

Anthrax or Other Infectious Disease Threat Guidelines

First Response Fire Departments

Actions:

- (1) Ensure that the scene has been secured. No one should be allowed in or out of the potentially contaminated area.
- (2) Establish an Incident Command system in an appropriate command post. (Ideally, the command post should have phones, a computer and a fax machine.)
- (3) Ensure that Erie County MERS Control has been notified at 898-3696 to dispatch a Biological Threat Mitigation Strike Team.
- (4) Request a hazardous materials team response.
- (5) Identify potential locations to shelter evacuees should the need arise.
- (6) Obtain a call back number from dispatch and make contact with an individual (i.e., spokesperson) in the potentially contaminated area.
- (7) Reassure potentially contaminated individuals.
- (8) Have the spokesperson describe the exact nature of the threatening letter, package, telephone call or any other suspicious items within the potentially contaminated area.
- (9) Charge the hazardous materials team with entry. (See hazardous materials guidelines)