

SAN JOAQUIN OPERATIONAL AREA ANTHRAX THREAT RESPONSE POLICY

The San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, and the San Joaquin Operational Area Weapons of Mass Destruction Steering Committee approved these procedures for jurisdictions responding to anthrax agent threats.

If a different biological agent becomes of concern, additional guidance modifying these procedures will be immediately issued to public safety agencies.

SCENARIO 1:

<p>A.) Call received indicating concern with safety of an object but no unknown substance, or explicit verbal or written threat.</p> <p>B.) Call received indicating concern of a substance but no suspicious circumstance or explicit verbal or written threat.</p>	
INCIDENTCOMMAND:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Areas - • Unincorporated Areas - • State Property - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City agency per protocols. • Sheriff. • CHP.
RESPONSE:	
Dispatch Center:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain description of object or substance and reasons for concern by caller. • Dispatch law enforcement response and fire response under internal agency policies for "suspicious articles".
Incident Commander:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>At any point</u> where the Incident Commander arrives at a reasonable suspicion that a biological agent may be involved, he/she will immediately contact the following agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Services-Communicable Disease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (209) 468-3822 (0800-1700 Hours, M-F) ▪ (209) 468-6000 (After Hours, Weekends, Holidays)-San Joaquin General Hospital Operator (ask for Public Health Services)
Public Health:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health Services is responsible to evaluate the situation with the Incident Commander to determine the likelihood of a biological agent present and the level of testing necessary. • Notify Environmental Health Department Duty Officer of incident status, and potential escalation or assistance may be needed. • <u>If it is determined that no biological agent is present:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health will be responsible for informing members of the public who may have been involved with the results of their investigation. • <u>If it is determined that a biological agent may be present:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response will continue in accordance with Scenario 3 below.

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SCENARIO 2:

A threat is received/reported, verbally or written, that a biological agent has or will be released, but no suspicious object or substance reported involved or visible	
INCIDENT COMMAND:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Areas - • Unincorporated Areas - • State Property - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City agency per protocols. • Sheriff. • CHP.
RESPONSE:	
Dispatch Center:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain details and advise threat site to shut down air ventilation in building(s). • Dispatch response agencies: use “unknown hazardous materials” agency policies. • The Incident Commander will immediately contact the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Services-Communicable Disease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (209) 468-3822 (0800-1700 Hours, M-F) ○ San Joaquin General Hospital Operator (ask for Public Health Services): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (209) 468-6000 (After Hours, Weekends, Holidays) ○ Federal Bureau of Investigation contacts federal agencies, includes USPS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (916) 481-9110 (24-hr.)
Hazardous Materials Team:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Hazardous Materials Group. • Establish control zones. • Contact target of threat and arrange to search building(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum Level B PPE. ○ Receive guidance from organization personnel familiar with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air ventilation system & building contents. • Search for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suspicious objects or substances. ○ Tampering with air ventilation system. ○ Suspicious devices that might be emitting an aerosol fog. ○ Evidence of tampering would justify a more thorough search of vents, etc.
Law Enforcement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate area. • Assist detaining potentially contaminated persons who may have been exposed.. Collect names and contact information; PPE guidance by Haz Mat Team or Public Health representatives. • Transport samples if necessary, to include temporary storage if needed, once safely packaged to the Public Health laboratory for testing.
CONCLUSION:	
<p><u>No suspicious substance or dispersing device is found or any reasonable indication that a biological substance, or any other hazardous substance, is present:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports by Public Health and Law enforcement will be prepared. • Local law enforcement and FBI determines what further criminal investigation to conduct. <p><u>If a suspicious object or substance is found:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue response in accordance with Scenario 3. <p><u>If a device capable of dispersing or emitting suspicious substances is found or evidence of tampering with the air ventilation system is discovered:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue response in accordance with Scenario 4. 	

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SCENARIO 3:

