



Missouri Valley Fire & Rescue Department

223 E. Erie St.

Missouri Valley, IA 51555

Phone 712-642-2945 Emergency 911

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

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410

Chronological History

Effective: January 1, 2010

RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL ANTHRAX/BIO-TERRORISM EMERGENCIES

As a result of the heightened awareness of terrorism and extensive media coverage, Harrison County area fire departments can expect to receive calls for service, related to a suspected anthrax exposure. The following procedures are to be followed by the Missouri Valley Fire Department personnel in the event of a reported threat or exposure.

1. When the receipt of a threat or exposure is reported, it shall be dispatched as a hazmat investigation, which includes the first due engine company. This response should only be initiated if the caller is reporting the presence of a suspicious substance.
2. The response will be *routine* on these particular incidents.
3. By Federal Law, incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, or the threat to use such weapons, is a federal crime. As such, if an actual material or substance is found and it appears to be suspicious the Officer-in-Charge should make sure that the Law Enforcement personnel on scene contact the FBI. Fire department personnel trained to the HazMat Technician Level should collect any substance or suspect packages for evidence. Other than isolating a suspect package or area where a substance is found, there should be no need for fire department personnel to come in contact with the material. The packages should be turned over to Law Enforcement once contained.
4. Anthrax is mainly an inhalation hazard, though a cutaneous form also exists and is caused by direct skin contact. Individuals who are exposed to anthrax do not require decontamination unless they come in physical contact with the substance. They also do not require any medical treatment unless and until a lab test confirms that a substance is anthrax. Therefore, individuals who are in close proximity to a suspected anthrax substance should be removed from the area. Emergency responders should take their names and telephone numbers, inform them that anthrax is not contagious and that they will be contacted within 24 hours with results of the test. If an individual has come in physical contact with a suspect material they should wash affected areas (normally hands). If contact is with clothing, they should remove affected clothing, place it in a double plastic bag and wash the area thoroughly with soap and water. There is no

need to decontaminate the victim(s) in this case.

5. There is no advantage to be gained by field testing a substance or material to determine if it is anthrax. We do not have the capabilities to do so and the suspect package(s) will be taken by Law Enforcement personnel and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Since the incubation time for exposure is 3 to 5 days, exposed people have time to be treated medically if the substance is confirmed as anthrax.
6. Responders handling “unknown” or suspicious spilled substances, shall meet minimum competencies at the “Haz-Mat Technician” level, as required by:
OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.120
EPA: 40 CFR 311
NFPA: 471, 472, 473
7. Suspicious packages and letters may be identified by some of the following characteristics:
 - Excessive postage
 - Handwritten or poorly typed addresses
 - Incorrect titles
 - Title, but no name
 - Misspelling of common words
 - Oily stains, discoloration or odor
 - No return address
 - Excessive weight
 - Lopsided or uneven envelopes
 - Protruding wires or aluminum foil
 - Excessive amounts of packing materials such as tape, string, etc.
 - Markings depicting an explosion, chemical or biological agent release
 - Ticking or other unusual sounds
 - Marked with restrictive endorsements, such as “Personal” and “Confidential”
8. Biological agents can cause infection in the skin, gastrointestinal system or the lungs. In order for this to occur, the organism must be rubbed into abraded skin, swallowed or inhaled as a fine, aerosolized mist. Disease can be prevented after exposure to the anthrax spores by early treatment with the appropriate antibiotics. Anthrax is not spread from one person to another.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN ON RECEIPT OF AN UNOPENED SUSPICIOUS LETTER OR PACKAGE

1. When fire and law enforcement arrive at the location, they will interview the caller about the package and determine any actions taken by the caller prior to arrival.
 - a. If the caller has placed the letter/package in a container or bag, they will be asked to bring it to a police officer, sheriff’s deputy or State Trooper. He/she will inspect the object while leaving it in the container and document the event. Law enforcement officials will take custody of the letter/package. Law enforcement officials will then turn over the letter/package to the appropriate personnel who will be responsible for testing the package contents.
 - b. If the caller was not able to bag the letter/package then Haz-Mat trained personnel will enter the building in protective clothing to secure the letter/package. The following protective clothing is recommended:
 - Tyvek suit(does not need to be splash resistant)
 - Latex gloves
 - Rubber/latex shoe covers
 - Air purifying respirator with HEPA or P100 filter cartridge

- Structural firefighter protective clothing and SCBA will also provide sufficient protection.

Personal protective clothing is purely precautionary and this environment is not considered to be immediately dangerous to life and health.

