

**DECONTAMINATION OPERATIONS
FOR HOSPITAL FIRST RECEIVERS:
SUNY UPSTATE & BRIGHTON
TOWERS EVENT**

Lessons learned review
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Goals of Presentation

- Review SUNY Upstate existing hazmat/decon program capabilities
- Review action items and timelines regarding the multi-agency event.
- Discuss specific lessons learned from this event

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First Receiver Operations at Upstate

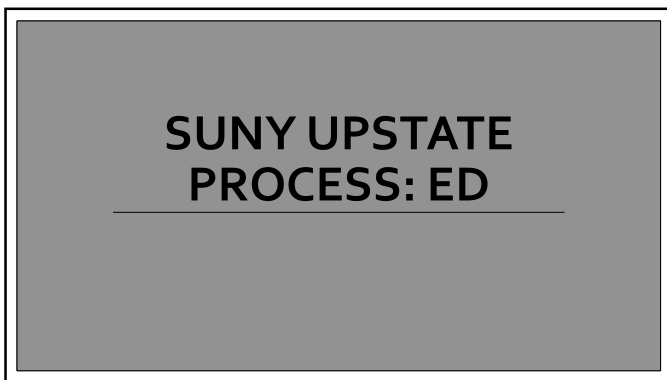
- Training Required
 - HCT
 - All ED RNS
 - ED Physicians (awareness level)
 - All Administrators on call – exercise yearly tabletop
- Resources available
 - Tent (at Community Campus)
 - Downtown 3 lane curtain system – fast deployment
 - Shower internal in EMS entrance for KNOWN chemicals

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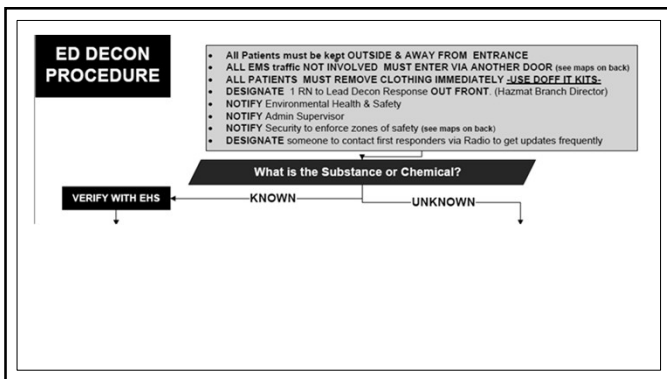
Historical Events

Since 2012	
Infrastructure Failure (water or power)	24
Infectious Disease	8
Hazmat Decon	13
Missing Patient (high risk)	10
Weather	2
Mass Casualty/ Patient Influx	6
Total	64

