

Acute Communicable Disease Control Planning, Evaluation and Response Section



Bioterrorism

Bioterrorism can be described as the use, or threatened use, of biological agents to promote or spread fear or intimidation upon an individual, a specific group, or the population as a whole for religious, political, ideological, financial, or personal purposes.

- Adapted from the FBI definition of terrorism



Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)



Chemical
Biological
Radiological
Nuclear
Explosives



Category A Agents

- Smallpox
- Anthrax
- Plague
- Botulism
- Tularemia
- Viral hemorrhagic fever



Recent Examples

- 1984: Oregon - *Salmonella* sprayed on salad bars
- 1995: Tokyo - Sarin and attempted biological attacks
- 1996: Dallas - *Shigella*-contaminated muffins and doughnuts
- 2001: Multiple-site - anthrax attacks



What Are Our Roles

- Bioterrorism (BT)/Emergency Response Planning
- Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Planning for Postal Workers
- Emergency Drill Planning, Implementation and Evaluation
- Community Education and Outreach
- Internal Training
- BT "Surveillance" through Law Enforcement Collaboration
- Emergency Response (Example: rule-out Smallpox)



Mission: Planning & Response

- Point of Distribution (POD) centers
- Joint, Public Health/FBI investigation
- Department education and training
- Public Health rapid response teams
- Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) management



Mission: Surveillance

- Use of “Syndromic Surveillance”
- Monitor outbreaks with unknown sources
- Monitor reported category A, B, C diseases (Plague, Tularemia, etc.)
- Examine suspicious Coroner cases
- Share “Intelligence” with law enforcement



LAC Surveillance

- Current we monitor surveillance systems
 - ED chief complaint data syndromic
 - Emergency Department Volume
 - Coroner’s Database
 - Over the counter pharmacy
- LAC systems in development
 - Nurse call/advice lines
 - School absenteeism (currently passive)
 - 911 calls
 - Automated electronic surveillance



L.A. Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)

- “Intelligence Fusion Center” covering a 7 county region



- Region corresponds with the FBI LA Field Office jurisdiction



JRIC Description

- Multi-agency terrorism intelligence center
- Public health integrates with FBI, law enforcement and fire agencies
- Mission: Share intelligence that may indicate a possible attack and intervene if possible
- *A new role for public health*



Activities

Operation Vector



Smallpox Response Team



US Postal Service Biohazard Detection System (BDS) Drill



Clara County Fire Department

