

CDC Creates Training Video on Radiological Decontamination of Decedents

There is no such thing as zero radioactivity. Not only is the entire world constantly bombarded by cosmic rays, every living creature naturally contains certain quantities of radiation. Like many things, small amounts of radiation pose little risk. However, large amounts of radiation can cause long-lasting, detrimental effects.

Unfortunately, in a technologically advanced world, the more obvious sources of radiation contaminants, such as a nuclear weapon or power plant, are not the only culprits that can cause radiation-induced death or serious complications. Any large-scale event involving the release of radioactive materials, such as a dirty bomb or even a hospital nuclear pharmacy accident can be blamed for numer-

a risk of cross contamination among healthcare personnel, law enforcement officials and ultimately the victims' families.



Above: Removing personal items from contamination "victim." Below: Ready the Outdoor Isolation Shelter for filming.

From September 26-29, 2006, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) joined with the New York City Medical Examiner's Office to create a training video on handling radiation-contaminated decedents.

The video is based on the CDC's "Guidelines for Handling Decedents Contaminated with Radioactive Materials" written by Frank DePaolo, the assistant director for Disaster Preparedness of the NYC Medical Examiner's Office and Health Physicist Charles M. Wood, of the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The contents for the 'Guidelines' were determined after the CDC hosted a roundtable in Atlanta in 2004 to review issues that should be addressed about this problem," says Mr. DePaolo. Participants at the roundtable included a wide variety of professionals including leading radiation health physicists, morticians, medical examiners and coroners.

Once the paper was put together, the CDC decided to develop a training video on the topic. Both the video and the Guidelines take the medical examiner or coroner through a step-by-step process that detail those procedures that should be followed at the incident scene, upon removal of the decedents from the incident scene, inside the morgue, inside the funeral home, and during burial.

"The idea is to decontaminate decedents enough to return them safely to their loved ones," says Mr. DePaolo.

To shoot the video, the team set up a radiologically-controlled area inside a Reeves Outdoor Isolation Shelter. This allowed trainers to emphasize the importance of maintaining a controlled area for safety briefing and radiation monitoring. The shelter was also the site for a temporary morgue where the examiner could show the procedure for examining the bodies, removing all personal items, and readying the decedent for decontamination.

"We were very grateful to Reeves for providing this type of support," said Mr. DePaolo. "Reeves has never said 'no' to any of our requests for support dating back to the Republican National Convention in August of 2004 where they deployed an entire decontamination system to support our medical examiner operations."

Mr. DePaolo says that, although there is no special funding for this project, the New York City Medical Examiner's Office has been glad to support the CDC on the development of this video.

The CDC plans to distribute the training video to law enforcement officials, medical examiner's offices, coroners and other healthcare providers across the country shortly.

The CDC's "Guidelines for Handling Decedents Contaminated with Radioactive Materials" will be distributed through the CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR).

To sign up to receive the *Report*, visit www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

"The idea is to decontaminate decedents enough to return them safely to their loved ones."

Frank DePaolo, NYC Office of the Medical Examiner

ous radiation-related deaths. In a case where an incident results in a radioactively contaminated decedent, the key question is how to effect a decontamination process and safely return those decedents to their loved ones without incurring



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Biohazard Containment Units Hit Retail Shelves

In an era where rumors of Avian Flu fly faster than the virus itself and where anthrax has become a household name, companies are taking the initiative to create and hone products that can help mitigate a potential biohazard disaster.

At Reeves EMS, we know how important it is to keep airborne infectious agents from spreading among patients and caregivers. That is why our latest line of mobile biohazard containment systems combine the best in technological innovation to provide secure containment systems in the event of a biological disaster.



Reeves ISO-CHAMBER System

The Reeves ISO-CHAMBER System is an enclosed system that can be used to transport patients from an incident area, while guaranteeing that caregivers and the surrounding environment are kept free of biological pathogens. The chamber features eight, 4-inch re-sealable side access ports that allow oxygen and intravenous tubes to flow to the patient. Three DIN 40 thread filter access ports at both the foot and head of the chamber allow it to be connected to a 6 cfm blower and 6 NBC filters. Positioning the filters at the head and foot of the chamber, while placing the blower at the foot, creates a Negative Pressure System that filters incoming and outgoing air, protecting both the patient and the outside environment. The ISO-CHAMBER System exceeds CDC requirements of 12 air exchanges per hour for infectious isolation.



Reeves Outdoor Isolation System

The Reeves Outdoor Positive/Negative Pressure Isolation System fuses patented shelter technology with a technologically superior HEPA filtration systems to form a portable, all-weather solution to biological outbreak isolation. Providing from 85 to 559 square feet of usable isolation space, Reeves Outdoor Isolation Systems can hold up to fourteen patients at a time, and can be set up within minutes of arrival at the incident scene without using special tools or dealing with loose parts. The System comes with a biologically secure staff anteroom to allow for a donning and doffing area for medical personnel as they enter or exit a shelter. A window in the anteroom and windows on both sides of the shelter allow for viewing of patients without entering the isolation area. The two-ply, soft-walled shelter vinyl wall connected tightly to the shelter floor ensures thermal insulation as well as complete containment of any airborne infectious agents. An all-weather air purification system provides negative or positive air pressure maximum filtration for optimized air flow; ensures complete odor elimination; and meets all CDC requirements for infectious disease control.

