



Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center
Fire, Hazardous Materials and Emergency Medical Service
Fire, Haz Mat, and EMS
Intelligence Bulletin

August 2009

This Material is Fire and EMS Sensitive and can not be shared with the general public or the media. Further dissemination in whole to Fire and EMS personnel is authorized. Any extracts or further dissemination outside authorized elements must be cleared by the originating authority. A portion of the material contained in this bulletin is comprised of information received by the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line, as well as information received directly from the FBI JTTF and GISAC. Topical open source reporting is included and cited appropriately. **As a Reminder! Please, be alert to your surroundings and report anything you see that is out of place or suspicious to the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line at 1-877-428-5324.**

Special Reports

(U) New Drug Protects From Nuclear or Dirty Bomb Radiation

(U) A news article from July 18, 2009 highlights a new medication has been developed which reportedly can protect people exposed to normally lethal doses of radiation from a nuclear or a "dirty" bomb.



The article cited tests involving 650 monkeys exposed to radiation equivalent to that recorded during the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster in 1986, 70 per cent died while the rest suffered serious maladies, the newspaper Yediot Achronot said yesterday.

Of the group given anti-radiation shots, almost all survived and had no side effects. A test on humans not exposed to radiation showed none suffered side effects from the medication. The medication was developed by Andrei Gudkov, chief scientific officer at Cleveland BioLabs in the US. Also involved was Israel's Elena Feinstein.

The medication has important implications in the treatment of cancer, the report said, since it permits use of more powerful radiation. If the medication is given final approval by the Food and Drug Administration, which Dr Gudkov said would happen within two years, it could have a strategic impact, particularly for nations threatened with nuclear attack. Among the major fears in the West is not nuclear attack but "dirty bombs", which kill mostly by radiation.

The idea was conceived in 2003 by using protein produced in bacteria found in the intestine to protect cells from radiation. "The medication works by suppressing the 'suicide mechanism' of cells hit by radiation," the newspaper said, "while enabling them to recover from the radiation-induced damages that prompted them to activate the suicide mechanism in the first place." The medication is a preventative drug administered by one or several doses.

Source: The Australian

Special Reports continued

(U) DHS Certifies Handheld Biodetection Kits For Counter-Terrorism

(U) A recent National Terror Alert article featured the announcement from Universal Detection Technology about a new product which could save lives.

Universal Detection Technology, a developer of early-warning monitoring technologies to protect people from bioterrorism and other infectious health threats and provider of counter-terrorism consulting and training services, reported that its handheld Biodetection kits have been certified by the Department of Homeland Security as an “Approved Product for Homeland Security” under the Support Anti-terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies (SAFETY) Act of 2002.



The SAFETY Act provides incentives for the development and deployment of anti-terrorism technologies by creating a system of “risk management” and a system of “litigation management.” The purpose of the act is to ensure that the threat of liability does not deter potential manufacturers or sellers of anti-terrorism technologies from developing and commercializing technologies that could save lives.

The handheld detection kits have been extensively used by first responders and private industry throughout the country. The equipment has been evaluated by the U.S. DOD, as well as by the United Kingdom military.

The equipment’s capacities feature the following:

- No cross-reactivity with near neighbor strains
- No cross-reactivity to household powders
- No set up time
- No expensive reader needed
- No decontamination requirements
- No false positives
- No false negatives
- No hook effect

“The size and ease of use of these kits makes them ideal for emergency situations where time is of the essence,” says Jacques Tizabi, UNDT’s Chief Executive Officer. “UNDT’s kits are some of the most user friendly and accurate products currently on the market.”

Source: National Terror Alert article on July 19, 2009

Fire Liaison: GISAC does not endorse any product. This topical open source reporting is included to illustrate the various available equipment and products used for Biological detection.

Special Reports continued...

(U) Homeland Security Secretary Discusses Security Plans



Reuters – Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano speaks to the media with New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg

(U) A recent Reuters article covered the announcement U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano made on July 29, 2009. In the announcement, Secretary Napolitano called for more public participation to guard against terrorist threats, part of the Obama administration's strategy to keep the country safe.

The strategy involves cooperation of local law enforcement, the federal government and U.S. allies along with ordinary Americans in a collective fight, she said in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations.

The country's counter-terror approach needs to be "more layered, networked and resilient to make it smarter, and more adaptive," her prepared text said. Napolitano called for civic awareness and involvement.

