



Public Relations

News Release

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CITIZEN SCIENCE: MONITORING FUKUSHIMA RADIATION

Santa Rosa, CA — Ken Buesseler and Dan Sythe, two leading world experts in radiation monitoring, will be speaking at Santa Rosa Junior College's (SRJC) Petaluma campus on Saturday, May 31. John Bertucci of Fukushima Response, a Sonoma County community group working to inform the public about the Fukushima nuclear disaster, will moderate. The event will take place in Ellis Auditorium, 680 Sonoma Mountain Parkway at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) and will include a question and answer session. Admission is free and wheelchair accessible; parking on campus costs \$4.00.

The ongoing radiation releases from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant constitute a serious threat to our ocean, natural environment and society. Dr. Buesseler's presentation, "The View from the Ocean," will provide an overview of studies concerning Fukushima radionuclides in the ocean, its uptake by fish and potential impacts on fisheries in Japan and the U.S. West Coast. In the second presentation, "Community Monitoring Systems," Sythe will discuss his extensive work in developing and manufacturing radiation monitoring devices and his efforts to equip, educate, and protect communities faced with the threat of radioactive fallout. Dr. Buesseler specializes in the study of natural and human-made radionuclides in the ocean. His work includes studies of fallout from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, assessments of impacts from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in Ukraine, and examinations of radionuclide contaminants in the Pacific resulting from the Fukushima contamination. He has served as Chair of the Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), as Executive Scientist of the US Joint Global Ocean Fluxes Planning and Data Management Office, and as an Associate Program Director at the US National Science Foundation, Chemical Oceanography Program. Dr. Buesseler is currently Director of the new Center for Marine and Environmental Radioactivity at WHOI.



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Dan Sythe is the founder and CEO of International Medcom Inc., a producer of high quality radiation detection instruments and systems since 1986, based in Sebastopol. Sythe will share his experiences with citizen radiation monitoring projects from Three Mile Island, a 1979 nuclear disaster in Pennsylvania, to Chernobyl and now Fukushima. He will present practical details, such as how to select and use a handheld monitoring device, how to understand the data it collects compared to the more precise equipment required to identify specific isotopes, and also how to submit data to Safecast's global network for mapping regional radiation levels. Besides Safecast, Sythe has also served as an advisor to the Natural Resources Defense Committee and other non-governmental organizations.

More information about the work done by Dan Sythe's International Medcom Inc. and the Safecast project is available at <http://medcom.com/> and <http://blog.safecast.org/maps/>. More information about the Fukushima disaster and the release of radioactive contaminants into the world's oceans is available at <http://www.who.edu/CMER> and <http://www.ourradioactiveocean.org>.

This public information event is sponsored by the SRJC Physics Program and Chemistry Department.

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