Contact us at 800.328.5563 for more information about our newest isolation products.

Proper Packaging of Your Reeves Water Heating System

Reeves
EMS LLC
TIPS



If you plan to transport your Reeves Water Heater or any other large Reeves products, make sure that you save both the box and the skid.

The packaging that we use to ship our products is by far the best method to use for further shipments.

If you are unsure of how to transport existing product, or have already gotten rid of your packaging, call us at 800.328.5563 to speak to a customer service representative who will be happy to help you.

Quality Control Team Hold Record “No Return” Rate

Reeves employees Connie Degrange, Linda Windsor and Glenn Sharkey are no strangers to detail. Tasked with monitoring the high quality standards that Reeves customers have come to expect of their products, the sewers quality control team is kept consistently busy checking and rechecking every item that is shipped out of the company each day.

Products that go through the inspector’s hands include well-known Reeves items such as stretchers, bags and vests to such diverse items such as Humvee satellite tracking device covers and insulation ducts for Alaskan Shelters.

All goods are inspected for material flaws,



“We are all very aware how important it is to make sure our products are defect free because they save lives.”

- QC Inspector Connie Degrange

usability, stitching, binding and workmanship. If a particular product does not pass inspection, it is sent back to the production line for repair.

“Our operators are very conscientious about making sure that they do their job correctly,” says Sewing Plant Manager Joe Bleach.

“They do good work and most of the time the quality control team does not need to send anything back.”

From the customer perspective, the team holds a near perfect record on customer returns. Connie, who has been with Reeves for more than five years, says that she remembers only one incident when an item was ever returned.

One of the more challenging item to inspect has traditionally been the Reeves Sleeve.

“It has so many different compartments, buckles and handles that it takes the most time to look over,” says Connie. “But, we take our time with it, since we are all very aware how important it is to make sure our products are defect free because they save lives.”



Above: Glenn Sharkey inspects a Reeves Stretcher. Below Left and Right: Connie Degrange and Linda Windsor inspect Reeves Sleeves.



Internalizing Customer Service



Customer Service and Human Resources Manager Judy Hulburt has been with the Company for 3-1/2 years. Judy was nominated for this interview in the Insider because of her conscientious and personable customer interaction.

Insider: Describe for me what you do?

Judy: “I help customers with shipments and any problems, take orders over the phone. I am also in charge of all billing and human resources.”

Insider: With whom do you have the most regular interaction?

Judy: “I speak a lot with our distributors to make sure that they know when items are being shipped out and what is being shipped out.”

Insider: Where did you work before coming to Reeves?

Judy: “I held various positions ranging from payroll to hardware/software contracting with the Hewlett Packard Company for 21 years.”

Insider: What is the strangest phone call you have ever received?

Judy: “I once got a call from someone in Arizona who wanted to purchase a pastel colored body bag. It seems that the contents of dark colored bags do not do very well under the hot desert sun.”

Insider: What is the best part of your job?

Judy: “The customer service. I love interacting with people and solving problems. I really enjoy helping our customers and making things as easy as possible for them. I love the products. I also love working with our employees.”

ABOUT REEVES EMS

Reeves EMS manufactures, sells and services a full line of emergency medical products and accessories, including fully-operational rapidly deployable emergency treatment facilities; command and control shelters and trailers; decontamination shelters, suits and accessories; patient movement equipment; and gear bags.

Reeves EMS has been in business since 1902 when James E. Reeves, a Philadelphia firefighter, filed a patent application for a flexible stretcher product, which was assigned to Philadelphia textile company A. Smith & Sons in 1903. The Reeves® mark was filed in March 1903, and has been in continuous use and incorporated into multiple patents since that date. In 1992, the company's name was changed to Reeves Manufacturing, Inc. and in January 2005, to Reeves Emergency Management Systems, LLC, following its purchase by DHS Technologies LLC. Currently, the company's employees work primarily out of its two facilities in Frederick, Maryland, where Reeves manufactures its decontamination products and emergency medical equipment.

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, such as Ciba Geigy and Westinghouse; and international companies, such as British Petroleum in the United Kingdom and Eugene Medica in Taiwan.

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 representative at 800-328-5563.

The EMS Insider is published for Reeves EMS clients and associates. Subscription requests or comments about the content of this newsletter may be sent to Naeran Rubio, 845-359-6066, ext. 174 or editor@drash.com. The newsletter is also available as a downloadable pdf at www.reevesdecon.com/newsletter.html.

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