

Current threat status: **ELEVATED**



Issues in ...

Ag- Security



Vol. 1, No. 5
May, 2003

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Topic of the Month – Dirty Bombs

The following information is taken from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Webpage, which is located at: <http://www.nrc.gov>

Fact Sheet on Dirty Bombs

Background

A "dirty bomb" or radiological dispersal device (RDD) is a conventional explosive or bomb containing radioactive material. The conventional bomb is used as a means to spread radioactive contamination. It is not a nuclear bomb and does not involve a nuclear explosion. Any type of radioactive material could be used in a dirty bomb, but in general these devices would be unlikely to cause serious health effects beyond those caused by the detonation of conventional explosives.

Impact of a Dirty Bomb

In most cases, any immediate deaths or serious injuries would likely result from the explosion itself, rather than from radiation exposure. It is unlikely that the radioactive material contained in a dirty bomb would kill anyone. The radioactive material would be dispersed into the air and reduced to relatively low concentrations, resulting in low doses to people exposed. In addition, most people would be expected to run away from the explosion, further reducing potential exposure. A low-level exposure to radioactive contamination could slightly increase the long-term risk of cancer.

However, a "dirty bomb" could potentially have a significant psychological impact, by causing fear, panic and disruption. Use of a dirty bomb could result in radioactive contamination of an area of a city, up to several city blocks, with low levels of contamination that would require cleanup. The

extent of the contamination depends upon a number of factors including the size of the explosive, the amount and type of radioactive material used, and weather conditions. The detectability of radiation is a major asset in reducing health and safety impacts and in evaluating the accident. Cleanup of the contamination could be costly (conceivably running into the millions) and take weeks to months to complete.

Sources of Nuclear Material

There are millions of radioactive devices in the United States. The NRC authority is limited to radioactive material defined in the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) of 1954 as amended. There are about 21,000 licensed organizations in the U.S. which use such material for medical, industrial, academic, and research purposes. There are other types of radioactive material used in similar activities but NRC authority is limited to radioactive material defined in the AEA. For AEA material, about 5,000 licenses have been issued by NRC and about 16,000 licenses have been issued by some states (referred to as Agreement States because they have an agreement with the NRC, under the AEA, to regulate specific material). Most of these licenses involve radioactive material which, because of the nature of the material or the size of the source, are not of particular concern in terms of their use in a dirty bomb.

Control of Nuclear Material

NRC and state regulations require licensees to secure radioactive material from theft and unauthorized access. They also require reports of lost or stolen material. NRC receives about 300 reports per year of lost or stolen radioactive material. Most of the reports of lost or stolen radioactive material involve small or short-lived radioactive sources. Moreover, the losses have not been concentrated in one or two localities. Therefore, it is unlikely that the material unaccounted for is being collected for use in a dirty bomb. To better account for all sources, NRC has initiated a program to register certain higher-risk devices. Further, NRC is considering additional measures to track down missing sources.

Increased Security of Nuclear Material

Following the attacks on September 11, the NRC and the States advised their licensees to increase the security of nuclear material and be alert for and immediately report any unusual activities which might indicate a terrorist threat. The NRC is evaluating additional security measures for radioactive sources.

The NRC is cooperating with other Federal and State agencies to bolster contingency plans for dealing with a potential attack involving radioactive

materials. The NRC Headquarters Emergency Operations Center is ready around the clock to respond to radiological emergencies.

Response to a Dirty Bomb

a.. Because a "dirty bomb" explosion could expose people to loose radioactive material in the air, which could be inhaled, people are advised to quickly move away from the immediate area, at least several blocks from the explosion, and tune in to local radio or TV broadcasts for instructions from emergency officials.

b.. Emergency response officials will arrange medical treatment for those injured by the blast, evacuating people from the area, decontaminating those who were contaminated, and assessing any internal or external exposures. It should be noted that the use of potassium iodide would not necessarily be protective in these cases because radioactive iodine is not necessarily the isotope that would be used in these devices.

c.. The affected area will be cordoned off from surrounding areas.

Federal Role

a.. If it was definitely known that the dirty bomb involved material licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State, then the NRC would be the technical lead Federal agency for responding to the radiological aspects of the event. However, it would be highly unlikely at the time of the event (i.e., explosion) that the source of the radioactive material would be definitely known and the Federal Agencies involved would not quibble about which Agency had the technical lead.

