

## **Anthrax or Other Infectious Disease Threat Guidelines**

### **Emergency Medical Services**

#### **Actions:**

- (1) Respond paramedic and/or physician to the scene.
- (2) Interface with the Incident Commander and other officials and ensure scene safety.
- (3) Assist the Incident Commander in determining the need for decontamination (rarely necessary).
- (4) Develop treatment/disposition plan for potentially contaminated individuals.
- (5) Ensure a list of names and contact information is obtained for all potentially contaminated individuals.
- (6) Ensure that environmental and/or nasal cultures are properly obtained as indicated.
  - Use only medically approved bacteria culturettes or swabs (i.e., contain ampule with culture medium).
  - Dry-swab the surface of any threatening letter, package, etc..
  - Dry-swab any suspicious substances, powders, residues, etc..
  - Wet-swab one nostril of a random sampling of no more than 10 potentially contaminated individuals ideally who were in different locations within the potentially contaminated area. (Dip sterile swab in sterile water or normal saline before taking sample.)
  - Crush ampules at ends of all culturettes or swab containers to actuate.
  - Clearly label each culturette or swab indicating site from which sample was obtained (e.g., letter, powder in ventilation duct) or patient's name.
  - Individually seal each culturette or swab in a plastic bag and place all bagged samples together in a second plastic bag.
- (7) Ensure that cultures are sent to an appropriate laboratory facility for processing (e.g., ECMC Bacteriology at 898-7108).
- (8) Disseminate appropriate discharge/follow-up instructions to all potentially contaminated individuals.
- (9) Ensure that details are reported to local health officials.