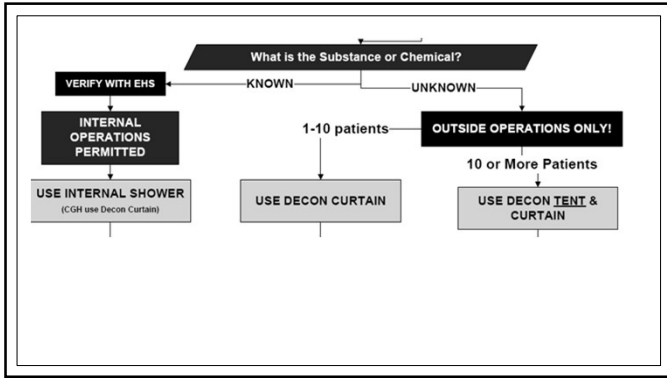
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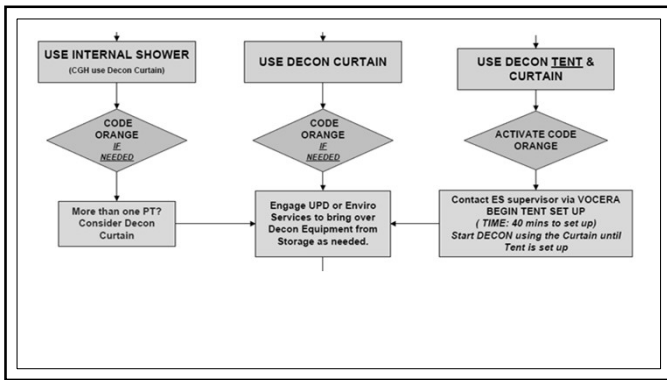
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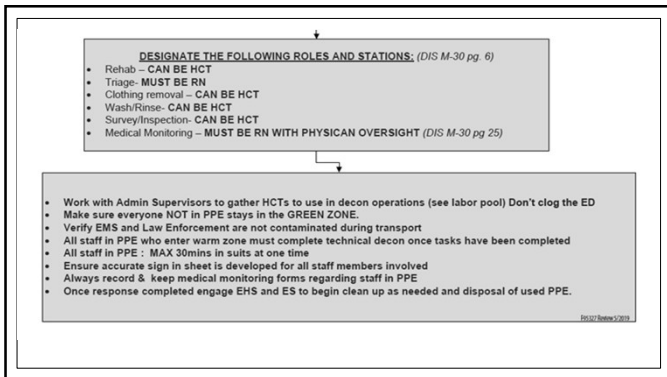
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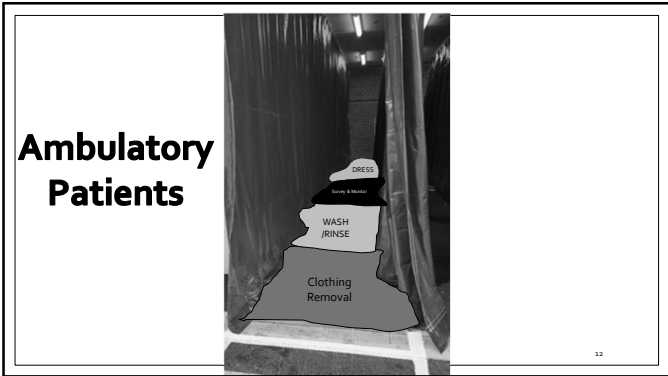
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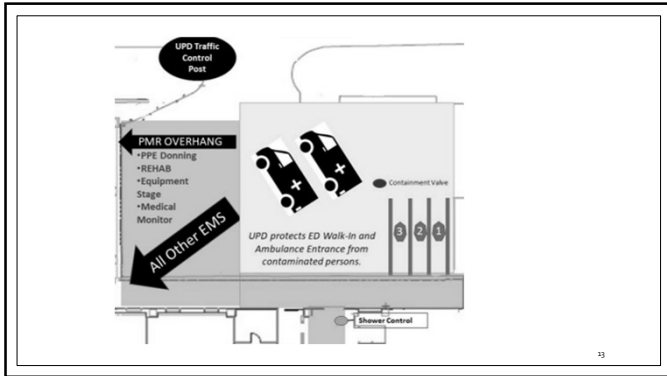
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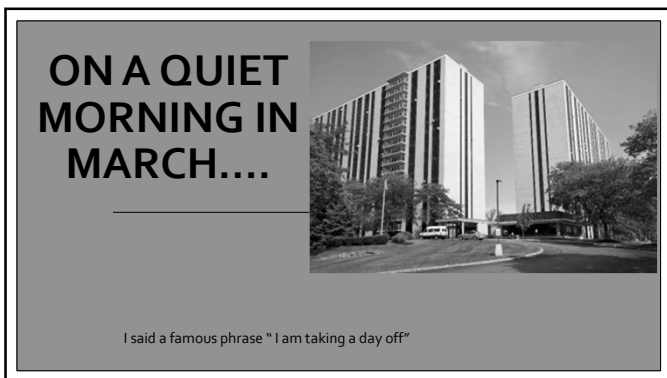
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At Brighton Towers the night before

- 2 males and a female were making illegal substances.
- Female went to bed around midnight
- 2 males stayed up to partake in substances
- Female got up in morning 6am and left for work. According to her both males were sleeping

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Timeline

10:30	Initial Call to dispatch for a request for ambulance. Caller reports a possible POA in apartment 609.
11:51	apt. 609 (incident apt.) secured, no additional personnel in or out.
11:54	SFD contact with Brighton tower staff, request's location to set up command post, requests tenant list for 6th floor.
11:55	Capt. expresses he is experiencing similar symptoms to SFD officers, Ordered to be evaluated - later transported to Upstate ED.
11:56	AMB has 3 ambulances on scene at this point, evaluating 3 SFD officers, and 1 SFD officer.
11:56	(approximate) SFD contacts SUNY Upstate Emergency Manager on cell phone (not official communications).
11:57	SFD HazMat company to respond.
11:57	SFD officer became symptomatic, had no exposure to interior of incident apartment, was brought down to be evaluated.
11:58	Area established as an isolation and triage area, all SFD members who were exposed to the incident apartment reported here for monitoring. Additional Ambulance was requested to the scene.
12:05	(approximate) Hazmat personnel begins to don level B PPE to prepare for entry.
12:08	SUNY Upstate ED placed on diversion.
12:09	SUNY Upstate activates Incident Command.
13:20	(approximate) At this point in the operation, additional command staff from SFD, Onondaga County EM, Upstate EM, Upstate Hospital PD rep, Onondaga County ME, were arriving and reporting to command post, all were briefed on their arrival and then were included in briefings moving forward as additional information was received.
13:40	(approximate) advised by C. Dunham that 3 upstate hospital staff were now symptomatic, ED on lockdown, determination made by SFD to evacuate all 6th floor apartments in tower.