"For too long, we've treated the public as a liability to be protected rather than an asset in our nation's collective security," she said.

"You are the ones who know if something is not right in your communities, such as a suspicious package, or unusual activity," she said. "We have a much greater chance at success if we strengthen our own networks by enlisting the talents and energies of all Americans."

She cited the vulnerability of the country's cyber-network, critical to power grids, the infrastructure and commerce. Technological advances since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon have created new vulnerabilities. Meanwhile, the enemy had also evolved.

"The terror threat is even more decentralized, more networked, and more adaptive than on 9/11," she said. "We face a networked enemy, and we must meet it with a networked response."

Also on Wednesday, Napolitano announced \$78 million for new police officers for the country's transit systems. Some \$35 million, will go to New York and will provide for 125 new transit officers focused on terrorism.

"We can always use more boots on the ground because new York City does remain a prime target for terrorists," said New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg who joined Napolitano for the announcement at the city's Grand Central Station.

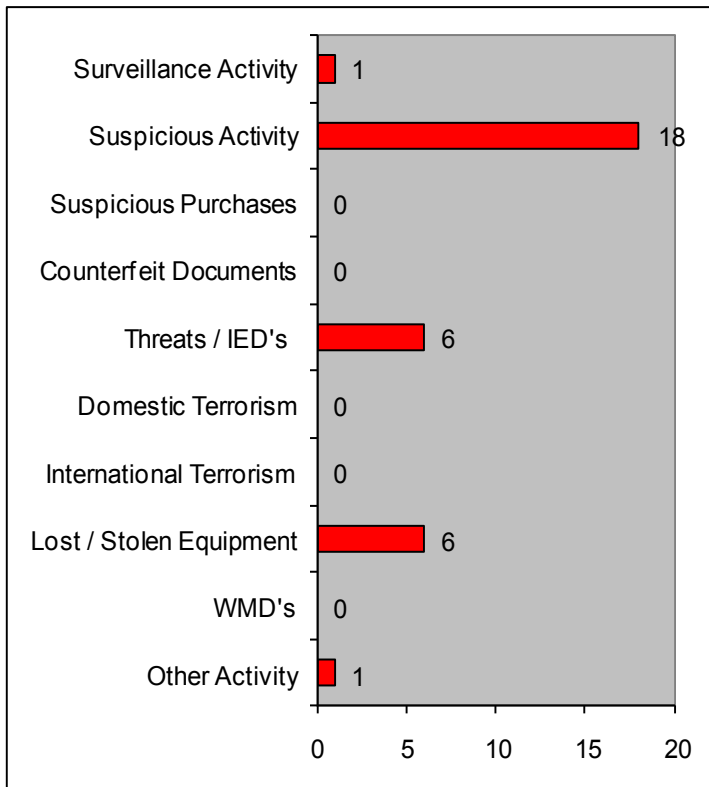
Source: Reuters

Leads

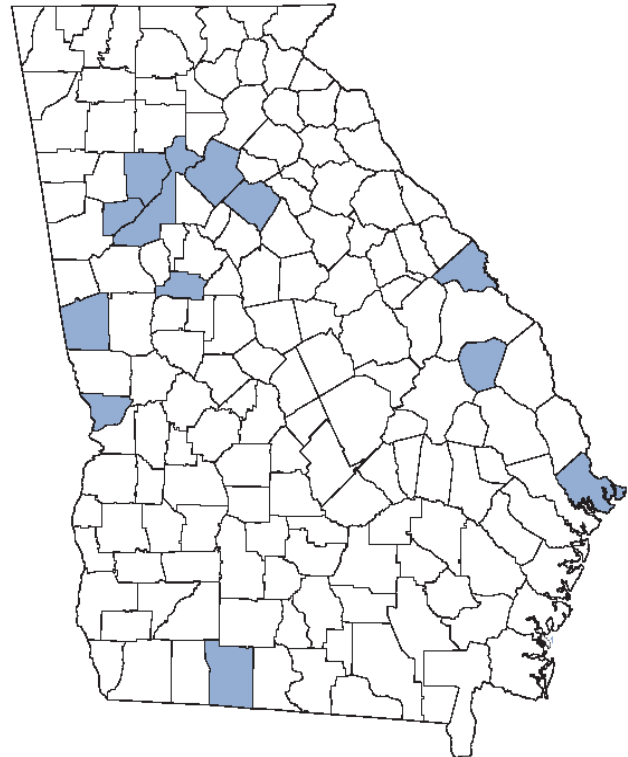
Below is a representation of leads reported to the Atlanta FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (AT FBI JTTF) and the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC). The material contained in this bulletin is comprised of information received by the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line, as well as information received directly from the AT FBI JTTF and GISAC. Information is documented by the FBI in the Guardian Threat Tracking System, FBI's lead tracking system, and GTIP, GISAC and Metro Atlanta's lead tracking system.

