

Reeves Offers Total Solution Decon Training

ON AUGUST 13TH A NUCLEAR ATTACK devastated the fictional U.S. town of Byromville, Wisconsin, killing or injuring two million and relocating at least four million of the six million residents. The simulated attack prompted Army Reserve units from around the country to converge on Fort McCoy, Wisconsin for two weeks of preparation and training, culminating in "Red Dragon," a joint military and civilian exercise to simulate and evaluate the Reserve's readiness to handle a catastrophic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or CBRNE event.

Rapid medical evaluation, on the spot first aid, superior radio operations capabilities and a top grade procedure for extracting the wounded and decontaminating patients are some of the key skills needed to perform a successful operation of this scope. Of course, an equally important component of successfully navigating through such a disaster is the equipment used.

In simulations such as Red Dragon, decontamination systems play a crucial role in the rescue process by ensuring that personnel are



Army Reserve personnel wheel incapacitated victims into a Reeves USAR Mass Casualty Decontamination Shelter

working within a closed system that allows casualties coming out of the shelters to be free of contaminants and ready for processing.

During the Red Dragon rescue operation, casualties were systematically run through Reeves Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) decontamination systems. In the first shelter, the casualty's clothing and gear were removed. The second shelter provided specialized showers where they could be washed and cleaned,

and the third, provided the monitor and redress station.

The shelters were quick and easy to set up during the exercise. However, not everyone participating in a decontamination exercise is always familiar with the equipment or the process. To surmount this learning curve, many companies, such as Reeves, have built a complete training package into their product offerings.

Retired Army medic and company business development team leader Ken Hall has been conducting decontamination system training for Reeves EMS for the last four years. Most of the time, he is asked to teach clients with a variety of backgrounds who know little or nothing about the process. Depending on whether he is working with a hospital, fire department, or military unit, those who are asked to participate in the training might be emergency room maintenance workers, nurses or military personnel – many whom need to be taught from scratch.

The training sessions, which can take any-

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Shelters Aid Responders During California Wildfires

IN LATE OCTOBER LAST YEAR, SOME 24 FIRES consumed over 516,000 acres from Santa Barbara to San Diego County, California, devastating wildlife and leaving tens of thousands Americans homeless. In response, more than 1,500 National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen stepped in to assist civilian authorities with firefighting efforts, doing everything from putting out fires (literally) to security and public affairs. With the National Guard, came the Guard's Reeves DRASH shelters, trailers and ancillary equipment to act as headquarter facilities, grievance shelters and security hubs. Their hassle-free, quick erect/strike structure and durable design allowed the Guard to focus on doing what they do best – responding professionally and compassionately.

The shelters were also used by FEMA and San Diego County employees at Qualcomm Stadium as volunteer headquarters and a FEMA Command Center.



Above and below left and right: A National Guard public affairs Reeves shelter is set up at Montgomery Field in San Diego during the October 2007 wildfires

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where from six to eight hours and include everything from setting up and taking down the decontamination system to patient flow and decontamination procedures, can involve as many as 20 personnel at a time.

The set up portion of the training involves proper placement of the equipment from the first piece of equipment that should be set up to the last piece. This ensures that the system can be put up in the shortest amount of time possible. An important aspect of the training is discussing where the system should be placed in relation to the facility to ensure the best patient flow and security.

"You may want the patients to go through the decontamination process before going into a hospital, so they do not cross-contaminate the facility," says Hall. "Even a single patient who has not properly gone through the process could potentially infect multiple people at the facility."

Another optional scenario could involve decontaminating at a fire department or setting up at an emergency site where patients would need to be decontaminated, then sent to nearby hospitals for treatment.

During the set up training, each piece of equipment, its use, how to deploy it and where as well as how to keep it running in optimum condition, is discussed. Hall also discusses where support equipment, such as buckets, sponges, bio hazard bags, trash cans, solution containers, blankets and towels, and

other items, should be placed in relation to the decontamination system.

