

HOSPITAL DECON SITE SURVEY

BACKGROUND

Implementing and sustaining a resourceful emergency decontamination program is an ongoing challenge for many hospitals. Knowledge, skills and abilities wane over time if decontamination training and drilling is not conducted regularly.

Equipment purchased is often plentiful, but many hospitals are unsure of what they have or even how to use it properly. Much of this equipment sits in storage on shelves or in its original containers with varying expiration dates gone unnoticed. Management and staff turnover makes training provided a few years ago obsolete; lack of in-house training expertise only compounds the problem.

Emergency decontamination capability is required by several regulatory and accreditation bodies with new standards and regulations specific to hospitals. This onsite decon survey gives hospitals the guidance and understanding they need to proceed effectively.

OVERVIEW

The DQE Decon Site Survey is a comprehensive onsite evaluation of a hospital's emergency decontamination program. The goal of this survey is to ensure that response objectives are established and compatible with hospital resources. This assessment provides a hospital with a realistic path to become more organized and resourceful in response to emergencies involving contaminated victims.

PROCESS

The project is lead by a DQE consultant with wide-ranging expertise in emergency response, hospital-based patient decontamination, and regulatory compliance. The process is accomplished through remote data review of policies and procedures and onsite interviews, facility tour, equipment inspection, and meeting with key organizational stakeholders. The final product is a written report that highlights your organizations strengths and most importantly, contains recommendations that address identified areas needing improvement.

Recommendations are based on practical activities, published lessons learned, national standards, and anticipated return on investment, organized by order of priority. This report and its recommendations provide a hospital with a path to decontamination preparedness that is practical, sustainable and affordable.

Decon Site Survey Focus:

The survey process accomplishes the following tasks:

- Analyze existing decontamination plan and supporting policies and procedures
- Review training records and after action reports of recent drills to ensure compliance
- Ensure planning and preparedness efforts are consistent with hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA), funding and regulatory bodies, Joint Commission, and community expectations and activities
- Assess the designated decon area emphasizing the availability of utilities, storage, equipment and supplies, patient privacy, and patient/traffic flow patterns
- Inspect and inventory all decontamination equipment, personal protective gear, and support supplies
- Facilitate a forum with hospital leaders to establish readiness objectives, discuss perceived strengths and weaknesses, and to obtain buy-in from stakeholders