(U/FOUO/LES) 07-03-09 - 07-31-09:

Total Leads by Activity



Counties with Reported Lead Activity



Fire Liaison:

This page is included in the Fire Bulletin in order to illustrate the critical function of the tip line. In all, 32 leads were reported and the appropriate action was taken to develop or clear each one. Please continue your efforts and be sure to contact GISAC via the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line at 1-877-428-5324. It is only through a joint effort that terrorism can be stopped.

Leads of Interest

(U//FOUO) Student Makes Threatening Statements Concerning America

(U//FOUO) In July 2009, a student at a technical college in Metro-Atlanta made concerning and derogatory statements to a professor about his disgust for the United States and belief that the country will soon fall. The professor reported the incident to the Chief of the campus police who notified Law Enforcement authorities. The student was identified and found to have been the subject of a previous tip which was similar in nature but from a different reporting source. The previous tip included the claim that the subject had bomb making materials. The previous tip also stated that the subject had a Commercial Driver's License with a haz-mat endorsement, but had no known need for one. As a result of the multiple tips, an investigation was opened by Law Enforcement and is ongoing.

Source: Law Enforcement

(U//FOUO) Subject Reportedly Made Threats About Chemical Weaponry

(U//FOUO) In July 2009, a subject called Federal Law Enforcement authorities from a mountain state concerning his former roommate. The subject stated that three weeks prior, his former roommate made a threat to, "make a chemical weapon." The identified subject who made the threat is a bio-chemist and has since moved from the mountain state to the coastal region of Georgia. Law Enforcement is investigating this reported threat.

Source: Law Enforcement

(U//FOUO) Incidents of Hoax Bomb Devices

(U//FOUO) In July 2009, two metro bus system employees reported finding two golf cart batteries by a metro transit station. One battery was placed under the third rail of the tracks and another by the catwalk area of the station. A fence nearby appeared as though it had been tampered with. Anyone with information about this incident should contact GISAC via the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line at 1-877-428-5324.

Source: Law Enforcement

(U//FOUO) In July 2009, a state employee noticed a duffel bag and paint cans located beside Interstate 85 near an overpass. When the employee lifted the bag, he saw what appeared to be an explosive device containing long cylinders held together with tape. Law Enforcement authorities responded to the scene. Bomb technicians were able to take x-ray images and schematics of the device before rendering it safe. The device was found to contain NO explosives. Law Enforcement has opened a full investigation into this incident and requests anyone with information or similar incidents to report to the Georgia Terrorism Tip Line.

Fire Liaison: While the hoax device contained no explosive material, the incident is of significant concern to law enforcement. The placement of the hoax device near a transportation route suggests an added threat to critical infrastructure and public safety.

Source: Law Enforcement

Leads of Interest continued...

(U//FOUO) Weapons and Extremist Literature Found Incident to Arrest

(U//FOUO) In July, 2009, A County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from Federal Law Enforcement authorities with a search warrant on a private residence. The home owner had been arrested on state charges as a result of an investigation into a scheme to solicit sex from a minor over the internet. A search of his residence yielded dozens of firearms, ammunition and a small box of promotional material from the National Alliance. No other extremist literature or paraphernalia was found and the home owner did not affiliate himself with any white supremacist groups during initial interviews with law enforcement. This investigation is ongoing.

(U) Analyst Note: The National Alliance (NA) is a radical, white separatist group who were once the largest and most active neo-Nazi organizations in the U.S. The National Alliance appeals to a wider range of followers than most hate groups with members from all age ranges and socioeconomic levels. The group's former steward, William Pierce was the author of The Turner Diaries, a novel calling for the violent overthrow of the federal government and the systematic killing of Jews and nonwhites in order to establish an "Aryan" society. While the group has experienced significant dissension over the past decade, NA propaganda and works such as The Turner Diaries have influenced many to commit acts of violence in the past.