In the event the radioactive source is unknown or it is definitely not material licensed by the NRC or an Agreement State, the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be designated the lead Federal agency for consequence management. However, because it is a bomb, the Federal Bureau of Investigation would be the lead Federal agency for crisis management and take the lead in investigating the criminal aspects of the event. Other organizations that would be involved include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Office of Homeland Security, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and various elements of the law enforcement and intelligence community.

b.. In the event of a "dirty bomb" exploding, the NRC would be prepared to provide technical advice to local authorities for emergency response, including suggestions for protective measures and evaluation of radiological hazards.

Released July 2002

Vol. 1, No. 5
May, 2003

Securing Rail Freight

Comprehensive ag-security programs must cover every phase of the agriculture supply chain to be effective. Steve Dunham writing in the February issue of the Anser Journal of Homeland Security indicates that rail security is a critical component that must be protected. The article is available on the net at:

<http://www.homelandsecurity.org/journal/Articles/displayarticle.asp?article=83>

Editorial note: This article is recommended as an introduction to the threats and defenses associated with rail freight.

Readers concerned with rail freight security should also refer to:

The Surface Transportation Information Sharing and Analysis Center

<http://www.surfacetransportationisac.org/>

Editorial note: This ISAC is one of the best functioning today. If your business uses rail or ground transportation, it is strongly advised that you should become part of the ST-ISAC.

Know the risks of Anthrax to your business?

If not – See Ag-Security Vol. 1, No. 2

Need a copy? Send an email to:

rnorton@acesag.auburn.edu

It pays to be vigilant. It pays to be safe!

Emergency Preparations at Home

Editors note: The following was originally provided as an ArmyLINK news release. It is particularly useful, because it provides information that can be passed to employees preparing for emergencies.

ATLANTA, Ga. (Army News Service, Feb. 27, 2003) -- A new online guide answers questions that many Americans had about the Homeland Security Advisory System, a color-coded system that depicts the current risk of terrorist activity.

The American Red Cross recently developed the on-line publication, "Homeland Security and You: A Guide to Disaster Preparedness." It lists specific things that people can do to prepare their families, schools, communities, and businesses for each level in the advisory system.

"We thought it would be helpful to the American public to answer the inevitable question as to 'What does going to orange or red mean to me or my family?'" said Carol Hall, manager of Red Cross' Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism Program.

Family Disaster Plan

The first thing every individual and family should do is develop a disaster plan and assemble a disaster kit, according to the guide. The plan should cover such information as:

- What community warning signals sound like
- Whether emergency shelters allow pets
- What disaster plans are in place at family members' schools and workplaces
- Where to meet if family members become separated during an emergency
- An out-of-state family contact person
- How to shut off gas and water lines to the house
- Escape routes from the house
- How to use fire extinguishers

The plan should be practiced every few months to ensure that everyone is familiar with it.

As part of the overall plan, families should assemble disaster kits. The disaster kit should contain enough water and non-perishable food for every family member for at least three days.

The kit should also include:

- First-aid kit
- Hand tools
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Personal hygiene items

At least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person
Extra glasses or contact lenses
Prescription drugs
Important family documents

Specific Steps for the Advisory System

The disaster plan and supplies kit are just the first step in preparing yourself and your family for the possibility of a terrorist attack. Red Cross has additional recommendations for each level of the Advisory System.

Green-Low Risk of Terrorist Attack

Learn basic first aid and CPR
Examine volunteer opportunities in your community and choose an agency that provides disaster preparedness training

Blue-Guarded; General Risk of Terrorist Attack

Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities
Review stored disaster supplies and replace items that are outdated
Volunteer and take advantage of additional volunteer training opportunities

Yellow-Elevated; Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

Check telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in your personal communication plan and update as necessary
Develop alternate routes to and from work and school and practice using them
Contact your child's school and obtain its emergency notification and evacuation plans
Continue volunteering and taking additional training

Orange-High Risk of Terrorist Attack

Review your personal disaster plan and update as required.
Have materials on hand in case you are confined to your home during a disaster.
If a need is announced, donate blood at a blood collection center.
Prior to engaging in volunteer activities, contact the agency to determine its needs.

Red-Severe Risk of Terrorist Attack

Listen to radio/television for current information and instructions.
Contact your office to determine the status of your work day or site.
Obey any travel restrictions announced by local government authorities.
Be prepared to "shelter in place" or evacuate if instructed to do so by local authorities.
Provide volunteer services only as requested.

Volunteering

One recommendation the Red Cross lists for several of the advisory system levels is volunteering with local agencies that respond to disasters. This training not only can help the community as a whole if a disaster situation occurs, but it can help individuals feel more capable of their abilities to respond to disasters of any kind.

