

Vector: Biological Evidence Exploitation Workshop and Anti-smuggling BioTerrorism Operation

In general, CBRNE teams have good capabilities in terms of chemical and radiological response but are not equipped to respond to a bioterrorism threat or event. The Evidence Exploitation workshop is specifically designed to help overcome this vulnerability. The workshop covers counter-measures, tools and resources, and is linked to a real-time operation on the ground in order to improve the collection of vital evidence related to a bioterrorism scene.

This operational exercise follows the Biological Evidence Exploitation course, allowing CBRNE teams and operational police to put their newly acquired skills and knowledge into practice with the aim of identifying and deterring the smuggling of biological agents, materials and equipment. The operating model follows an integrated, multi-agency approach.

Live Agent: Bioterrorism Operational Response Exercise

This four-day course, which comprises a one-day live exercise, provides law enforcement and other relevant agencies with an opportunity to play out, in real time, their preparedness and response to a deliberate attack involving a biological agent. It includes sessions on biological agents, command and control of a bioterrorism scene, forensic evidence collection, risk assessment and recovery. The live exercise is aimed at law enforcement officers within counter-terrorism with established specialist CBRNE units, and involves representatives from border police and health agencies along with intelligence and investigative officers.

RESOURCES

Training videos

The following training videos can be viewed online at:

- www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/CBRNE/Bioterrorism

Or by visiting the INTERPOL YouTube channel and searching by title:

- www.youtube.com/interpol
- Basic Biosafety Training (in English)
- Formation en matière de sécurité biologique (en français)
- CBRNE Biological Crime Scene Training
- Personal Protective Equipment Training – Level C

Publications

- Handbook - Bioterrorism Incident, Pre-Planning and Response Guide (BIRG)
- INTERPOL Biological Threat Classification Chart

ABOUT INTERPOL

Connecting police for a safer world

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 192 member countries. Our role is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place. Our high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support helps meet the growing challenges of fighting crime in the 21st century.

Only through international cooperation can police hope to tackle today's criminals. We work to ensure that police around the world can instantly share and access the relevant data necessary to assist their investigations through secure communications channels. We facilitate police cooperation even when diplomatic relations do not exist between particular countries, in line with INTERPOL's objective of political neutrality.

The targeted training, expert investigative support and global networks offered by INTERPOL help police on the ground to coordinate their efforts to make the world a safer place.



INTERPOL

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INTERPOL



BIOTERRORISM PREVENTION PROGRAMME



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THE THREAT OF BIOTERRORISM

The threat from bioterrorism – the malicious use of bacteria, viruses or toxins to threaten or cause harm to humans, animals or agriculture – is growing, with many terrorist groups demonstrating an interest in obtaining or using biological material as weapons. This threat has become more apparent with many countries increasing their preparedness in areas of biosecurity, biosafety, critical infrastructure response and biorisk mitigation.

What INTERPOL is doing

At INTERPOL, our dedicated Bioterrorism Prevention Unit is engaged in a number of projects designed to reduce the threat of a terrorist act where biological material is used as a weapon.

A major part of our programme is the facilitation of targeted training for law enforcement agencies on how to prevent, prepare and respond to a bioterrorist attack. Courses include capacity building workshops and table-top exercises which serve not only to establish collaboration on national and regional levels but also to promote a multi-agency approach. One of the major benefits is the strengthening of cooperation among law enforcement bodies and other sectors – for example, public health and academia – making it easier to share information, establish common practices and coordinate joint responses.

In addition to compiling and distributing intelligence reports, our specialized staff conduct assessments of country or regional needs and offer operational support for law enforcement activities on the ground.

TARGETED SUPPORT



Biosecure: Bioterrorism Risks and Controls Workshop

This four-day workshop provides law enforcement officers with a risk assessment of current biological threats related to global terrorism and technological vulnerabilities, including dual-use research and the impact of the Darknet on law enforcement operations. It provides insight into global terrorism trends and threats, implications of natural disease outbreaks, and the advancements of biotechnology and IT technology. It also incorporates a mock bioterrorism crime scene to demonstrate risk assessment and response techniques.

Oleander: Multi-agency Coordination Table-Top Exercise

The aim of this exercise is to build on existing law enforcement capabilities by testing the coordination between key national agencies – including law enforcement, customs, immigration, health and policy makers – during a simulated bioterrorism incident. This three-day exercise is effective at trialling newly established policies and procedures and identifying national gaps.

Pandora: Countering Bioterrorism Activities on the Darknet Workshop and Operational Exercise

This four-day Bioterrorism Cybercrime Workshop and Operational Exercise aims to increase the capability of police investigators and intelligence analysts working in the area of cybercrime, organized crime and counter terrorism, to detect triggers and indicators of potential criminal activity related to the access, purchase and illegal distribution of biological materials and equipment. Pandora is a global response to counter the illicit use of the darknet to acquire; transfer or smuggle biological material, weapons and information related to bioterrorism.

Bioterrorism Risk Management at the Borders workshop

Bringing together national law enforcement, customs, immigration and other border officials, this four-day interactive workshop is designed to reduce the risk at borders. The workshop is facilitated under Project Petrichor which identifies national and regional vulnerabilities at border locations and assists countries to develop strategies to prevent, detect and respond to deliberate acts of bioterrorism.

RHINO: Epidemic Outbreak Response for Law Enforcement

RHINO refers to **R**esponse capability, **H**azard assessment, **I**nfection control, **N**ational coordination and **O**rganization change. While biological response teams are primarily concerned by the risk of a deliberate bioterrorist attack, they can also respond to a natural outbreak of disease. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa is a recent example. The Bioterrorism Prevention Unit worked with those countries affected through a project known as Rhino. Activities included gap analysis, hazard assessment, infection control, national coordination and operational change. The aim was to assist national law enforcement agencies to assess their capabilities and develop action plans for improved coordination and response to potential biological incidents or attacks.

TRACE: Evidence Collection Workshop

TRACE refers to **T**hink, **R**espond, **A**nalyse, **C**ommunicate and **E**valuate which underline key aspects of a successful operational response to a biological attack and the steps that lead to effective evidence collection. This four-day Bioterrorism Evidence Collection Workshop aims to provide awareness and critical skill enhancement, through simulated scenarios, relating to the deliberate use of biological pathogen, interagency collaboration and international deployment of health practitioners.