

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

B-25 BIOTERRORISM INCIDENT

ALS/ILS/BLS

Personal safety and reducing the risk of possible contamination are the major responsibilities of EMS providers. These general guidelines are for EMS personnel to follow when facing a potential biological or chemical response.

REPORTED OR KNOWN POSSIBLE EXPOSURE:

- If you are dispatched to the scene of a potential biological incident, your first course of action is stay clear of the area and contact law enforcement and fire department / hazardous material responders.
 - Do not enter the scene
 - Position the emergency vehicle uphill and upwind of the incident.
- Approach patients and scene only after being deemed safe and cleared to do so by incident command.
- Initiate contact with the patient(s) only after decontamination has occurred.
 - Removing clothing can remove 90% of contaminant.
- Decontamination should only be performed by properly trained and outfitted personnel.

UNKNOWN EXPOSURE

- There is a risk that EMS personnel may become exposed or contaminated before receiving accurate information of a possible exposure.
 - In this situation, EMS and the patient(s) are to immediately leave the exposed area as with any hazardous situation but remain on the scene.
- Decontamination is the same as specified in the previous section, EMS providers included, and should be done prior to leaving the scene.
- If the contaminated patient is taken inside the ambulance, the ambulance will require decontamination as well.
 - Refer to incident command, haz-mat team, CDC, or other reference sources for recommendations on products and procedures for ambulance decontamination.
- After initiating EMS care and transport, the EMS crew finds the patient was exposed:
 - Notify the receiving facility of the exposure and the fact the patient and EMS crew will need decontamination.
 - Do not enter the emergency department with a contaminated patient.
 - Do not enter the emergency department if you are possibly contaminated.

OPERATIONS ON SCENE:

- Always ensure scene safety.
- Follow your agency policies that pertain to hazardous materials response.
- Follow the Incident Command structure.