

	<p><b>PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY</b> 2605 Interstate Drive Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9364</p>	<p><b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. D2003-8</b></p>
<p><b>SUBJECT: REGIONAL DECONTAMINATION STRIKE TEAMS</b></p>		<p><b>DATE: December 31, 2003</b></p>

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I. PURPOSE

This directive contains information for the organization, implementation and utilization of Regional Decontamination Strike Teams (DSTs) in support of Regional Counter-terrorism Task Force operations. These DSTs may be used to satisfy the requirements in the Counter-terrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act (Act 227 of 2002) to establish a "...specialized regional counter-terrorism response team."

II. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

A. Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code, Title 35 Pa. C.S.A. § 7101-7707, as amended

B. Counter-terrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act, Title 35 P.S. 2140.101-2140.303 (Act 227 of 2002)

III. REGIONAL DECONTAMINATION STRIKE TEAM SCOPE

This directive is applicable to the Regional Counter-terrorism Task Forces (RCTTFs) in the development of Regional DST for use at incidents that require mass decontamination operations. Each Regional Counter-terrorism Task Force is required to establish at least one DST. A Task Force may establish additional teams if there is a need.

IV. REGIONAL DECONTAMINATION STRIKE TEAM DEFINITION

A. The Regional Decontamination Strike Team is designed to support mass decontamination operations by providing trained personnel and a standard cache of equipment during an event where mass decontamination is required.

B. The DST will operate under the operations branch of the Incident/Unified Command System (ICS/UCS).

V. MISSION STATEMENT

The Decontamination Strike Teams will support mass decontamination operations at any event involving hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction.

VI. REGIONAL DECONTAMINATION STRIKE TEAM ORGANIZATION

- A. The DST shall consist of five fire apparatus (minimum NFPA 1901 Class A Pumper) staffed with three firefighters and an officer per apparatus, and a Strike Team Leader.
- B. Each apparatus on the decontamination strike team shall be staffed by members of the same company. Members should be recommended by the Regional Task Force Fire/Rescue/HAZMAT Committee, and approved by the RCTTF executive committee.
- C. The specific companies providing personnel for the DST should be capable of providing a full complement, all of whom meet team criteria, and a pre-determined apparatus whenever dispatched.

VII. POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

- A. Strike Team Leader - The Strike Team Leader (STL) leads the Strike Team, and coordinates the performance of tasks assigned by the operations branch within the ICS/UCS.
- B. Apparatus Officer – The apparatus officer leads his/her apparatus and crew and coordinates the performance of tasks assigned by the STL.
- C. Firefighter - The firefighters perform tasks assigned by the Apparatus Officer.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

The Decontamination Strike Team shall operate on a pre-established radio frequency for internal communications. The Strike Team Leader shall have communications with the operations branch within the ICS/UCS.

IX. ACTIVATION OF THE DECONTAMINATION STRIKE TEAM

- A. Within the Task Force - The Emergency Management Coordinator, or designee, of any county within the Task Force may request the activation of a DST within that task force.
- B. Outside the Task Force - In accordance with provisions of the Counter-terrorism Planning, Preparedness and Response Act, (Act 227 of 2002) the Governor or designee may activate a DST through the task force for use outside the task force. Any request for support from outside the task force should be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). PEMA will contact the nearest non-activated DST through its task force and the task force shall activate the team.

X. DEVELOPMENT AND CRITERIA

- A. Strike Team Leader - The Strike Team Leader shall be trained to the Hazardous Materials Technician and Incident Commander levels and shall be competent in the selection of decontamination methods and procedures.
- B. Officer Criteria - The Apparatus Officer shall be a company grade officer meeting the following certifications and training:
  - 1. Firefighter 2 (NFPA – recommended) OR  
Pa. Essentials of Fire Fighting, OR Equivalent;
  - 2. HAZMAT Operations;
  - 3. Terrorism Operations; and,
  - 4. NIMS 201 OR Equivalent.
- C. Firefighter Criteria:
  - 1. Firefighter 1 (NFPA – recommended) OR  
PA Essentials of Fire Fighting OR equivalent;
  - 2. HAZMAT Operations; and,
  - 3. Terrorism Operations.
- D. Strike Team Capabilities:
  - 1. Each apparatus in the strike team shall have sufficient supplies to decontaminate a minimum of 50 people (it is *recommended* that each apparatus have sufficient supplies to decontaminate 100 people).

2. Each strike team shall have sufficient supplies to decontaminate a minimum of 250 people (it is *recommended* that each strike team have sufficient supplies to decontaminate 500 people).

XI. RESPONSE

- A. The DST will assemble and respond as one unit in accordance with Regional Task Force protocol.
- B. If responding outside of the Regional Task Force, the DST should be prepared for minimum 24-hour response duration.
- C. Decontamination Strike Teams will require a supply of fresh water to function.

XII. EQUIPMENT LIST

**Minimum Required Equipment Cache per Apparatus**

ITEM	QUANTITY
<b>Personal Protective Equipment (4 sets)</b>	
APR/PAPR	4
Coverall, Chemical Resistant	8
Gloves, Pair, Butyl	8
Gloves, Pair, Nitrile	8
Over-boots, Pair	8
Filter, Canister	12
Tape, Chemical, Roll	4
Battery, Lithium	8
Flow Meter	4
Bags, carryall	8
<b>Decon Equipment</b>	
Soap Solution, gallon	1
Thread Adaptor, 2.5", Universal	1
Trash Bags, Heavy Duty, 250 count box	1
Plastic, Heavy Duty, roll	1
Tape, Chemical, Roll	1
Shears, cast cutting (EMS)	1
Shears, aviation, tin	1
Shears, brush, 1", short handle	1
Cutter, seatbelt	1
Cutter, diagonal, metal	1
Bags, carryall	1
Paper, detection, M8, Pack	1
Paper, detection, ph, Pack	1
Tape, detection, M9 paper	1

ITEM	QUANTITY
Container, plastic, sealed, 1 Gal	1
<b>Patient Equipment</b>	
Garments, modesty	50
Blankets, space, aluminized	50
Towels, disposable, rolls (50 count)	2
Trash Bags, Heavy Duty, 250 count box	1
Tags, manila w/tie string	100
Pad, writing, all weather	1
Pens, pencils, miscellaneous	

XI. RESCISSIONS

None

Distribution: Regional Counter-Terrorism Task Force Chairpersons  
County Emergency Management Coordinators  
PEMA Regional Offices  
PEMA Bureau Directors  
PEMA Chief Counsel

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