Fire Liaison: Leads of this nature are included in the Fire and EMS bulletin to illustrate the criminal and possibly terroristic activities ongoing throughout the state. They should serve to remind you that as first responders, your tips and lead reporting can mitigate threats that law enforcement may not yet be aware of. No matter how small or seemingly inconsequential something may seem, reporting can significantly help to prevent acts of terrorism. The Georgia Terrorism Tip Line is your link to report any suspicious activates you may see. All tips and leads are properly addressed and investigated by law enforcement.

Source: Law Enforcement

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) receives surveillance reports through a variety of mechanisms. By law, Georgia physicians, hospitals, laboratories, and other health care providers are required to report patients with designated conditions to their county, district, or state health department. This ensures that appropriate follow up and control measures can be initiated. For example, a private physician may phone the health department immediately upon diagnosing a patient with Hepatitis A so that case contacts can be identified and offered preventative immune globulin.

In addition, **clusters** of disease (individuals with similar symptoms linked in space and time) are also considered reportable to the health department, even prior to having a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis. This allows rapid epidemiological investigation to determine common exposures and to identify the potential source so that further spread can be stopped. GDPH may also receive surveillance reports from local health departments, other state agencies such as the Department of Corrections or the Department of Education, federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or even private citizens.

Public health surveillance data may hold great importance for public safety partners because virtually any infectious agent could be used in a bioterrorist attack. In the past, common bacteria such as *Salmonella* and *Shigella* have been used in the United States to intentionally cause disease. Therefore, even outbreaks of common diseases may reflect a terrorist event. As such, public health surveillance systems are designed to capture information about common diagnoses, uncommon diagnoses, unusual clusters, and other health indicators in a community. These systems are dual-purpose in that they can identify both bioterrorism events and naturally occurring illness clusters, such as influenza or food borne disease. **Listed below is a brief summary of surveillance reports and outbreak investigations conducted by GDPH during July 2009 in collaboration with other health agencies and community partners.**

Response to Pandemic H1N1 Influenza in Georgia

Conducted surveillance for and provided laboratory confirmation of human infections with pandemic H1N1 influenza A virus in Georgia. In accord with recent WHO and CDC recommendations, individual H1N1 case counts will no longer be reported, but the numbers of hospitalizations and deaths due to pandemic H1N1 infections will be reported in aggregate. To date, there have been 38 hospitalizations and 1 death due to pandemic H1N1 infections in Georgia.

Response: Developed testing guidance for healthcare providers; collected specimens for laboratory confirmation; conducted epidemiologic investigation for cases, including recommendations for case isolation and control measures; evaluated infection control practices in healthcare settings; considered use of antiviral treatment and/or prophylaxis when appropriate.

Outbreaks of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) in Camp or Institutional Settings

Investigation and follow up for 22 outbreaks of influenza-like illness (due to novel H1N1 Influenza A infection) in camp and institutional settings. Outbreaks of ILI occurred in camps or institutional settings in Bulloch, Chatham, Cobb, Henry, Lowndes, Lumpkin, Pickens, Rabun, Union, and White Counties.

Response: Conducted epidemiologic investigation of camp outbreaks; in camp settings, recommended that campers and staff be screened for influenza-like illness prior to arrival at camp and that persons with influenza-like illness at camp remain cohorted or isolated for 7 days; provided education about hygiene to reduce spread; considered use of antiviral treatment and/or prophylaxis when appropriate.

Outbreak of Respiratory Virus Infections at a Research Facility

Investigation and follow up for an outbreak of human metapneumovirus (hMPV) infections among both animals and their caretakers at a research facility in Georgia. Human metapneumovirus was identified for the first time in 2001 and is a viral pathogen that causes acute respiratory tract infections of varying severity.

Response: Collected clinical specimens from both animals and humans for laboratory confirmation at the Georgia Public Health Laboratory; conducted additional case finding; administered a detailed questionnaire to ill persons to better characterize the clinical spectrum of infections; proposed a case-control epidemiologic study to determine risk factors for illness among staff members.

