Santa Clara County Medical~Health Response

Santa Clara County Public Health Department

Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Public Health Department
Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System
The Public Health Department

- County Health Officer – Dr. Fenstersheib
  - Deputy Health Officers
- Department Emergency Operations Center
- Disease Control & Investigation
- Emergency Medical Services Agency
- Epidemiology
- Public Health Lab
What does this mean to me?

- Medical Mutual Aid
- Biological Incidents
- Public Health Emergencies
- Mass Prophylaxis Planning & Response
- Medical Resource Control and Coordination
- Certified Lab
- Casualty Collection Points, Alternate Care Sites, Field Treatment Sites.
- Health Officer Directives
- Isolation & Quarantine Orders
“White Powder at the Post Office”

A 911 call is received from a local US Post Office where 10-15 individuals are complaining of shortness of breath, an itchy sensation in their throat, and some are experiencing dizziness. One customer states that they saw a white or yellow powder fall from an envelope that was picked up by a fan and blown across the lobby.
Red Flags

A 911 call is received from a local US Post Office where 10-15 individuals are complaining of shortness of breath, an itchy sensation in their throat, and some are experiencing dizziness. One customer states that they saw a white or yellow powder fall from an envelope that was picked up by a fan and blown across the lobby.
Questions

- Is this a “normal” response?
- Could a biological agent be involved?
- Could multiple persons require medical care and transportation?
- Is this an MCI?
Questions

- If victims want to leave the scene, what authority lets you keep them on scene?
- If this was a biological agent, how would firefighters and law enforcement officers get antibiotics?
The Response

- The EMS Duty Chief would be notified and may respond.
  - MCI Alerts/Activation
  - Sensors in Post Office
  - Coordinates all medical-health resources
  - Liaison to the Public Health Department and County Health Officer
The Response

- The EMS Duty Chief serves as an **Agency Liaison** and works with the IC or designee to provide information to the County Health Officer.
The Health Officer is Notified

- Based on the nature of the event, the Health Officer may become part of a Unified Command, serve as an Agency Representative, or Technical Specialist.

- The Health Officer holds the authority to take any and all actions necessary to ensure the health of the public and to mitigate any potential or real emergency.
What does this mean to me?

- The Health Officer may:
  - Require special sampling or agent testing
  - Dictate prophylaxis measures for citizens and/or responders.
  - Identify specific medical screening points required to assist in the identification of agents.
  - Identify facilities and/or personnel who will treat or investigate the event.
  - Order that persons be placed into isolation or quarantine.
  - Identify specific treatment guidance not normally provided by EMT’s and paramedics.
Sample Collection

- Hazardous Materials Teams have the lead role.
- The Public Health Lab provides training and receives the sample.
Basic Rules & Procedures

Sample Submission

- Specimen samples will only be accepted when submitted by an approved fire department HAZMAT Team and/or by the FBI.

- Specimen submissions must conform to Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) Guidelines.

- Testing will be completed by the Public Health Laboratory & appropriate notifications will be made.
The Public Health Lab is classified as a **Reference Laboratory**

The Public Health Lab performs **confirmatory testing**
Santa Clara County’s Public Health Lab Catchment Area
What if I am exposed?

- The Health Officer will issue a **priority prophylaxis** order for firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel.
- The EMS Section of the County Fire Chiefs is coordinating the operational aspects with the Public Health Department.
- The County maintains inventories of necessary antibiotics.
How do I contact the Health Officer?

- The Health Officer is a resource that is managed by County Communications.
- Have your communications center contact County Communications and make your request.
- If the EMS Duty Chief is responding or on-scene, they can make the request.
If the Health Officer needs to go to the scene, how does it work?

- The EMS Duty Chief or other EMS Agency personnel will transport the Health Officer to the scene.
- They will also serve as the liaison between the on-scene ICS structure and assist the Health Officer in filling requests.
- Unless a Unified Command is established, the Health Officer supports the IC’s management of the event.
What if it’s a big incident?

- The Public Health Department Emergency Operations Center (DEOC) coordinates all Medical-Health resources.
- The DEOC coordinates with the County EOC.
- The EMS Duty Chief orders resources from the field providers through the DEOC (single or multiple events).
How does Medical Mutual Aid work?

- The County Health Officer must authorize the use of medical mutual aid.
- The Health Officer has deputized the EMS Duty Chief/EMS Agency to authorize mutual aid under specific criteria.
- The EMS Duty Chief makes a request to Medical Mutual Aid Region II.
- The Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinator (RDHMC) queries other County’s and fills the request.
- The RDMHC informs the EMS Duty Chief of what resources are available.
- The EMS Duty Chief allocates available resources as appropriate.
What does this mean for me?

- **Call the EMS Duty Chief early!**
  - Non-contracted ambulances may be authorized.
  - Policy’s may be altered.
  - Non-traditional transport means may be authorized.
  - Casualty Collection Points may be established

- **It takes a long time to work through the Medical Mutual Aid process – early notification permits the EMS Duty Chief to use all available in-County resources before or while Medical Mutual Aid is being requested through formal channels.**
Alternate Care Sites, Field Treatment Sites, Casualty Collection Points

- “Staging” area for patients.
- Basic care until they can be moved to a hospital.
- Remote from site
- Similar to treatment areas used in an MCI but bigger and patients stay longer.
Field Treatment Site Trailers

- 3 – 12 Foot Trailers
  - Biological Pharmaceuticals (EMS/Public Health)
  - MCI 20-50 Patients (SNY)
- 4 – 16 Foot FTS Trailers
  - Mountain View Fire
  - AMR – San Jose
  - County Fire
  - Gilroy Fire

- Available through the EMS Duty Chief
- Available via Fire Mutual Aid (intracounty)
- Available for any Santa Clara County jurisdiction for special events.
- Jurisdiction supplies personnel (fire vs. pvt).