National Nuclear Security Administration

NEWS

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NNSA Product Aids in Anthrax Clean-up

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A decontamination formulation developed at a U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) laboratory promises to be a key element in the battle to limit the spread of Anthrax.

The formulation, developed at Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico, is a mixture that includes ordinary household substances, such as those found in hair conditioner and toothpaste, but neutralizes both chemical and biological agents in minutes. It can be applied to a contaminated surface as a liquid spray, mist, fog, or foam. The formulation is non-toxic, non-corrosive, and environmentally friendly.

Traditional decontamination products typically use bleach, chlorine or other hazardous or corrosive materials that can damage furniture and office materials.

Already used to decontaminate portions of ABC's facilities in New York, it is available as well for use in Washington D.C. buildings that have been contaminated.

Sandia's work to develop this material is part of a five-year research and development project funded by NNSA's Chemical and Biological National Security Program. Once developed, the product was made available for commercialization. Two companies have worked to make the formulation commercially available: Modec, Inc. (Denver, Colo.) and EnviroFoam Technologies (Huntsville, Ala.).

In multiple independent lab tests and military field trials, the formulation was effective against chemical warfare agents, toxins, viruses and anthrax spores.

NNSA enhances U.S. national security through the military application of nuclear energy, maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, promotes international nuclear non-proliferation and safety, reduces global danger from weapons of mass destruction, provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion, and oversees national laboratories to maintain U.S. leadership in science and technology.

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