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XVII. CHEMPACK PROJECT MISSION

The CHEMPACK Project is an effort lead by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and managed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile Program (SNS). In the event of an incident with the suspected release of chemical nerve agents, the County of San Diego must be prepared to respond quickly and efficiently in order to save lives. Unlike many other chemical or biological agents that may not produce ill effects for hours or days after exposure, the time frame for an effective response to a nerve agent attack is measured in minutes. The CHEMPACK program is designed for “forward” placement of nerve agent antidotes to support a quick response to a nerve agent release.

A. Definitions:

1. **CHEMPACK:** The sustainable repository of nerve agent antidotes and other necessary and certain supporting equipment to care for individuals exposed to nerve agents, including but not limited to, auto-injectors, bulk symptomatic treatment supplies and self-monitoring storage containers. CHEMPACK is a component of the SNS Program. There are two types of CHEMPACK containers: an EMS and a Hospital Container.
2. **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Container:** These containers are designed for pre-hospital emergency responders. The antidotes contained in this container are mostly auto-injectors, designed for speed and ease of use, and generally do not require IV access. Some multi-dose vials for variable dosing with elderly or pediatric patients are included in the inventory.

B. Emergency Operations

The nature of nerve agents requires rapid decision-making and distribution of nerve agent antidotes. **If in doubt, open the cache.** The toxic effects of nerve agents require IMMEDIATE pharmaceutical intervention. The ability of emergency medical personnel to begin immediate treatment of individuals exposed to nerve agents will directly affect a casualty’s ability to survive the exposure.

C. ICS Activation – Roles and Responsibilities

1. An Incident Commander (IC) must be identified early on in the event
2. The Incident Commander (IC) determines the event will require large quantities of nerve agent antidote and requests FCC to access CHEMPACK.

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3. At the time of the event, it will be the responsibility of the IC to quickly determine distribution priorities based on the scale and nature of the event and supplies on hand.

D. Likely Event Request Process Sequence

1. IC contacts FCC requesting CHEMPACK activation
2. FCC alerts Shift Commander, Duty Chief, Duty Medical Support (DMS), County HHS Division of EMS Duty Officer and CHEMPACK DEA Registrant Designee (City Medical Director)
3. DMS shall be responsible to ensure that the EMS Battalion Chief is notified
4. Shift Commander will request to arrange for transportation of requested CHEMPACK contents to the incident location

E. Authority to Activate (Open & Distribute) CHEMPACK Material

The following personnel/positions are authorized to activate CHEMPACK caches:

1. SDFD Shift Commander or Duty Chief
2. DEA Registrant Designee of the CHEMPACK participant (City Medical Director)
3. San Diego County Public Health Officer or designee

F. Requirements for Activation

The above listed personnel/positions can authorize breaking the CHEMPACK container seal and use of the packaged products if it is determined that an accidental or intentional nerve agent release is beyond local emergency response capabilities and meets **at least one** of the following requirements:

1. A nerve agent and/or organophosphate/pesticide must be suspected as being responsible
2. The medical security of the community is threatened
3. The release puts multiple lives at a risk
4. Activation is medically necessary to save lives

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G. Transportation & Movement

The quickest, most efficient mode of transportation may be used to transport CHEMPACK materials to an emergency scene, including but not limited to:

1. SDFD vehicle/apparatus
2. Ambulance
3. Law Enforcement (SDPD/Highway Patrol/Sheriff Vehicle)
4. Helicopter

H. Custody Transfer

Only personnel authorized by the DEA Registrant (City Medical Director) and/or the Shift Commander shall transport and transfer custody of CHEMPACK materials from a storage location to an emergency scene or hospital.

1. Materials being delivered to SDFD incidents should be delivered to and physically received by the IC or his/her designee.
2. Materials delivered to hospitals should be physically received by an appropriate representative. Normally a doctor and/or licensed pharmacist will sign for the materials.
3. In order to maintain a documented chain of custody for CHEMPACK controlled substances a CHEMPACK Controlled Substance Transfer Form shall be completed in every instance CHEMPACK controlled substances are administered and/or transferred.
4. Blank CHEMPACK Controlled Substance Transfer Forms are kept at CHEMPACK storage locations. Instructions for completion are included on the forms.
5. Completed forms should be submitted to the Medical Director for file and a copy forwarded to County HHSA Division of EMS.

I. Post Incident Procedures

1. Notification

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In the event a CHEMPACK container has been opened or compromised, FCC must contact CHEMPACK Project personnel at County HHSA Division of EMS as soon as practical.

J. Documentation of Use

Incident documentation should begin as soon as possible following emergency operations involving CHEMPACK assets and shall include a historical record of emergency operations involving CHEMPACK materiel.

1. In order to document use of CHEMPACK materials, a Post Incident Procedure Documentation Form shall be completed in every instance CHEMPACK assets are accessed for emergency operations.
2. Blank Post Incident Procedure Documentation Forms are kept at CHEMPACK storage locations. Instructions for completion are included on the forms.
3. Completed forms should be submitted to the City Medical Director for file and a copy forwarded to County HHSA Division of EMS.

K. Return of CHEMPACK Materiel to Cache Locations

Unused materiel shall be returned to original CHEMPACK storage locations.