

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR
COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU**

NOTICE
1.15

October 21, 2014

TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE – RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

Recent cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) occurring in the United States have highlighted the dangers associated with infectious diseases. Accordingly, Department personnel must take necessary precautions when encountering a person who is believed to be infected with EVD.

In July 2003, the Department distributed a Training Bulletin entitled, "Bloodborne Pathogens" (Volume XXXV, Issue 16), which includes important information concerning infectious agents carried in the blood and other bodily fluids. In addition to this information, the following protocols are suggested for Department employees who respond to incidents involving individuals suspected of being infected with EVD.

RESPONSE

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) will be the lead agency responsible for responding to individuals suspected of being infected with EVD.

In the event Los Angeles Police Officers find themselves responding to a possible EVD incident, it is recommended that Department personnel identify the individual(s) believed to be infected with EVD and, to the extent possible, monitor their activity without making close or direct contact. Responding officers should provide verbal directions to the involved individual(s) in an effort to isolate them from other people in the area. Officers should request the response of personnel from LAFD, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Emergency Services Division (ESD). Once these resources are on scene, officers shall be guided by the advice of these subject matter experts.

NOTE: Hazardous Devices and Materials Section, ESD, will only respond at the request of LAFD and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health or if a crime has occurred.

If officers must make immediate contact with the involved individual(s) due to suspected criminal activity or other conduct that represents an imminent threat, officers shall don personal protective equipment prior to making contact. If the officers encounter combative or other violent behavior, use of force consistent with existing Department guidelines can be employed.

To minimize the chances of further contamination or infection, consideration should be given to the use of less lethal options such as the taser or beanbag shotgun to gain compliance. Direct physical contact (strikes, kicks, etc.) or the use of oleoresin capsicum spray is not recommended as it may increase the likelihood of contamination.

Department personnel must remain aware that the legal detention or lawful arrest of a person requires reasonable suspicion or probable cause. The belief that an individual may be infected with EVD does not by itself justify detention and/or arrest. An order to isolate or quarantine an individual who is believed to be infected with EVD can only be given by a public health officer. Any person who violates a lawful order concerning quarantine or disinfection is guilty of a misdemeanor pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 120275.

NOTIFICATIONS

Department personnel receiving a call for service concerning an actual or suspected EVD incident shall ensure that both Communications Division and Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division (RACR) are immediately notified.

Communications Division shall immediately notify Los Angeles Fire Dispatch and RACR Division.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT KITS

Prior to making contact with individuals suspected of being infected with EVD, involved officers shall don the equipment provided in the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits available in Department stations. The most important protective measure is to always establish a barrier between potentially infectious material and the involved employee.

Additional safety recommendations include the use of the ballistic helmet and face shield, as well as using two sets of latex protective gloves. Officers should avoid touching areas of the face (eyes, nose, mouth) following contact with an individual suspected of having EVD.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Officers must guard against exposure, but shall not discriminate against an individual based on the individual's actual or perceived medical status.

Any questions regarding this Notice may be directed to the Hazardous Devices and Materials Section, ESD, at 323-342-4200.

APPROVED:



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