Follow up for Georgia Residents Possibly Exposed to Measles at a Conference in Massachusetts

Assisted the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in investigation and follow up for 4 Georgia residents possibly exposed to measles while attending an international educational conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during June 28 – July 5, 2009. This conference had 293 attendees, including visitors from 30 other countries.

Response: Contacted the conference attendees to inform them of the symptoms of measles (fever, cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, generalized rash beginning on the face and spreading to the rest of the body 2–4 days later); recommended that exposed persons who develop measles symptoms should contact their healthcare provider and the health department. NO secondary cases of measles were identified.

Suspect Botulism Case, Haralson County

Worked with CDC to conduct investigation and follow up for a suspect botulism case in a Haralson County toddler.

Response: Coordinated clinical consultation and laboratory testing with the CDC and the Georgia Public Health Laboratory (GPHL); interviewed patient and family to assess possible food exposures. All botulism tests were negative.

Cluster of *Legionella* Infections associated with a Cruise Ship

Worked with CDC to conduct investigation and follow up for a confirmed case of Legionnaire's Disease (due to infection with the bacterium *Legionella*) in a Georgia resident who had been on a pleasure cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Belize in the week prior to illness onset. A resident of Pennsylvania who had been on the same cruise ship was also diagnosed with Legionnaire's disease.

Response: Conducted active case finding; conducted hypothesis-generating interviews with the GA case to assess possible risk factors on the ship. Investigation is ongoing.

Possible Cluster of *Legionella* Infections associated with a Resort in North Georgia

Worked with CDC to conduct investigation and follow up for two laboratory-confirmed cases of Legionnaires' disease (both in residents of Florida) associated with overnight stays at a resort facility in Rabun County, Georgia during the last 14 months. *Legionella* outbreaks in these settings can be associated with water systems; the organism can be aerosolized via shower heads, fountains, hot tubs, etc.

Response: Conducted nationwide active case finding via an Epi-X posting; the District Health Office worked with the facility to assess possible risk factors; engineering improvements to the hot tub/water systems were initiated to prevent *Legionella* survival and growth. NO additional cases were identified.

Community *Shigella* Outbreak, Bulloch County

Investigation and follow up for an outbreak of diarrheal illness (due to *Shigella sonnei* infection) among 6 elementary school students in Bulloch County. *Shigella* is very easily transmitted from person-to-person.

Response: Collected stool specimens for laboratory confirmation at the Georgia Public Health Laboratory; provided education about hand hygiene to reduce spread; evaluated availability of handwashing materials and toilet facilities in the school facilities; recommended exclusion of ill children and staff members from the schools.

Follow up for Georgia Residents involved in a Multi-State Cluster of *Salmonella* Infections

Investigation and follow up for 7 Georgia residents involved in a multi-state cluster of *Salmonella* Mississippi infections possibly associated with peanuts and/or bird seed. To identify risk factors for illness, CDC is currently coordinating a multi-state investigation.

Response: Submission of *Salmonella* isolates to the Georgia Public Health Laboratory for molecular typing; conducted ongoing open-ended hypothesis-generating interviews.

Follow up for Georgia Resident involved in a Multi-State Cluster of *Salmonella* Typhimurium Infections

Investigation and follow up for a Georgia resident involved in a multi-state cluster of *Salmonella* Typhimurium infections possibly associated with exposure to reptiles. To identify risk factors for illness, CDC is currently coordinating a multi-state investigation.

Response: Conducted additional case finding; submission of *Salmonella* isolate to the Georgia Public Health Laboratory for molecular typing; conducted ongoing hypothesis-generating interviews.

Meningococcal Meningitis Case in a Correctional Facility, Walker County

Investigation and follow up for a case of meningococcal meningitis (due to infection with the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*) in an inmate at a correctional facility in Walker County.

Response: Coordinated with the District Health Office and the Georgia Department of Corrections to identify close contacts at risk of infection followed by administration of antibiotic prophylaxis; provided educational information about meningococcus and meningococcal vaccine to correctional staff. Antibiotic prophylaxis was offered to 230 inmates and correctional officers at the facility.

Meningococcal Meningitis Case in Gwinnett County

Investigation and follow up for a case of meningococcal meningitis (due to infection with the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*) in a resident of Gwinnett County.

Response: Coordinated with the District Health Office to identify close contacts at risk of infection followed by administration of antibiotic prophylaxis; provided educational information about meningococcal vaccine to healthcare providers and the public.