There are many organizations from which you can choose when considering volunteering. The American Red Cross, of course, provides disaster relief services and offers classes both at military installations and in the community. Check with your local chapter for more information.

Another option is the Citizen Corps, one of several citizen-service organizations initiated by President Bush. The Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency; state Citizen Corps councils are coordinated by state emergency management agencies. Citizen Corps has several volunteer programs including Citizen Corps Councils, Neighborhood Watch Programs, Volunteers in Police Service, the Community Emergency Response Team and the Medical Reserve Corps.

A third option for volunteer organizations is the Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. Created in 1941, the Civil Air Patrol has a great deal of experience with emergency services missions. Homeland security operations are a new area of responsibility for this organization.

These are just a few examples of volunteer opportunities. Investigate your local community for other options. Even if you decide not to volunteer, the guide states that disaster preparedness training you obtain from these or other organizations can be invaluable if a disaster or terrorist attack occurs. The important thing to know is that individual citizens are not helpless. There are things that can be done to prepare families and communities for a worst-case scenario. Developing disaster plans, assembling disaster kits and following the Red Cross' recommendations for actions to take at various terrorist threat levels are things that everyone can do to help ensure the safety of families, communities and the nation.

Resources:

American Red Cross Publications:

Terrorism: Preparing for the Unexpected
Your Family Disaster Supplies Kit
Your Family Disaster Plan

Web resources:

American Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org>

Civil Air Patrol <http://www.cap.gov>

Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov>

Department of Homeland Security
<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency
<http://www.fema.gov>

Editor's note: Jamie Danesi is with U.S. Army Forces Command Public Affairs.
Information taken from "Homeland Security and You: A Guide to Disaster Preparedness"
at:
<http://www.redcrossatlanta.org/homelandsecurity.>

Terrorism BOLO Alerts

FBI Most Wanted Terrorist List:
<http://www.fbi.gov/mostwant/terrorists/fugitives.htm>

FBI Most Wanted:
<http://www.fbi.gov/mostwant.htm>

ATF:
<http://www.atf.treas.gov/wanted/>

DEA:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/fugitives/fuglist.htm>

U.S. Customs:
http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/enforcement/reporting_crime/most_wanted/

USDA-APHIS Communications Plan for an Animal-Specific Threat

Editorial note: USDA – APHIS released a draft plan on 03 March 2003 for communicating an animal specific threat to industry and other stakeholders. The draft text is as follows:

Communications Plan for an Animal-Specific Threat

In the event of a possible animal threat event, Veterinary Services (VS) would take the following communications measures to inform Federal, State, local, and industry representatives of the situation and necessary precautions to be taken. In addition to the following activities, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Emergency Operations Center (AEOC) would immediately be activated and emergency personnel could be reached at 800-601-9327. After hour phone calls to the AEOC are forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Operations Center, which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Within the First 4 Hours of Notification of an Animal-Specific Threat:

- A conference call will be immediately set up with the VS Management Team (VSMT), State Veterinarians, and Area Veterinarians in Charge (AVIC) to alert them of the situation and discuss necessary precautions.
- A second conference call will be held with industry representatives, laboratory officials, and specialty practitioners to alert them of the situation and discuss necessary precautions.
- A follow-up Emergency Management Operations Center (EMOC) Notice would be sent out by e-mail to the VSMT; State Veterinarians; AVICs; all Federal, State, local, and industry representatives; laboratory officials; and specialty practitioners, alerting people to be aware of unusual symptoms with animals and/or individuals acting suspicious.

Within the First 24 Hours:

- An emergency contact list will be distributed to the VSMT; State Veterinarians; AVICs; Federal, State, local, and industry representatives; laboratory officials; and specialty practitioners.
- Talking points, draft press releases, questions and answers, and other public outreach information will be distributed to the VSMT; State Veterinarians;

AVICs; Federal, State, local, and industry representatives; laboratory officials; and specialty practitioners.

- Media interviews will be conducted by VS and other animal health officials using consistent Talking Points for a cohesive, complete, and unified approach.

As the Situation Develops:

- Follow-up EMOC Notices will be sent out including status updates, talking points, press releases, questions and answers, outreach publications, etc.
- As appropriate, information will be posted on APHIS' web page.

* If computer and telephone communications are interrupted the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services would be activated.

END Of Draft Text.

POC for comments and/or questions regarding this communications plan:

Ms. Linda Smith at 301-734-8073, 240-508-9749, or by e-mail at linda.b.smith@aphis.usda.gov.