"It is important to realize where the dirty end and clean end will be and what should be placed on both ends," says Hall. "For instance, when a patient removes their clothing, they need to be able to place it in a bag and put it in a secure area right before going

"Despite relatively recent world events, it is still hard to imagine that a major disaster might happen in your area."

—Ken Hall, Ret. Army Medic, ISG, Business Development

through the decontamination process."

Once the system is up and running the class then focuses on how to take down the equipment. During this portion of the training they discuss what piece of equipment should be taken down first to last, how to properly remove or strike the equipment to ensure it does not get broken, and how it should be stored so that in the event of an emergency the equipment can be rapidly deployed.

Hall then focuses on proper decontamination of contaminated casualties. The shelter is again deployed and patients are processed through the decontamination system starting from the patient's arrival at the facility to leaving the decontamination system to more definitive care.

This training includes everything from security at the site or facility, how many individuals at minimum it takes to properly run the system, how to properly wear personnel protective clothing, disposing of the patients contaminated clothing, decontaminating ambulatory and litter patients, getting the patients from the "hot zone" to the "clean zone," and how to remove personnel protective clothing and decontaminate the personnel working the system.

The type and number of decontamination systems and components used depend largely on the customer and their purchase. Hall says that he has conducted training on every type

of DRASH decontamination system, ranging from individual decon systems to three lane mass casualty models. The company also can provide all of the support equipment needed for proper decontamination.

"It all depends on what the customers' needs are," says Hall. "We can provide the entire facility, from trash cans and buckets to decontamination shelters and water heaters, or we can just provide the basic system itself."

In the last four years, Hall has conducted an average of 10 to 15 sessions per year. Trainees have come from hospitals, Army Reserve Chemical Units, Air Force Units, and fire departments, to name a few.

Those who have received the training are generally confident enough to handle an emergency on their own, but Hall usually checks back in six months or so to see if they need a refresher course anyway.

"Sometimes I will call a client and find out that they are about to participate in a simulation exercise or actually will need to use the system because of a nearby incident. If I'm available, I'll go to the exercise or event just to make sure everything goes smoothly," says Hall.

A recent example of this was the use of Reeves decontamination systems in the Department of Homeland Security's TOPOFF 4 exercise, which took place in Portland, Oregon from October 15-19 last year (see facing page). The exercise is considered the nation's premier terrorism preparedness exercise and coordinates the efforts of federal, state, territorial and local officials as part of a robust, full-scale simulated response to a multi-faceted threat.

However, Hall emphasizes that not all incidents involving decontamination are necessarily related to large scale terrorist or man-made disasters.

"Despite relatively recent world events, it is still hard to imagine that a major disaster might happen in your area," says Hall.

"But its best to be prepared. Even if you aren't party to a major event, you will need one or a few of these units in case of a high-way fuel spill or a pipeline break, where toxic gasses are spewing out and causing contamination among those in the vicinity."



Ret. Army Medic Ken Hall trains hospital personnel during a decon demonstration in Boise, Idaho.

Oregon National Guard Deploys Reeves During TOPOFF 4 Exercise

FROM OCTOBER 15 - 19, 2007 THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD supported first responders during one of the country's biggest terrorism exercises to be staged nationally.

The exercise, known as TOPOFF 4 allowed local, state and federal agencies to test their abilities to respond to a staged terrorist attack.

The exercise began locally when a simulated bomb exploded in north Portland, OR. The 102nd Civil Support Team, Army National Guard, then coordinated with the Incident Command System (ICS) and provided Hazardous Materials expertise when the training scenario determined the explosion to be a "dirty bomb" containing radioactive material. ICS integrated the Oregon National Guard Joint Task Force (JTF) with civilian agencies, such as the police, fire department, Red Cross, FBI and Environmental Protection Agency, in order to communicate and combine efforts.

