediate past president of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists, Phil Jenkins and Shawn Price, respectively. Phil will talk on measuring radon levels and Shawn will discuss radon mitigation techniques.

The presentations above have been singled out for longer explanations not because of their relative importance, but to illustrate the thought process that went into selecting all of the topics of this special session. The remaining presentations include:

- John Frazier on what to expect if called upon to assist in litigation as either a consulting expert or a testifying expert.
- Bill Rhodes on the risk concepts and physical security approaches associated with large radioactive sources.
- Sean Austin on the many factors that go into transporting radioactive materials.
- David Connolly on the interrelationships among government branches and agencies and the potential influence CHPs can have on federal policy making.
- Nick Dainiak on medical management of radiological incidents with large acute doses and the role of the CHP during an incident.

A Reminder

Nancy Johnson has now retired. Please direct any AAHP- or ABHP-related questions to Amy Wride-Graney at awride-graney@burkinc.com or at 703-790-1745, ext. 213.