Editorial note: This is an important first document indicating the approach USDA-APHIS will take in the event of a threat to animal agriculture. No mention is made in the document as to how the agency would field a response, if an actual attack were to occur, other than the cursory explanation of the activation of the Emergency Operations Center. The method of communication appears particularly problematic, since an alternative and secure method of communication is not provided, nor is there an explanation as to the actual mechanics of relaying messages sent via the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services to people in the field. The plan also appears to be lacking in an articulated strategy for dealing with multiple simultaneous events. All in all the agency should be congratulated for its first effort at offering a comprehensive plan, however the agency should also be encouraged to continue their efforts until a comprehensive and coordinated plan and fully functional system are developed.

The following fact sheets are provided as resources from Ag-Security.

PDF Files of the fact sheets can be found at:

<http://www.sbccom.army.mil/services/edu/mustard.htm>

Chemical Agent Fact Sheet

Mustard - HD Blister Agent (bis- (2-chloroethyl) sulfide)

Description:

Although first synthesized in the 1800's, the Germans first used mustard in 1917 during World War I. Mustard (liquid) is colorless when pure, but is normally a brown oily substance. Mustard (vapor) has a slight garlic- or mustard-like odor. Mustard remains a health hazard for an extended period of time. Mustard is a toxic agent that is considered non-lethal by the Army. However, complications from mustard exposure can lead to death.

Signs and Symptoms:

An individual exposed to mustard will feel very little pain and will not notice symptoms for quite some time. However, the longer the exposure without removal of the mustard agent, the more severe will be the damage to affected areas of the body. Mustard is a blister agent that affects the eyes, lungs and skin. The eyes are very susceptible, reacting to very low concentrations from mustard. Exposure to mustard on the skin can range from redness and inflammation to severe blisters and extreme soreness. Inhalation of the agent will cause irritation of throat, tightness of chest, hoarseness and coughing. If medical treatment is not received in the early stages of contamination, severe bronchopneumonia with accompanying high fever can occur.

Treatment:

There is no known antidote for mustard exposure; the process of cellular destruction is irreversible. Therefore, it is very important to remove the mustard as quickly as possible. The best means of removal is by flushing with water and household bleach, or washing with soap and water after using an absorber of mustard, such as flour.

Inhalation: Hold breath until respiratory protective mask is donned. Remove from the source. Immediately. If breathing is difficult, administer oxygen. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be used when approved mask-bag or oxygen delivery systems are not available. Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when facial contamination is present. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Eye Contact: Speed in decontaminating the eyes is absolutely essential. Remove the person from the liquid source; flush the eyes Immediately with water for at least 15 minutes by tilting the head to the side, pulling the eyelids apart with the fingers and pouring water slowly into the eyes. Do not cover eyes with bandages but, if necessary, protect eyes by means of dark or opaque goggles. Transfer the patient to a medical facility Immediately.

Skin Contact: Don respiratory protective mask. Remove the victim from agent sources Immediately. Immediately wash skin and clothes with 5% solution of sodium hypochlorite or liquid household bleach within one minute. Cut and remove contaminated clothing, flush contaminated skin area again with 5% sodium hypochlorite solution, then wash contaminated skin area with soap and water. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. Give victim milk to drink. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Chemical Agent Fact Sheet

Tabun - GA Nerve Agent (Dimethylphosphoramido-cyanidate)

Description:

In 1936, Germany first developed Tabun as an insecticide. Dr. Gerhard Schrader first noticed the effects of nerve agents on humans when he and his lab assistant began to experience shortness of breath and contraction of the pupils. Tabun was the first nerve agent discovered. GA is a clear colorless and tasteless liquid with a slightly fruity odor.

Signs and Symptoms:

The symptoms are: runny nose; tightness of the chest; dimness of vision and pin pointing of the eye pupils; difficulty in breathing; drooling and excessive sweating; nausea; vomiting, cramps, and involuntary defecation and urination; twitching, jerking, and staggering; and headache, confusion, drowsiness, coma, and convulsions. These symptoms are followed by cessation of breathing and death. Symptoms appear much more slowly from a skin dosage than from a respiratory dosage. Although skin absorption great enough to cause death may occur in 1 to 2 minutes, death may be delayed for 1 to 2 hours. Respiratory lethal dosages kill in 1 to 10 minutes, and liquid in the eye kills almost as rapidly.

