



MAD COW DISEASE

BSE

- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly referred to as “mad cow disease,” is a fatal neurodegenerative disease.
- BSE affects only cattle.

vCJD

- Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) is thought to be the human manifestation of BSE.
- vCJD is a degenerative neurological disorder (brain disease).
- vCJD is ultimately fatal.
- It is very rare, affecting only one in one million.

All personnel should maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about what might happen.

Transmission (Spread of the Disease) and Symptoms

- vCJD is thought (but not proven) to be transmitted through the consumption of infected animal tissue, specifically beef.
- vCJD is a degenerative disease, with symptoms usually similar to those of dementia.
- Other symptoms include behavioral abnormalities and painful sensations such as burning or pins and needles from neurological malfunctions.

Treatment

- Currently, there is no treatment for vCJD.
- It is an ultimately fatal disease.

Prevention

- Caution should be exercised by those in Europe and other areas with indigenous cases of BSE.
- You may consider avoiding beef or beef products that are not solid tissue (sausage, ground beef, and brains).
- Be aware of beef recalls when they occur.
- Remember that the possibility for infected beef is very small.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - BSE—www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/bse/index.htm
 - vCJD—www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/vcjd/index.htm
 - Information for International Travelers—
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/vcjd/risk_travelers.htm
- U.S. Department of Agriculture—
www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Bovine_Spongiform_Encephalopathy_BSE/index.asp

Semper Paratus

Be “Always Ready.” Get an emergency supply kit good for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family, and be informed about what might happen.