FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TED KRAFCZYK, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TELEPHONE: 304-319-3775  TED.L.KRAFCZYK@WV.GOV

MONONGALIA COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER ATTENDS RADIATION EMERGENCY MEDICINE COURSE
MORGANTOWN, WV – AUGUST 17, 2016

Monongalia County Health Department Executive Director and County Health Officer, Dr. Lee B. Smith, just completed a course on Radiation Emergency Medicine at the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. This 3½-day course is for Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses and other healthcare providers.

The course emphasized fundamentals of radiation physics, radiation detection/measurement/identification, prevention of the spread of contamination, how to minimize radiation dose to victims and providers, and the role of Medical/Health Physicists in caring for contaminated victims. Other topics included early evaluation and treatment of the acute radiation syndrome (ARS), acute local injuries, cutaneous injuries and combined injuries.

Dr. Smith said that “The mission of public health is protection of the population from all health threats. While a local radiological dispersion devise (dirty bomb) event or nearby nuclear reactor even is unlikely, having the ability to plan for such problems is important to our mission”.

Dr. Smith is the first physician in West Virginia to have taken this training and said that in his class there were healthcare providers and physicists, physicians, nurses and EMS personnel from Brazil, England, Korea, Japan, and USA including the Department of Defense and hospital staff.

Monongalia County Health Department houses the Northern West Virginia Response Team. Supported by the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health and the WV Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. The Health Department’s Threat Preparedness Program has been involved in several recent training exercises of both national and local focus.

###