Treatment:

Inhalation: Hold breath until respiratory protective mask is donned. If severe signs of agent exposure appear (chest tightens, pupil constriction, in coordination, etc.), immediately administer, in rapid succession, all three Nerve Agent Antidote Kit(s), Mark I injectors (or atropine if directed by a physician). Injections using the Mark I kit injectors may be repeated at 5 to 20 minute intervals if signs and symptoms are progressing until three series of injections have been administered. No more injections will be given unless directed by medical personnel. In addition, a record will be maintained of all injections given. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be used when mask-bag or oxygen delivery systems are not available. Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when facial contamination exists. If breathing is difficult, administer oxygen. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Eye Contact: Immediately flush eyes with water for 10-15 minutes, then don respiratory protective mask. Although miosis (pinpointing of the pupils) may be an early sign of agent exposure, an injection will not be administered when miosis is the only sign present. Instead, the individual will be taken Immediately to a medical treatment facility for observation.

Skin Contact: Don respiratory protective mask and remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with copious amounts of soap and water, 10% sodium carbonate solution, or 5% liquid household bleach. Rinse well with water to remove excess decontaminant. Administer nerve agent antidote kit, Mark I, only if local sweating and muscular twitching symptoms are observed. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. First symptoms are likely to be gastrointestinal. Immediately administer Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, Mark I. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Chemical Agent Fact Sheet

Sarin - GB Nerve Agent (Isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate)

Description:

Sarin was developed in 1938 in Germany as a pesticide. Its name is derived from the names of the chemists involved in its creation: Schrader, Ambros, Rudriger and van der Linde. Sarin is a colorless non-persistent liquid. The vapor is slightly heavier than air, so it hovers close to the ground. Under wet and humid weather conditions, Sarin degrades swiftly, but as the temperature rises up to a certain point, Sarin's lethal duration increases, despite the humidity. Sarin is a lethal cholinesterase inhibitor. Doses which are potentially life threatening may be only slightly larger than those producing least effects.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms of overexposure may occur within minutes or hours, depending upon the dose. They include: miosis (constriction of pupils) and visual effects, headaches and pressure sensation, runny nose and nasal congestion, salivation, tightness in the chest, nausea, vomiting, giddiness, anxiety, difficulty in thinking, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, muscle twitches, tremors, weakness, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, involuntary urination and defecation, with severe exposure symptoms progressing to convulsions and respiratory failure.

Treatment:

Inhalation: Hold breath until respiratory protective mask is donned. If severe signs of agent exposure appear (chest tightens, pupil constriction, in coordination, etc.), immediately administer, in rapid succession, all three Nerve Agent Antidote Kit(s), Mark I injectors (or atropine if directed by a physician). Injections using the Mark I kit injectors may be repeated at 5 to 20 minute intervals if signs and symptoms are progressing until three series of injections have been administered. No more injections will be given unless directed by medical personnel. In addition, a record will be maintained of all injections given. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be used when mask-bag or oxygen delivery systems are not available. Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when facial contamination exists. If breathing is difficult, administer oxygen. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Eye Contact: Immediately flush eyes with water for 10-15 minutes, then don respiratory protective mask. Although miosis (pinpointing of the pupils) may be an early sign of agent exposure, an injection will not be administered when miosis is the only sign present. Instead, the individual will be taken Immediately to a medical treatment facility for observation.

Skin Contact: Don respiratory protective mask and remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with copious amounts of soap and water, 10% sodium carbonate solution, or 5% liquid household bleach. Rinse well with water to remove excess decontaminant. Administer nerve agent antidote kit, Mark I, only if local sweating and muscular twitching symptoms are observed. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. First symptoms are likely to be gastrointestinal. Immediately administer Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, Mark I. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Chemical Agent Fact Sheet

Soman - GD Nerve Agent (Pinacolyl methyl phosphonofluoridate)

Description:

Soman was discovered in Germany in 1944. GD is a lethal cholinesterase inhibitor. Doses that are potentially life threatening may be only slightly larger than those producing least effects. Soman is a colorless liquid when pure with a fruity odor. The industrial version is yellow-brown with a camphor-like odor.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms of overexposure may occur within minutes or hours, depending upon dose. They include: miosis (constriction of pupils) and visual effects, headaches and pressure sensation, runny nose and nasal congestion, salivation, tightness in the chest, nausea, vomiting, giddiness, anxiety, difficulty in thinking and sleeping, nightmares, muscle twitches, tremors, weakness, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, involuntary urination and defecation. Severe exposure symptoms progress to convulsions and respiratory failure.

