

Being prepared for a terrorist incident can mean the difference between life and death.



A terrorist attack using chemical, biological, nuclear, or explosive weapons of mass destruction could result in hundreds or thousands of casualties. To enhance local capacity to respond to a catastrophic terrorist event, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is assisting 120 of the Nation's largest cities, including the City of Bakersfield, to plan and equip a Metropolitan Medical Response System.

Q. What is a Metropolitan Medical Response System?

A. A Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is an integrated local community response to the health and medical consequences of a terrorist incident involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.



Q. What does the Bakersfield MMRS Plan include?

A. The MMRS Plan addresses emergency medical needs in the aftermath of a terrorist attack during the first 24 hours for as many as 1,000 victims, including procurement and provision of appropriate pharmaceuticals, equipment, and supplies. The MMRS Plan addresses many aspects of response, including:

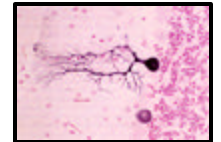
- command and control of the incident scene
- notification and alert of responders
- crime scene security and crowd control
- moving victims to safety
- triage of victims
- identification of the poisonous agent
- decontamination of victims
- administration of medications
- transport of victims to local hospitals or alternative treatment sites
- management of medical personnel, supplies, and equipment
- laboratory support
- management of public affairs
- addressing mental health concerns



Q. What happens if local resources are overwhelmed?

A. The State of California has led the nation in the development of the Standardized Emergency Management System, which provides a rapid and efficient mechanism for requesting mutual aid from surrounding cities, the Region, and the State.

At the request of our Governor, Federal assets will arrive within a few hours through the National Disaster Medical System. These assets may include military aircraft for evacuation of victims, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams to supplement local medical personnel, and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, which can provide medications for mass prophylaxis with antibiotics, if needed, in the event of a bioterrorist incident.



Q. How is the MMRS Funded?

A. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided "seed money" for the MMRS through a contract with the City of Bakersfield to develop the plan and purchase pharmaceuticals and equipment. The City has made a commitment to practice the plan, maintain supplies and equipment, and provide ongoing training of personnel.



The Bakersfield MMRS Steering Committee and Planning

Team participants included personnel from:

City Of Bakersfield

- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works

Kern County

- Office of Emergency Medical Services
- Sheriff's Department/Coroner
- Fire Department
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Department
- Office of Public Health Preparedness
- Waste Management
- Kern Medical Center

American Red Cross

Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters:

Representatives from hospitals throughout metropolitan Bakersfield. ...and many others

Bakersfield MMRS on the Web:

www.ci.bakersfield.ca.us./fire/mmrs

Or visit Federal websites at:

www.mmrs.hhs.gov or www.oep-ndms.dhhs.gov



Bakersfield MMRS Mission

To enhance our local response system capabilities for responding to the health and medical needs of victims of a terrorist incident involving weapons of mass destruction.