

Specimen Collection, Packing/Shipping

Chemical Terrorism Newsletter

Dec. 2006 Issue No. 1



CHEMICAL TERRORISM

Hello,

My name is Karen Beeman. I am the Assistant Laboratory Chemical Terrorism (CT) Coordinator for the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH). A few months ago Leslie Aguilar or I visited your facility and shared with you CDC's specimen collection/packing protocols for a chemical attack. We left with you, a CT response box which included written protocols, examples of specimen containers properly packaged, and a roll of evidence tape. We would like to share with you what we have been doing since and we have a request of you.

We have been hard at work participating in proficiency exercises with CDC and in developing a statewide plan. Last July we participated in a Chemical Terrorism packing/shipping exercise with CDC following the same guidelines we have asked you to follow: proper handling/packaging of vacutainers/urine cups and maintaining chain-of-custody/shipping manifests. We are pleased to tell you that we passed the test!! CDC tells us that less than half the states pass. We think it is okay to brag a little because one little mistake (i.e. temperatures outside acceptable range), can fail you! Participation also provided great lessons that we can pass on to you.



The OSDH's partnership with hospitals through preparedness activities are **critical** in ensuring a rapid response to a chemical terrorism event. This cohesive, rapid response will result in reducing the impact on the citizens of Oklahoma. It is **vital** that the staff at OSDH and hospitals/clinics are able to respond quickly.

CDC is currently updating their collection guidelines. We will forward these to you ASAP. Upon receipt, please have your applicable staff review them. It would also be a good idea to review your cache of the required supplies, or set aside & maintain a supply if you have not done so. We suggest rotating your cache of urine cups/purple/green or gray tops thru your system to prevent expiration. The OSDH has a surge capacity of CT supplies for 500 victims. However, this may not go very far in an event, so please have your supplies ready.


Please take a moment (ok, a couple of minutes) to fill out the short survey accompanying this newsletter. Your responses will help us understand what our statewide capacities are in responding to chemical terrorism. Once you have completed this survey, fax it back to me at the number below.

Hope your holidays are happy one and I can't wait to hear back from you!!

Karen

 1000 NE 10th St, Oklahoma city, Ok 73117-1299 

 PO Box 24106

 405-271-9444 ext 57707 Fax: 405-271-4850

 karenlb@health.ok.gov