Treatment:

Inhalation: Hold breath until respiratory protective mask is donned. If severe signs of agent exposure appear (chest tightens, pupil constriction, in coordination, etc.), immediately administer, in rapid succession, all three Nerve Agent Antidote Kit(s), Mark I injectors (or atropine if directed by a physician). Injections using the Mark I kit injectors may be repeated at 5 to 20 minute intervals if signs and symptoms are progressing until three series of injections have been administered. No more injections will be given unless directed by medical personnel. In addition, a record will be maintained of all injections given. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be used when mask-bag or oxygen delivery systems are not available. Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when facial contamination exists. If breathing is difficult, administer oxygen. Seek medical attention Immediately.

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Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. First symptoms are likely to be gastrointestinal. Immediately administer Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, Mark I. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Chemical Agent Fact Sheet

VX

Nerve Agent

(O-ethyl S-(2-diisopropylaminoethyl) methylphosphonothioate)

Description:

Chemists in the United Kingdom searching for new insecticides came across compounds that were extremely toxic to humans. The British shared the discovery with the U.S. Army in 1953 and a systematic investigation of these new compounds was begun at Edgewood. The Army discovered they were more persistent and much more toxic than the G-series agents. In 1955, these compounds were designated V-series agents for “venomous.” VX is an oily liquid that is clear, odorless and tasteless. It can be amber colored and similar in appearance to motor oil.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms of overexposure may occur within minutes or hours, depending upon the dose. They include: miosis (constriction of pupils) and visual effects, headaches and pressure sensation, runny nose and nasal congestion, salivation, tightness in the chest, nausea, vomiting, giddiness, anxiety, difficulty in thinking, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, muscle twitches, tremors, weakness, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, involuntary urination and defecation. Severe exposure symptoms progress to convulsions and respiratory failure.

Treatment:

Inhalation: Hold breath until respiratory protective mask is donned. If severe signs of agent exposure appear (chest tightens, pupil constriction, incoordination, etc.), immediately administer, in rapid succession, all three Nerve Agent Antidote Kit(s), Mark I injectors (or atropine if directed by a physician). Injections using the Mark I kit injectors may be repeated at 5 to 20 minute intervals if signs and symptoms are progressing until three series of injections have been administered. No more injections will be given unless directed by medical personnel. In addition, a record will be maintained of all injections given. If breathing has stopped, give artificial respiration. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation should be used when mask-bag or oxygen delivery systems are not available. Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when facial contamination exists. If breathing is difficult, administer oxygen. Seek medical attention Immediately.

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Skin Contact: Don respiratory protective mask and remove contaminated clothing. Immediately wash contaminated skin with copious amounts of soap and water, 10% sodium carbonate solution, or 5% liquid household bleach. Rinse well with water to remove excess decontaminant. Administer nerve agent antidote kit, Mark I, only if local sweating and muscular twitching symptoms are observed. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Ingestion: Do not induce vomiting. First symptoms are likely to be gastrointestinal. Immediately administer Nerve Agent Antidote Kit, Mark I. Seek medical attention Immediately.

Counter- Terrorism Roadside Interdiction Questioning Format

Do you have a license?

- Check the name on the license with all other vehicle documents
- Make the individual spell their name and give their address
- The trained terrorist is taught to produce false documentation and/or alias to law enforcement official
- Remember that a drivers license is not proof of citizenship.
- Do not use a North Carolina driver's license as a form of identification for foreign nationals.

Do you have vehicle registration?

- Verify name and address and cross reference with driver's license
- Intelligence information indicates that Al Queda cells in the U.S. have links to car dealerships
- Intelligence information indicates that terrorists have used rental cars for operations, so as to ensure appropriate registration documents

Do you have other identification?

- Ask to see other types of vehicle documents – title, bill of sale, rental agreement, etc.
- Ask to see immigration documents

Do you have insurance?

- Verify authenticity of insurance documentation and insurance carrier

Are you a U.S. Citizen?

- It is against the law for foreign nationals to claim U.S. citizenship (18 USC 911)
- If individual does not claim U.S. citizenship, request to see immigration documents (Passport and/or Visa). Insure I-94 form is stapled inside of Passport (entry/exit dates)

Additional Questions for gauging responses

Where are you going?

- Al Qaeda terrorists are trained to answer with key public points (especially tourist destinations) as an explanation for travel

Where are you coming from?

- Try and verify the response with evidence found in the car – store bags, receipts, pamphlets, etc.
- Check dates if possible
- If no evidence is available, ask specific questions regarding the destination origin – Where did you park? What did you see? What did you like about the area?

