

National Strategy & Federal Implementation of CBRNE Standards

FEMA Training in Chemical Environments

Prepared for:

ANSI – Workshop on CBRNE Standards

September 11, 2012



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Center for Domestic Preparedness



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CDP COBRA Training Facility

Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological (COBRA)



"If you have not trained in live agent, you are not prepared for a WMD incident."

Robert Burg
Office of the Attending Physician
United States Congress

"... measures of confidence were clearly higher for subjects trained with toxic agent than for subjects without such training..."

Walter Reed
Army Institute of Research



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Brief History of COBRATF



US Army Chemical School opened CDTF in 1987
First civilian responders trained at CDTF in 1996
Center for Domestic Preparedness opened in 1998
CDP began operating COBRATF in 1999



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Unique training/support facility



The COBRATF is the only facility in the nation where civilian responders can train using toxic chemical agents.

- **Separate, self-contained 37 acre complex**
- **29,000 sq ft training building**
- **Seven agent training bays**
- **On-site medical facilities**
- **Three laboratories**
- **Highly specialized safety and security systems**
- **Realistic training environments**



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Supporting National Strategy for CBRNE Standards (May 2011)



GOAL 5: Establish voluntary training and certification standards for the Federal, State, local, and tribal communities and promote policies that foster their adoption

We must develop and adopt training and certification at the national level to ensure that all end-user disciplines are capable of responding to and recovering from CBRNE incidents.



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The CDP Curriculum



- 34 of 44 courses taught at CDP are CBRNE related
- 5 Courses include training at the COBRATF



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Impact of Training:

Tasks performed:

- Levels of personal protection
- Principles of Mass Casualty Response
- Sampling and Monitoring
- Decontamination

45,000 responders have trained at the COBRATF, representing all ten response disciplines



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Value:

- ✓ Practice and Validate Skills
- ✓ Operate Safely
- ✓ Build Confidence
- ✓ Verify Operational Procedures
- ✓ Establish Credibility

Chemical Warfare Agents:

Nerve Agents

GB (Sarin) – Vapor Hazard

VX – Contact Hazard

GB and VX have the same physiological effects on the nervous system



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Introduction of Biological Materials



Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Report:

“High-consequence weapons of mass destruction, in particular, improvised nuclear devices and high-consequence biological weapons, which would have the greatest potential effects if used against the United States.”



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