

EMS BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES

	Physical Security	Operations Management
SEVERE Severe Risk of Terrorist Attacks	<p>All actions from LOW (green), GUARDED (blue), ELEVATED (yellow) and HIGH (orange) plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce access points to absolute minimum necessary to sustain health care operations. •Consider relocation of personnel from targeted and nearby facilities. •Conduct daily briefing to include identification of potential threats and vulnerabilities. •Review emergency action plan - drill as necessary to assure an effective response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Maintain 24-hour operations. •Validate call roster and update staff on red status. •Revise staff schedules and augment as indicated. •Consider adding a third staff person to manage scene safety issues. •Activate service disaster plans. •Take protective measures against civil disturbances. •Mobilize pre-designated EMS personnel and vehicles. •Report patients with symptoms of potential CBRNE agent exposure to medical command. •Notify county EMA when EMS systems are overwhelmed & assistance needed. •Review protocol for responding to potentially dangerous environments, i.e., dangerous gas, radiologic contamination, unusual powder present. •If inadvertently transporting a contaminated patient, call medical command to obtain direction for decon prior to arrival. Do not contaminate the hospital. •Consider CISM for staff. •If called to respond to suspicious event or explosion, consider secondary devices and proceed with great caution. •Consider the site of an explosion to be possibly a contaminated with radiological or chemical agents.
HIGH High Risk of Terrorist Attacks	<p>All actions from LOW (green), GUARDED (blue) and ELEVATED (yellow) plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Anticipate need for law enforcement to assist at scene and enroute to scene. •Verify that 911 center has alerted law enforcement to assist EMS as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •ALS services request exception to state drug list as appropriate to carry antidotes/pharmaceuticals targeted to threat and risk. •Review agency plan for special populations (children, elderly, homeless, etc). •Refresh all staff on symptoms and interventions for CBRNE. •Reinforce the need for personal protection equipment for personnel. •Stock additional supplies of personnel protective supplies. •Distribute materials explaining hazards and actions EMS personnel can take to protect themselves, and to clean vehicles and equipment. •Be suspicious of any calls for EMS to hotels, apartment buildings, restaurant shopping malls, etc., for more than one patient experiencing same symptoms. •Brief all staff on specific threat and protocols that apply. •Determine supply needs, including appropriate medications/antidotes, number of ambulances needed and being utilized. Assure supply line & vehicle fuel availability. •Review response to radiological contaminated scenes and patients and the decontamination required before patients are transported in an ambulance. •Implement plan for emergency care & response to staff injuries/illnesses.

	Physical Security	Operations Management
ELEVATED Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks	All actions from LOW (green) and GUARDED (blue) plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Brief key personnel on threats, changes to security patterns, potential action plans. •Communicate with all staff the need to enhance security awareness. •Determine the need to restrict building access points - escort personnel entering controlled areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review service disaster plan. •Report any unusual activity that might indicate an interest in using ambulances for access to scenes and locations. •Pre-designate personnel to respond to biological calls. •Pre-designate personnel to assist at inoculation centers. •Identify vehicles to transport patients with communicable diseases. •Review mass casualty incident kit: triage tags, vests for ICS, etc. •Consider alternate routes in case the infrastructure (highway, bridge, tunnel, etc.) is disrupted. •Conduct briefing by infection control personnel.
GUARDED General Risk of Terrorist Attacks	All actions from LOW (green) plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Report suspicious persons, items, & vehicles; unidentified vehicles parked in unusual manner. •Assure that emergency vehicles are secured at all times. •Increase liaison with local agencies, regional EMS councils to monitor threat. •Advise staff of their individual and service security responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Brief leadership and staff of elevated threat posture. •Emphasize personal and family preparedness. Include safe location and activation plan. •Report any trends and patient symptoms to medical command.
LOW Low Risk of Terrorist Attacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Normal operations consistent with organizational Security Management Plan. •On-going emergency planning and drills. •On-going staff orientation. •On-going information sharing •All staff issued security credentials (badges) to be worn while on duty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Assure that family care plan and support measures are in place. •Provide photo identity card to staff. •Review and update personnel recall and mobilizations rosters. •Arrange for fuel, repairs and recovery services •Assure CISM intervention is planned and available. •Train regularly in agents/diseases; incident and unified command; triage, etc.

Revision Date: July 2003