During the exercise "patients" were screened for radiation and guided into Reeves hospital shelters for treatment.

The multi-agency exercise was staged in Oregon, Arizona and Guam and signified the fourth time that it was held since the drill was established by the Clinton Administration and Congress.



A JTF member marks a "victim" for further treatment inside a Reeves decontamination shelter.

ADDRESS CHANGE

As of March 1, 2008, Reeves will move all operations to its 1704 7th Street address in Frederick, Maryland. Please send all mail correspondence to **Reeves EMS, LLC, 1704 7th Street, Frederick, Maryland 21704**. The company's phone number, email and website address will remain 800.328.5563, info@reevesems.com and www.reevesems.com.

State DPH Responds to Local Health Care Center Crisis Using Latest Technology in Mobile Field Hospitals

ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) responded to aid a nursing home last week to protect the safety of residents after the facility experienced a malfunction with its heating system. A boiler problem in the early morning at the West Rock Health Care Center in New Haven resulted in a catastrophic failure of the heating system. Nobody was injured in the incident and the facility was not evacuated.

Electrical space heaters were used to warm the facility overnight to maintain comfortable temperatures for residents. The next morning, the DPH, at the

request of West Rock Health Care Center and the New Haven Fire Department, deployed two portable DRASH heating units and a supporting generator from the Otilie W. Lundgren Memo-

rial Field Hospital to provide the center with heat while the heating system was repaired. As a safety precaution, twelve carbon monoxide (CO) monitors were

installed throughout the facility. As an added measure of safety the facility was also monitored by personnel from the New Haven Fire Department.

"State public health officials

"Once again, use of the state's mobile hospital shows how it is a key asset to our level of preparedness and ability to quickly respond to health emergencies anywhere in the state."

—CT Governor M. Jodi Rell

quickly deployed assets from the mobile hospital to ensure the safety of residents at West Rock," stated Governor M. Jodi Rell. "Once again, use of the state's

mobile hospital shows how it is a key asset to our level of preparedness and ability to quickly respond to health emergencies anywhere in the state."

The Otilie W. Lundgren Memorial Field Hospital is a mobile hospital that was purchased from Reeves EMS as part of the state's overall preparedness efforts. The hospital is transportable and has the ability to provide safe shelter and medical care in the event of an emergency. In its full capacity, the mobile hospital can hold up to 100 hospital beds and is able to support medical equipment necessary to treat patients during a large-scale event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the Reeves EMS booth at these upcoming events:

FireRescue East

January 25 - 26, 2008, Jacksonville, Florida

Public Health Preparedness Summit

February 19 - 23, 2008, Atlanta, Georgia

Int'l Disaster Management Conference

March 16 - 18, 2008, Nashville, Tennessee

EMS Today Conference

March 15 - 29, 2008, Baltimore, Maryland

National Hurricane Conference

April 1 - 4, 2008, Orlando, Florida

FDIC

April 8 - 12, 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana



ABOUT REEVES EMS

For more than 100 years the Reeves name has been synonymous with quality emergency medical products and accessories. The company's current product line includes fully-operational rapidly deployable emergency treatment facilities; command and control shelters and trailers; decontamination shelters, suits and accessories; patient movement equipment, disaster consulting services; and gear bags. Reeves EMS mass casualty systems have been deployed as part of the U.S. Homeland Defense initiative to terrorist incident locations and in disaster recovery situations. Additionally, a large number of mobile medical decontamination systems have also been sent to emergency response organizations in the United States and around the world, including departments of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Reserve; state, county and local government entities; U.S. corporate entities; and international companies. The company's employees work primarily out of its two facilities in Frederick, Maryland, where Reeves manufactures its decontamination products and emergency medical equipment. To find out more about the company and its products, visit www.reevesems.com, send us an email at info@reevesems.com or contact a customer representative at 800.328.5563.

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1704 7th Street
Frederick, MD 21704
800.328.5563, www.reevesems.com