A substance or object containing a substance is present that may be a biological agent due to an explicit written or verbal threat or other suspicious circumstances.	
INCIDENT COMMAND:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Areas - • Unincorporated Areas - • State Property - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City agency per protocols. • Sheriff. • CHP.
RESPONSE:	
Dispatch Center:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain details and advise target of threat to shut down air ventilation system in the building(s). • Dispatch law enforcement response under internal agency policies for a “bomb threat” and fire response under internal agency policies for “unknown hazardous materials”. • Dispatch one ALS ambulance to standby.
Incident Commander:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not already done, the Incident Commander will immediately contact the following agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Services-Communicable Disease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (209) 468-3822 (0800-1700 Hours, M-F) ▪ San Joaquin General Hospital Operator (ask for Public Health Services): (209) 468-6000 (After Hours, Weekends, Holidays) ○ Federal Bureau of Investigation (contacts federal agencies, includes USPS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (916) 481-9110 (24-hr.)
Law Enforcement:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Law Enforcement Branch. • Isolate area. • Assist with detention of potentially contaminated persons who may have reasonably come into contact with the contents of the building. • Collect names and contact information using PPE as directed by the hazardous materials or Public Health representatives. • Transport samples if necessary, to include temporary storage if needed, once safely packaged to the Public Health laboratory for testing.
Hazardous Materials Team:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Hazardous Materials Group. • Establish control zones. • PPE to be minimum Level B for search and collection of samples if biological agent only is suspected. • If hazardous materials other than biological agents are suspected, then PPE to be determined by Group Supervisor. • Obtain substance and divide into individual samples in accordance with guidance from Group Supervisor and Public Health representative. • Search building(s) based on guidance from organization personnel familiar with the air ventilation system and building contents to identify further substances, suspicious objects, or tampering with ventilation system. • Hazardous Materials Group Supervisor will determine whether decontamination is necessary for persons potentially exposed to a hazardous material other than a biological agent. • If requested, assist Public Health in decontamination process for persons

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	potentially exposed to a biological agent in accordance with their guidance.
Public Health:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to staff a Disease Control Group. • Evaluate the situation in coordination with the Incident Commander to determine the likelihood of there being a biological agent present and the level of testing necessary to reach a conclusion. • Notify Environmental Health Department Duty Officer of incident status, and potential escalation or assistance may be needed. • Assist with determining sampling methodology. • Brief other agencies on exposure control methods. • Conduct follow ups on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exposures to responders, facility personnel, general public ○ Hospitals that received or may receive potentially exposed patients ○ Public health advisory adjustments or usefulness • Determine necessity and methodology for decontamination of persons potentially exposed to a biological agent. • Contact with results of biological agent testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Fire Dispatch will notify public safety agencies that responded to the incident. ○ Public Health is responsible for directly contacting members of the public who may have been exposed to the agent.
Environmental Health:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to scene to staff Environmental Group. • Perform assigned duties.
CONCLUSION:	
<u>If an emitting or dispersing device or evidence of tampering with the ventilation system is found:</u> Continue response in accordance with Scenario 4.	

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SCENARIO 4:

<p>The presence of an aerosol or other dispersing type device:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is reported or confirmed upon search. • And/or there are indications that the ventilation system of the threat target has been tampered with. 	
<p>INCIDENTCOMMAND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Joaquin County Public Health Services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The presence of a dispersing device will be treated as a positive indication that a biological agent is present. 	
<p>RESPONSE: Perform the following actions in addition to those of Scenario 3:</p>	
<p>Dispatch Center:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the following agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ San Joaquin County OES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (209) 953-6200 (0800-1700 M-F); ▪ (209) 468-4400 (After Hours, Weekends, Holidays)
<p>Special Operations Branch Director:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This position will be assigned responsibility to coordinate specialist groups.
<p>Metropolitan Bomb Squad:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate to staff Bomb Group. • Coordinate with Hazardous Materials Group to determine best manner to turn off, deactivate, or defuse device.
<p>Hazardous Materials Group:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE to be Level A. • Coordinate with Bomb Group determining best manner to turn off, deactivate, or defuse device. • Develop plan to minimize extent of fog dispersal without contaminating device with other substances. • Coordinate with Law Enforcement Group concerning handling of evidence.
<p>Public Health:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish or transfer Public Health as Incident Commander. • Additional Public Health personnel will respond to scene as Public Health Branch Director, and Disease Control Group. • Notify Environmental Health Department Duty Officer of incident status, and potential escalation or assistance may be needed. • Develop Incident Action Plan with involved agencies.

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SCENARIO 5:

The presence of a WMD biological agent is confirmed:

- **At an incident site, or**
- **A patient has been diagnosed with weapons of mass destruction related biological agent within the County.**

INCIDENTCOMMAND:

- Incident Command will transition to Public Health Officer if it has not already been implemented (Scenario 4 above).

INCIDENT ACTION PLAN:

- Public Health will develop, , an Incident Action Plan for protecting public health, and reduce, contain, or eliminate hazards.

FACILITIES:

- The Incident Command Post will be moved to Public Health Services, 1601 E. Hazelton Avenue, Stockton if contagious agents are present with the possibility of spread beyond an individual incident site.
- The San Joaquin Operational Area EOC will be opened and jurisdiction representatives will be requested to assist in providing policy guidance to Public Health Officer. Cities will activate emergency facilities in line with their protocols for a major incident.