Where do you live?

- Many terrorists use a common address or location as a permanent address
- Some of the 9-11 terrorists used local Mosques as their address, although they lived in motels or small apartments

How long have you lived at this address?

- Terrorists tend to live in motels/hotels/apartments for short stays
- Some of the 9-11 terrorists had only arrived in the U.S. only weeks before the attacks
- Verify dates with immigration documents to determine if they correspond

Where did you live before this address?

- Establish if the individual has moved from place to place
- The 9-11 terrorists moved throughout the U.S. in the weeks and months prior to the attacks

Who else lives with you?

- Terrorists tend to answer that they live alone and will not give up other group member's name
- Remember that apartments of both legal and illegal aliens are often shared to save money

Where do you work or go to school?

- Check for work or student visas as applicable
- If they do not work, then ask how they support themselves financially

- Ask for the work or school address
- Ask specific questions about the work location or school location

How long have you worked or gone to school?

- Ask for contact names and telephone numbers
- Ask how they got the job or were admitted to school

What do you do there?

- What department work in? What degree pursuing?
- Remember a large number of foreign students are in the country because they are graduate students, seeking advanced degrees
- If a student, what classes being taken? What professors' names? Where did they get their training or other degrees?

Who is your boss?

- Get more than a name. Ask the individual to describe their boss and provide a telephone number

Where were you born?

- Request details as to where born

Will you permit a search of the car?

- Check for any weapons, documents, weapon or explosive pre-cursors, anything in question

Conclusion

Terrorist groups target economic, government, military and transportation components. Some have been carefully screened and trained to be deceptive and provide false answers. Be on the lookout for non-verbal cues like body language, double talk and answering a question with a question. Do not allow, "Not speak English" to be a sufficient answer. If you suspect this tactic is being used, seek an interpreter.

New Programs

The Emergency Response Technology (ERT) Program

<http://www.nttc.edu/ertProgram/default.asp>

The National Technology Transfer Center
Wheeling Jesuit University
316 Washington Ave.
Wheeling, WV 26003

Phone: 1-800-678-6882
Fax:304-243-2523

The Emergency Response Technology (ERT) Program was formed to develop and carry out an active, broad-based program for commercializing new health and safety related products for the emergency response community.

This program was established under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant No. EME-2000-GR-0523 with additional support and funding from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The ERT program is designed to provide information on developing technologies, technologies available for commercialization and new technology products available to the Emergency Response Community. The new products are described in technical briefs which also provide information on performance, tests, pricing and contacts for referral to others currently using the product.

The ERT Program's advisory council is called the [Emergency Response Technology Group \(ERTG\)](#). This group identifies technology needs that benefit the emergency response community. If a technology is identified that potentially meets pre- defined mandates, it is:

- Evaluated for applicability to a specific area of need;
- If applicable, the technology is referred to the ERTG for validation;
- Once validated, we then seek to assist the developer by conducting an operational test and evaluation at one of the many ERT Program test-beds throughout the United States and commercialization planning;
- Upon successful commercialization, the technology evolves from a prototype technology to an affordable, operationally suitable product.

New Appointments

Robert M. "Bob" Smith, Ph.D., DVM, has joined CSREES as National Program Leader for Agrosecurity. Prior to accepting this position, Smith was responsible for regulatory and health issues concerning the more than 15,000 wildlife and agricultural animals in the Pennsylvania State University system. In earlier positions, he worked in industry as an animal management and nutritional consultant, as an animal nutritionist, as associate university veterinarian, as privately practicing veterinarian, and has served on the faculty at the University of Illinois and Penn State.

Dr. Smith is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, a Diplomate of the American College of Animal Nutrition, and is a Certified Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician. In addition to his doctoral degrees, he has two Bachelors and two Masters degrees, including a Masters of Strategic Studies. The latter degree helps support his position as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

Ag-Security Snapshots

!NAFTA

Mexico City, Mar 4 (EFE).- The Mexican government and peasant groups were closer Tuesday to a national agricultural agreement which will not necessarily imply the renegotiation of the NAFTA treaty with Canada and the United States. Economy Minister Fernando Canales promised the farmers "to defend legitimate national interests" and to find ways to overcome the deficiencies of the treaty's agricultural chapter through additional accords. "It will be good for us to expand relations with our partners through accords complementing NAFTA, to amend deficiencies and limitations and promote areas of opportunity, which are many," Canales said.