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14:23	Hazmat Team 1 makes entry to incident apartment, Level B PPE.
14:43	Team 1 reports 2 attempts to analyze substance, no conclusive results yet, reports they are going to try with a secondary device to analyze substance.
14:53	HazMat teams 1 and 2 clear of building and clear of decon.
15:05	HazMat Team 1 reports air quality on 6th floor tower 1 monitoring was successful, meters did not pick up any known hazard/contaminants. Substances analyzed show trace amounts of various solvents, ingredients used in pesticides. No definitive hits on any known contaminants.
15:07	SUNY Upstate Incident Command Ended - ED off Diversion.
15:15	(approximate) Upstate EM personnel advised all affected emergency responders and ED personnel had symptoms resolve and were beginning to be discharged. Command made decision to begin decon of personnel in apt. 114 utilizing shower in apartment 114. Decontaminated personnel had uniforms and clothing bagged, and were provided clean coats to change into. All personnel in apt. 114 were evaluated one final time prior to being released.
15:39	Upstate EM reports Upstate ED is now reopen.
16:10	After confirming apt. 609 tower 1 was secured by SFD, command advised occupants were clear to return to all apartments with the exception of the incident apartment.
17:29	All SFR FD returned to service.



- 3,4-Diaminobenzoic acid is a compound that is produced by the condensation of two molecules of hydrochloric acid
- May be used for synthesizing various medicine and dye products

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The Good Stuff

- Upstate was asked to be present at the on-scene Incident Command Post by SFD
- The Incident Command team that was assembled was appropriate and included all stakeholders.
- Messaging was sent to hold staff in the event of a medical surge.
- The team adapted to ED construction barriers and provided a stable response.
- Excellent use of doff-it kits to remove a large portion of potential contaminate before entering Emergency Department
- Poison control contacted for consult for ED physicians

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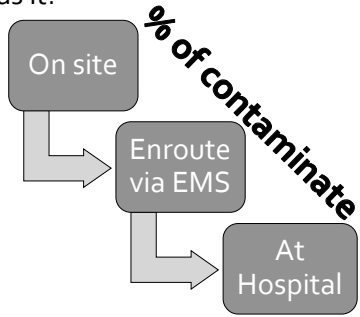
Areas for Improvement

- Identification needs to be a continuum based on information from the scene.
- EMS said "oh its fentanyl"
- Altered PPE from chemical suits/PAPRS to waterproof trauma gowns, N95 and face shields and gloves.
- Didn't use decon health assessment forms.
- AOCs thought zoom was instantly connected – no formal roles assigned
- Comms with ED from command. Radios could have helped?
- Clothing from decon victims not held as clear chain of custody for possible investigation. Placed in red bags. Set outside in common area.
- Lack of Ems doffing or rinse before arrival

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What was it?


- Fentanyl?
- Meth?
- Elephant Tranquilizer?
- Why did 3 Hospital Staff get sick?
- Why didn't the rest of the firefighters on scene experience symptoms? (14 holding in room at Towers)
- No other resident of towers complained of symptoms.
- No burns also no odors reported.
- No consistent respiratory symptoms (V/D) simply nausea.
- Female occupant of apartment self reported to St. Joes with zero symptoms and was released



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Ok so what happened?

- All Upstate personnel had medical events – COMPLETELY UNRELATED to the Decon event
- All SYR FD and POLICE were discharged that day.
- State Police & Syracuse fire retested the apartment and found that the substance was fentanyl cooked up with WD 40 and pesticides.

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Since this event....

- Increase participation in SFD on scene responses (long duration events)
- Increased training for physicians in the ED.
- Formalized process for inclusion of Poison Control Center
- More "no notice" ED decon exercises with EHS

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