

3116.0: Monday, November 17, 2003 - 11:00 AM**Abstract #72077****Contaminating chemical terrorism: Getting the facts**

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In the event of contaminating chemical terrorism or another public health disaster, the ability to convey accurate, consistent health information to an audience of diverse stakeholders rapidly is crucial to coordinating and facilitating the public health system's response. The information needs of an emergency responder vary from those of medical providers and from those of the public. Often, for these audiences, the immediate and long-term concerns about a contaminating agent diverge. Depending on the nature of the inquiry and the contaminating agent, relevant information may exist across private and public agencies or not at all, precipitating futile searches when time is crucial. For events of contaminating chemical terrorism these information needs represent unique challenges because of the lack of a central repository and lack of funding to produce fact sheets focused for the diverse audiences. Under these constraints work is under way to produce chemical fact sheets and guidelines as templates that can be quickly disseminated for information to first responders, medical personnel, and the public in an emergency. We will discuss the accomplishments and challenges to date, in this process of identifying and convening the local, state, and federal stakeholders and sharing resources as a working group to consolidate and distribute chemical terrorism information.

Learning Objectives: 1. Recognize value of disseminating appropriate information in response to contaminating terrorism 2. Identify audiences and their distinct information needs during a terrorism event involving chemicals 3. Identify existing resources to provide information in contaminating chemical terrorism events

Keywords: Environmental Health Hazards,

Related Web page:

Presenting author's disclosure statement:

Organization/institution whose products or services will be discussed: None

I do not have any significant financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with any organization/institution whose products or services are being discussed in this session.

The 131st Annual Meeting (November 15-19, 2003) of APHA



A surrealist illustration by David LaPlante. In the center, two large, stylized faces are depicted, each with a different hairstyle and a dark vertical band across the forehead. They are surrounded by various symbols of modern life and nature. To the left, there are houses, a hand holding a bird, and a document with a checklist. To the right, there are skyscrapers, a satellite dish, and a person holding a bird. At the bottom, there is a sun, a tree, a person, and a plate of food. The entire scene is set against a background of falling confetti.

Behavior, Lifestyle and Social Determinants of Health