

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

OVERVIEW

The Public Health Department is responsible for ensuring the safety of personnel during bioterrorism response. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is issued by the Health Department, when necessary. The Health Officer may advise other agencies of the medically appropriate protective actions to take during response. This may include the use of PPE designed to protect against contamination by specific chemical, biologic, or radiological agents. The Health Officer may also issue public health alerts that include advice about the use of PPE available to the general public.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect response personnel from harmful biologic, chemical, or radiological agents.

DEFINITION

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) refers to specialized clothing and equipment worn to protect emergency response personnel from exposure to harmful biological, chemical, and radiological agents. This protocol includes reference material and procedures to ensure that response personnel have access to and use PPE.

STAFFING

- Operations Section/Medical Operations Group
- Protective Actions Group Leader
- Response Teams

PRE-EVENT ACTIONS

- Review PPE on the market and develop information that can be used to issue PPE guidelines when needed.
- Inventory PPE available for use in the County and procure additional supplies, as needed.
- Determine numbers of PPE that would be required in a bioterrorism incident to protect

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tab J, Biological Agent Health Effects & Decontamination
 Tab K, Nuclear (Radiation) & Chemical Health Effects, & Decontamination

CDC Guidelines:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/unp-intrecppe.htm>

Chemical:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ncpc/ncpc2.html>

Radiological:

Guidance for Radiation Accident Management

<http://www.orau.gov/reacts/guidance.htm>

“Medical Management of Radiological Casualties Handbook,”
 Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, 1999

public health personnel and procure additional supplies, as appropriate.

- Ensure public health personnel receive training on the use of specific PPE.

EVENT ACTIONS

1. The Health Officer/designee notifies hospitals, medical care community, medical examiner, morticians, laboratories, health care facilities community based organizations (CBOs) and others of the bioterrorist agent used and inform them of appropriate PPE to use (See Appendix I 1, NIOS/OSHA/EPA Classification System PPE).
2. The HO/designee assure Public Health Department staff are utilizing appropriate PPE.
3. The HO/designee advises first responders, hospitals, medical care providers, laboratories, other health facilities, CBOs and the public of the need for immunizations, biologics or prophylaxis (See Tab B for details)
4. The HO/designee in collaboration with DOC/EOC and the Incident Commander on the scene advises County facilitate and hospitals and the public to Shelter in Place, Evacuate or other protective measure to take (See Tab E for details).
5. The HO/designee monitors the status of the event and notifies first responders, medical care providers, laboratories, other health facilities, CBOs and the public when PPE is no longer needed.
6. The DOC will advise EOC of requests for PPE for the field, hospital and laboratory personnel, and vice versa if applicable.

**NIOS/OSHA/EPA
CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT***

LEVEL OF PROTECTION	PPE	TYPE OF AGENT USED FOR
Level A	Fully encapsulating chemical resistant suit, gloves and boots and a pressure demand self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA or a pressure demand supplied air respirator (air hose) and escape SCBA	Unknown Vapors Unknown Liquids Nerve Agents Blister Agents Biologic Agents especially if delivered as respiratory aerosol T- 2 Mycotoxin
Level B	Full Respiratory protection required. Requires a non-encapsulating splash protective, chemical resistant suit (splash suit), but suit does not have to be airtight.	Biologic Agents especially if delivered as respiratory aerosol.
Level C	Splash suit plus a full faced or negative pressure respirator (a filter type gas mask)	Hemorrhagic Virus
Level D	Coveralls or other work clothes, boots and gloves.	Radiological Agents, but Alpha particles only
Universal Protection	Gown, eye goggles, gloves and HEPA filter mask	Most Biological Agents with the exception of Hemorrhagic Virus

*This is not a comprehensive guideline for PPE. The CDC has issued interim recommendations for PPE. For the complete guidelines see: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/unp-intrecppe.htm>