

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Terrorism . . . *Continued from the July/August Issue*

BIOLOGICAL THREATS: Biological agents are organisms or toxins which can kill or incapacitate people, livestock, and crops. The three basic groups of biological agents which are most likely to be used as weapons are bacteria; viruses; and toxins. Most biological agents are difficult to grow and maintain. Many break down quickly when exposed to sunlight and other environmental factors, while others, such as anthrax spores, are very long lived. Biological agents can be dispersed by spraying them into the air, by infecting animals that carry the disease to humans, and by contaminating food and water. Delivery methods can include:

1. **Aerosols:** biological agents are dispersed into the air, forming a fine mist which may drift for miles. Inhaling the agent may cause disease in people or animals.
2. **Animals:** some diseases are spread through insects and animals, such as fleas, mice, mosquitoes, and livestock.
3. **Food & Water Contamination:** some pathogenic organisms and toxins may persist in food and water supplies. Most microbes can be killed, and toxins deactivated, by cooking food and boiling water. Follow official instructions!
4. **Person to Person:** a person to person spread of a few infectious agents is also possible. Humans have been the source of infection for smallpox, plague, and the Lassa viruses.

TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES! Following are some guidelines for what you can do to prepare for a biological threat:

- Check with your doctor to ensure all required or suggested immunizations are up to date. Children and older adults are particularly vulnerable to biological agents.
- Consider installing a HEPA filter in your furnace return duct. These filters will remove particles in the 0.3 to 10 micron range and will filter out most biological agents. If you do not have a central heating or cooling system, a stand-alone portable HEPA filter can be used.

DURING A BIOLOGICAL ATTACK: Public Officials may not immediately be able to provide information on what you should do— it will take time to determine what the illness is, how it should be treated, and who is in danger. Watch and listen for news on what you should do! The first evidence of an attack may be when you notice symptoms. Be suspicious of any symptoms you notice, but do not assume that any illness is a result of the attack. Use common sense and practice good hygiene! **If you become aware of an unusual or suspicious substance nearby:**

- Move away quickly;
- Wash with soap and water;
- Contact authorities;
- Listen for official instructions; and
- Seek medical attention if you become sick.

If you are exposed to a biological agent:

- Remove and bag your clothes and personal items. Follow official instructions for disposal of contaminated items;
- Wash yourself with soap and water and put on clean clothes.;
- Seek medical assistance!

The basic public health procedures and medical protocols for handling exposure to biological agents are the same as for any infectious disease—**it is important to pay attention to official instructions via radio, television, and emergency alert systems!! TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER NEWSLETTER!**

Knowledge and preparation are your best defense and are your responsibility! For more information on EMERGENCY PLANNING, call 503.982.9429, or visit our website at www.cityofhubbard.org.



ILLICIT DRUGS . . .

THE TEST RESULTS ARE IN

Hubbard was one of 96 Oregon communities who chose to participate in the 2008 Study of Illicit Drug Detection in Wastewater. This study was intended to provide a “one-day snapshot” of drug excretion, which could then be used to better understand patterns of drug use in multiple municipalities. A summary of Hubbard-specific data was requested, and is shown below:

METHAMPHETAMINE

Estimated load mg/person/day: 0.3

Ranking: Middle

BENZOYLECGONINE

(cocaine metabolite, and principal indicator of cocaine use)

Estimated load mg/person/day: 0.01

Ranking: Lower

MDMA

(e.g. Ecstasy)

Estimated load mg/person/day: Not Quantifiable

Ranking = Not Quantifiable

DATA SUMMARY: The index load adjusts the concentration of each drug in wastewater for total wastewater flow on the day sampled and the population served. If individual drugs were detected but their concentrations in wastewater were below the reporting limits, the reported loads were termed “Not Quantifiable” or “NQ.” Please give us a call at 503.982.9429 if you have any questions.

AS AUTUMN is quickly approaching and leaves will soon be falling — we would like to remind everyone **not** to dispose of your leaves by sweeping them into the street! Once in the street, these leaves can get into the catch basins and have the potential to cause substantial local flooding during rainstorms! Remember too the street sweeper comes the 3rd Thursday of each month, so please do not to park on the City’s curbed streets on these days in order to allow the sweeper the opportunity to do a more thorough job!

SPLASH FOUNTAIN is scheduled to be winterized after Labor Day weekend!

UNTIL NEXT TIME . . .

Hubbard Public Works