The last round of negotiations between the farmers and the authorities ended Tuesday after a month of talks on eight different issues, which sought to overcome the crisis in which Mexican agriculture has been mired for several decades. Farmers' coalition leader Victor Suarez welcomed Canales' words as a change in the stand of the government, which until now refused to renegotiate the agricultural chapter of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The peasant leader expressed a willingness to sign a national agreement not providing for the revision of NAFTA if the sector's demands are covered by a parallel accord.

His coalition includes some 10 peasant organizations and has been heading demonstrations against NAFTA since December. On Jan. 1, the coalition blocked several international crossing points along the U.S. border to protest the elimination of duties on 19 Mexican staples. On Jan. 31, they staged a demonstration in Mexico City, which drew some 100,000 peasants and their supporters.

Their major proposals seek to definitely exclude corn and beans from the NAFTA trade liberalization process and to restrict imports of strategic products such as sugar cane, wheat, eggs, milk, beef and other meats.

Farmers' leader Suarez said that the month-long negotiations had been successful, noting that the final discussions on the signing of the agreement would begin Friday.

This round of talks, which will last through March 29, will include state governors and legislators, in addition to the government and the peasants.

!ATF Investigation

ATF is investigating an explosion, which occurred on March 12, 2003 and destroyed part of a Winchester, Kentucky waste treatment plant. ATF investigators and the Kentucky State Fire Marshal's Office have concluded the explosion was the result of flammable and explosive hexane vapors, which were ignited by a spark after having been accidentally released by a nearby company.

!!Lone Terrorist Threats

Intelligence agencies continue to stress the high probability of individuals acting alone in terrorist acts carried out in sympathy to Islamic causes throughout the world. Other individuals may also use this opportunity to carry out other motivated terrorist acts.

!!Transportation Security Intelligence Service

Assistance is requested by TSA's Transportation Security Intelligence Service in identifying and reporting threats or incidents related to the transportation industry that may be related to terrorist acts. Although the list is not exhaustive or exclusive, incidents of interest include:

- Any hijacking or theft of fuel or toxic chemical tankers
- Any other hijacking or theft affecting all other trucking sectors
- Unusual activities or behavior, including possible surveillance, during the loading or unloading of these trucks
- Unusual activities or behavior around rest stops, weigh stations, etc. during transit involving these kinds of trucks.

In addition, reporting of said incidents should include the following information:

- Description of the vehicle(s), including all observable details about the truck (size, color, markings, license and registration information and other pertinent identifying information.
- Description of the truck's contents.

- Description of the event or observation.

The TSA Crisis Action Center (CAC) can be contacted at (571)227-1882 (voice), (703)412-8640 (fax) and by email at: tsa.hq@tsa.dot.gov

Subscriber List

We are slowly building our subscriber list and are in need of even more. Please send names, affiliations and email addresses of individuals that would benefit from this newsletter. We ask that you include only those personnel who are directly involved with the issues of ag-security, since sensitive information will be presented. Again, THANKS for your help. Send names, affiliations and email addresses to: morton@acesag.auburn.edu

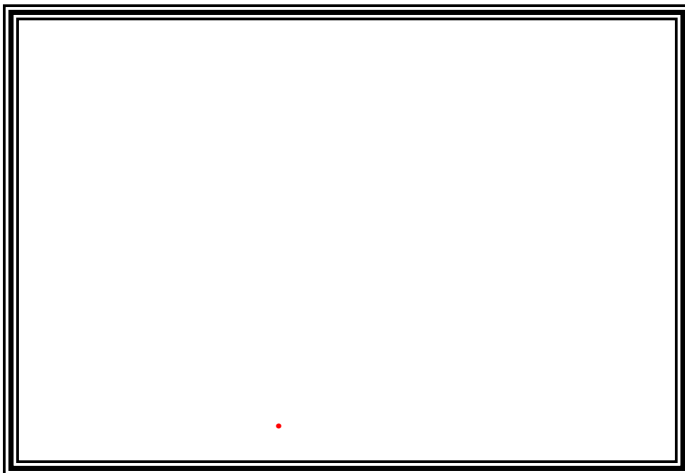
ANTHRAX REWARD INFORMATION



In a joint effort, the United States Post Office and the FBI are offering a \$2,000,000 dollar reward leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) responsible for mailing the four (4) anthrax letters in 2001.

If you have information, it can be submitted via the internet at <https://tips.fbi.gov/>

or it can be submitted through your **LOCAL FBI OFFICE**



STAY VIGILANT. STAY SAFE!