The Haz-Mat Team member will double bag the letter/package and remove it to the outside. The Haz-Mat Team will turn over the bagged letter/package to Law Enforcement personnel.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FOR AN OPENED SUSPICIOUS LETTER OR PACKAGE AND MATERIAL HAS SPILLED

1. Due to equipment and personnel limitations, Emergency Communications should request assistance from the Council Bluffs Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team . Law enforcement will dispatch officers for investigation, traffic control and scene security.
2. When fire and law enforcement arrive at the location, an interview of the caller will be done in regards to the letter/package and determine any actions taken by the caller prior to arrival. This may be done verbally or by phone. If communicating verbally, remember to be upwind and at a sufficient reasonable distance that cross contamination is not likely.
3. On-scene engine company(s) will provide support to the Hazmat Team.
4. The Hazmat team will ensure that the occupants of the affected area are identified. If self-decontamination has not been performed and is an option, it should be performed immediately. If self-decontamination is not a viable option, the Hazmat team will commence decon operations and collection of potentially contaminated clothing.
5. Potentially exposed personnel will be evaluated by an EMS unit after decontamination for baseline patient assessment and documentation. Exposed personnel should be referred to see their physician for monitoring and/or treatment if law enforcement and Hazmat personnel determine that there is a credible threat of exposure based on the circumstances of the incident and on scene characterization of the material.

For cases where no credible threat is determined, those persons potentially exposed should be advised to seek medical attention **if** they start to develop flu like symptoms.

6. The Hazmat Team will make entry based upon their standard operating procedures. An Air Purifying Respirator with HEPA or P-100 filter will provide sufficient respiratory protection in this situation. The entry team should secure the agent by double bagging and placing in an appropriate container. The Hazmat entry team may photograph the letter/package prior to securing the agent. The entry team should clean up as much spilled agent as possible by placing it into double bags. The affected surface should be sprayed with a 0.5% bleach solution and allowed to stand for 10 minutes. The surface may then be wiped dry or rinsed as appropriate.
7. The Hazmat entry team will decon per their standard operating guidelines.
8. Law Enforcement officials at the scene will take custody of the contained letter/package. If law enforcement and Hazmat personnel determine that there is credible threat of exposure based on the circumstances of the incident and on scene characterization of the material, then a sample of the material should be forwarded to an appropriate laboratory for further analysis.
9. Results from the laboratory will be communicated to the local health department for proper notifications.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IF A ROOM IS CONTAMINATED BY AN AEROSOL

(Examples: aerosol device discharged, warning is received that the air handling system has been contaminated or warning is received that a biological or chemical agent has been released into a public space)

1. A Hazmat Assignment will be dispatched with assistance requested from Council Bluffs Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team. Law enforcement will be dispatched for investigation, traffic control, and scene security. Local health department officials must also be notified.
2. When fire and law enforcement personnel arrive at the location, they will interview the caller about the package and determine any actions taken by the caller prior to arrival. This may be done verbally or by phone. If communicating verbally, remember to be upwind and at a sufficient reasonable distance that cross contamination is not likely.
3. On scene engine companies will provide support to the Hazmat Team.
4. The Hazmat Team will ensure that the occupants of the affected area are identified. If self-decontamination has not been performed, the Hazmat Team will commence decon operations and collection of potentially contaminated clothing.
5. An EMS unit will evaluate potentially exposed personnel after decontamination for baseline patient assessment and documentation. Exposed personnel should be referred to see their physician for monitoring and/or treatment if law enforcement and Hazmat personnel determine that there is a credible threat of exposure based on circumstances of the incident and on scene characterization of the material.
6. The Hazmat Team will make entry based upon their standard operating procedures. Air Purifying Respirator with HEPA or P-100 filter will provide sufficient respiratory protection in this situation. The entry team should secure the agent (if possible) by double bagging and placing in an appropriate container. The Hazmat entry team may photograph the site and objects of interest as needed. The entry team should clean up as much spilled agent as possible by placing it into double bags. The affected surface should be sprayed with a 0.5% bleach solution and allowed to stand for 10 minutes. The surface may then be wiped dry or rinsed as appropriate.
7. The Hazmat entry team will decon per their SOP.
8. Law Enforcement officials at the scene will take custody of the contained letter/package. If law enforcement and Hazmat personnel determine that there is a credible threat of exposure based on the circumstances of the incident and on scene characterization of the material, then a sample of the material should be forwarded to an appropriate laboratory for further analysis.
9. Results from the state laboratory will be communicated to the local health department for proper notifications.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AT POTENTIAL EXPLOSIVES INCIDENTS

1. Law enforcement will dispatch an officer(s).
 - a. Officers shall establish a 300 foot perimeter (car and truck bombs require larger distances (500-1500 feet)).
 - b. Officers shall detain persons who were in the vicinity of the event.
 - c. Officers will establish an area of safe refuge and relocate everyone involved to that area for interviews.
 - d. Officers shall not enter potentially hazardous areas.

- e. Officers shall establish and control perimeters.
 - f. Officers shall initiate crime scene policies and procedures.
2. Law enforcement will notify the Harrison County Sheriff's Office for all incidents.
 3. Due consideration must be given to the possibility of secondary devices.
 4. Law enforcement will notify the Office of Emergency Management.
 5. Upon request or if an actual device is located, law enforcement personnel will request an engine company and EMS unit to stand by.
 6. The Officer in Charge on the Engine Company will make contact with the ranking law enforcement officer and establish a unified command.
 7. The Engine Company is to ensure evacuation has been completed and to coordinate protection of the bomb technician and the entire scene.
 8. All of these events are potential crimes and the scenes are crime scenes. Chain of custody and evidence rules apply.

**By Authority of:
Fire Chief**

Eugene Shaeffer