
EvCC Emergency Operations Plan

Guide #003 – Anthrax Threat

1. INTRODUCTION

Anthrax is a rare disease caused by bacteria. Which is capable of forming spores that can survive in the environment for long periods of time. In an intentional exposure, such as a bioterrorism event, breathing in the spores is the most likely route of exposure that might lead to a serious infection.

2. ANTHRAX DISEASE

- A. Inhaling anthrax into the lungs is the most serious type of anthrax.
- B. Initial symptoms may resemble those of flu or a common cold, such as fever, cough, headache, chills, weakness, difficulty breathing, and chest discomfort.
- C. After several days, the symptoms may progress to severe breathing problems and shock.
- D. This type of anthrax infection is often fatal is not treated promptly. However, it is not generally contagious from person to person and that treatment is available and effective if administered before the onset of symptoms.

3. ACTIONS

- A. Generally follow the procedures for biological contaminants detailed in the suspicious packages procedures.
- B. Do not open the package.
- C. If the package has already been opened, and a powder or another substance spills out, do not clean it up.
- D. Evacuate the immediate area and keep others away.
- E. Alert Security from a safe distance
- F. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water. Ensure that all persons who have handled the letter/package also wash their hands.
- G. Isolate individuals that may have been exposed and start a list of names and telephone numbers. Exposed individuals and their clothes many need to be decontaminated. They will also be monitored by local public health to ensure appropriate treatment and follow-up.
- H. If the public safety agency determines that there is no credible threat the spill may be cleaned up by custodial personnel following established protocols for cleaning spills. Facilities without a protocol should wet powders before disturbing them before clean-up and use a 10% solution of household bleach in water.