

## RELATED TERMS

- Biological
- Chemical
- Radiological



**Lessons Learned  
Information Sharing**  
www.LLIS.gov

## PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Hazardous Materials
- Healthcare
- Emergency Medical Services

# PRACTICE NOTE

## Mass Decontamination: Connecticut Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System's Formula to Determine Hospitals' Pre-Incident Baseline Decontamination Capacity

### PRACTICE

The Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System (CR-MMRS) Taskforce on Decontamination Protocols's *Rapid Access Mass Decontamination Protocol* provides Capitol Region hospital planners with a formula to determine their baseline decontamination capacity prior to a chemical, biological, or radiological (CBR) incident.

### DESCRIPTION

In January 2003, the CR-MMRS Taskforce on Decontamination Protocols's *Rapid Access Mass Decontamination Protocol* established guidelines for emergency response personnel performing decontamination after a CBR event. The protocol ensures that regional personnel operate under common decontamination guidelines following a CBR incident.

Based upon the CR-MMRS Protocol, Capitol Region hospital personnel performing decontamination after a CBR event should be capable of successfully decontaminating a predetermined number of victims per hour without any external assistance. The protocol provides hospital planners with a specific formula to determine this baseline decontamination capacity prior to such an incident. The formula is based upon the annual number of patient visits to a healthcare facility's emergency department.

The CR-MMRS represents 42 communities in north-central Connecticut. This system includes 10 acute care healthcare facilities and approximately 100 local and state law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and emergency medical services providers.

### CR-MMRS Formula

$$\frac{\text{Annual Number of Emergency Department Visits}}{1000} = \text{Patient per Hour Decontamination Capacity}$$

"Example: Hospital A sees 15,000 patients per year in its emergency department. Based upon the CR-MMRS recommendation, the hospital shall have the capacity to decontaminate 15 patients per hour utilizing its own intrinsic resources."

*-Rapid Access Mass Decontamination Protocol*

Hospital personnel should activate the CR-MMRS's Regional Emergency Disaster Plan (REP Plan) as soon as they determine that the number of victims requiring decontamination will exceed this pre-set number and thus will likely overwhelm the hospital's resources. The

REP Plan provides for Capitol Region hospitals to receive decontamination resources within 30 minutes of its activation.

**CITATION**

Shaw, John. *Rapid Access Mass Decontamination Protocol*. Connecticut Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System. Aug 2006.

[https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content\\_id=20302](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=20302)

**DISCLAIMER**

*Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov)* is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email [Feedback@llis.dhs.gov](mailto:Feedback@llis.dhs.gov) or visit [www.llis.gov](http://www.llis.gov).