

DPHHS HAN

Information Service

Cover Sheet

DATE: April 18, 2013

SUBJECT: Resources Available for Local and State
Public Health Officials: Preparing for and
Responding to Bombing Events

**For LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT reference only**

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for
more information regarding this HAN,
contact:

**DPHHS CDCP
Emergency Preparedness
Section
1-406-444-0919**

INSTRUCTIONS:

DISTRIBUTE to select local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended
for general sharing of information with Law Enforcement, First
Responders, and Hospitals. **Remove this cover sheet before
redistributing and replace it with your own.**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own.

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919

DPHHS policy is to forward all HAN messages from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Information Sheet

Date: April 18, 2013

Subject: Resources Available for Local and State Public Health Officials: Preparing for and Responding to Bombing Events

Information: Please see the attached information related to resources related to bombing events and suspicious substances.

The attached CDC HAN provides a list of resources for public health officials related to treating injuries and stress in patients affected by mass casualty events such as bombing scenarios.

In addition to the Boston Marathon bombings on April 15th, an unconfirmed suspicious substance was mailed to a member of congress that is suspected to be ricin. Confirmatory testing is still pending. At this time, DPHHS is not aware of any suspicious activities reported in Montana.

The attached protocol provides guidance for emergency responders and public health partners related to collecting, screening, and transporting suspicious substances to the state Laboratory. We recommend this protocol be shared with law enforcement, first responders, and hospital partners.

Protocol for Submission of Suspicious Substances for Laboratory Services Bureau Threat Testing — Guidance for Emergency Responders and Public Health Partners

Step 1 — Evaluation

- The Laboratory Services Bureau (LSB) will typically only test samples of substances known to have been associated with human exposure and submitted by a credible source (*e.g.*, law enforcement, fire department, etc.)

Step 2 — Notification

- If testing is warranted, notify the LSB at 800-821-7284

Step 3 — Collection and Pre-Screening

- Sample must be collected using materials found in a CBAT (chemical and biological agent transport) kit
 - CBAT kits are prepositioned in all the local jurisdictions
 - Instructions for collection and Chain of Custody forms are in each CBAT kit
 - Consult with the LSB if questions arise on the collection and pre-screening of samples
- Pre-screening must be performed before final packaging and transport of the specimen to the LSB
 - Pre-screening is necessary to ensure the safety of both the transporter and LSB staff
- Pre-screening consists of the following three (3) screens. If any of the screens are positive, consult with the LSB regarding possible options.
 - Radiation Screen
 - Geiger Counter screening is sufficient
 - Readings must not be above background levels
 - Explosive Screen
 - Handheld explosive detector is sufficient
 - If item has already been opened, it does not need an explosive screen
 - HazMat ID Screen
 - Screen should not indicate the presence of any potentially hazardous chemicals that could endanger the safety of the transporter or the laboratory staff

Step 4 — Transport

- Once pre-screening has been completed and the sample is cleared by LSB staff for transport, the sample contained in the CBAT kit is transported to the Laboratory Services Bureau, W.F. Cogswell Building, 1400 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601
- Transport plans are in place in each local jurisdiction
- Contact the LSB (800-821-7284) with the approximate arrival time in Helena
- Contact the LSB as the transporter approaches Helena to coordinate the exchange of the sample and completion of the Chain of Custody form at the All Hazard Receipt Facility (AHRF) at the Cogswell Building

This is an official **CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

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CDCHAN-00346

Resources Available for Local and State Public Health Officials: Preparing for and Responding to Bombing Events

Background and Summary

Boston health officials are dealing with the immediate aftermath of two bombs that exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on the afternoon of April 15, 2013. CDC offers resources that may help local or state health officials prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the health effects of bombings, and other mass casualty events.

Mass Casualty Event Preparedness and Response

CDC's "Mass Casualty Event Preparedness and Response" website, available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/index.asp>, is the primary location for resources for the general public and for health professionals. Public health officials can assist in disseminating the following resources to the audiences who need them.

Information for the General Public

The following resources on the "Mass Casualty Event Preparedness and Response" website offer information for the general public about bombings, and injuries and stress associated with mass casualty events:

- "Preparing for a Bombing: A Common Sense Approach," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/preparingterroristbombing.asp>
- "After a Bombing: Health and Safety Information for the General Public," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/afterbombing.asp>
- "Injuries and Mass Casualty Events," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/injuriespub.asp>
- "Brain Injuries and Mass Casualty Events," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/braininjuriespub.asp>
- "Coping With a Traumatic Event," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/copingpub.asp>

Information for Health Professionals

The following resources on the "Mass Casualty Event Preparedness and Response" website offer information for health professionals about treating injuries and stress in patients affected by mass casualty events, as well as other resources for professionals:

Fact Sheets

- "Blast and Bombing Injuries," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/blastinjuryfacts.asp>
- "Injuries and Mass Casualty Events," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/injuriespro.asp>
- "After a Bombing: Health and Safety Information for Emergency Providers," available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/afterbombing-ecp.asp>

- “Brain Injuries and Mass Trauma Events,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/braininjuriespro.asp>
- “Coping With a Traumatic Event,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/copingpro.asp>

Guidance and Planning Documents

- “Interim Planning Guidance for Preparedness and Response to a Mass Casualty Event Resulting from Terrorist Use of Explosives,” available at http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/terrorist_explosives.asp
- “In a Moment’s Notice: Surge Capacity in Terrorist Bombings,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/surgcapacity.asp>
- “Explosions and Blast Injuries: A Primer for Clinicians,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/explosions.asp>

Data Collection and Planning Tools

- “Medical Record Abstraction Form for Domestic Bombing Events,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/bombingform.asp>
- “Mental Health Survey Instrument,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/mhsurvey-instrument.asp>
- “Mass Trauma Casualty Predictor,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/predictor.asp>
- “Predicting Casualty Severity and Hospital Capacity,” available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/capacity.asp>

Training

- “Blast Preparedness and Response Training and Continuing Education,” available at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/blast_training.asp
 - “Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care,” available at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/bombings_injurycare.asp
 - “Bombings: Injury Patterns and Care: Systems Preparedness” available at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/ppt/bombings_injury_patterns_and_care_systems_preparedness.ppt

Coping with Trauma

The effects of a disaster, terrorist attack, or other public health emergency can be long-lasting, and the resulting trauma can affect those not directly impacted by the disaster. CDC’s “Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event” web page, available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/>, lists resources that provide general strategies for promoting mental health and resilience. These materials were developed by various organizations on the basis of experiences in prior emergencies.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Distress Resources

The SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline, available at <http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov/>, provides 24/7, year-round crisis counseling and support for persons experiencing signs of distress as a result of disaster:

- Call 1-800-985-5990
- Call TTY for deaf/hearing impaired 1-800-846-8517
- Text TalkWithUs to 66746

SAMHSA has additional resources on dealing with disaster at the SAMHSA website, <http://disasterdistress.samhsa.gov/>.

For More Information

- CDC's "Mass Casualties: Related Links" web page, available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/resources.asp>
- CDC's "Public Health Resources: State Health Departments," a state health department website locator, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/international/relres.html>
- CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control website, "Injury and Violence Prevention Control," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance
Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation
Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##