



HEALTH ALERT RESPONSE TEAM

TEXARKANA BOWIE COUNTY FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

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QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

06-30-04 Issue 1

Dear Volunteer:

Hello Everyone! We at the Texarkana Bowie County Family Health Center, Health Alert Response Team, would like to take the time to thank each and every one of you for volunteering to help our organization. Without outstanding citizens like you we would not exist. Also, we would like to introduce to you our Quarterly News Letter. These letters will be mailed to you on a quarterly basis to inform you of upcoming training, seminars, new web-sites to explore, and news concerning Bio-terrorism in our state. We hope you take advantage of the information and look forward to working with you at different times throughout the year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Gary Chaffin, Colleen Osterchill, Sheri Wade or Matt Windham at the above phone number. Again, thank you for all your support!!

WEB-SITES OF INTEREST:

www.txkusa.org/health This is our web-site.

www.bt.cdc.gov This is the Center for Disease Control web-site.

www.tdh.state.tx.us/bioterrorism This is Texas Department of Health.

DO YOU KNOW THE ANSWER???

(see back page for answer)

WHAT ARE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS?

ARTICLE FROM “HOMELAND DEFENSE JOURNAL”

Vol.2, Issue 4

WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD DO FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSION OF A DIRTY BOMB

RADIATION CANNOT be seen, smelled, felt or tasted by humans. Therefore, if people are present at the scene of an explosion from a suspected dirty bomb, they will not know if radioactive materials were involved at the time of the explosion. If people are not severely injured by the initial blast, they should:

Leave the immediate area on foot.

Do not panic.

Do not take public or private transportation such as buses, subways or cars because if radioactive materials were involved, they may contaminate cars or the public transportation system.

Go inside the nearest building. Staying inside will reduce exposure to any radioactive material from a dirty bomb that may be on dust at the scene.

Remove clothes as soon as possible, place them in a plastic bag, and seal it. Removing clothing will remove most of the contamination caused by external exposure to radioactive materials. Saving the contaminated clothing will allow testing for exposure without invasive sampling.

Take a shower or wash. Washing will reduce the amount of radioactive contamination on the body and will effectively reduce total exposure.

Be on the lookout for information. After emergency personnel can assess the scene and the damage, they will be able to tell people whether radiation was involved.

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE (SNS)

We have completed our 1st session of orientations for the warehouse volunteers. We had the following number of volunteers to attend.

Bowie County	5
Red River County	9
Cass County	9

We are supposed to have at least 10 volunteers from each county and would love to have more. We will be scheduling another orientation ASAP. As soon as we reach our 10 volunteers in each county and have each one go through the orientation we will then begin our training. Please help us to stress the importance of volunteering. If anyone should adopt a volunteer just direct them to our web-site for an application or contact one of us at the phone number above.

The Health Alert Response Team is working very hard on the dispensing side of this program. We are very much in need of licensed volunteers. (RN's, Doctors, LVN's, Pharmacist, etc.). We need to start orientations and training for our dispensing site volunteers ASAP. Please forward any of the above licensed people to our office for more information or contact us and we will make an appointment to visit with them. We also need paper pushers. These volunteers are very important also. So if you know anyone in the administrative field, please let us know.

EACH QUARTER WE WILL FEATURE A VOLUNTEER FROM EACH COUNTY-----



BOWIE COUNTY – JANANN QUINN

Hello everyone! My name is Janann Quinn. I was born in Texarkana, Arkansas and have lived her most of my life. I am a 1980 graduate of Arkansas High School. After graduation from high school, I attended Stephen F. Austin State University and Henderson State University completing approximately two years. I decided at that time to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves and served during Desert Storm. After 8 years of service, I came back home and went to work for Humco Holding Group where I worked my way up from a temporary line worker to shift supervisor. After 6 years, I resigned to work at Temple Inland Forest Products in Hope, Arkansas as a Statistical Process Control Technician. In August of 1997, I began my career at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital as Materials Manager and still serve in this capacity. When I am not working I enjoy playing with my three dogs, doing yard work, playing pool, and traveling. I am currently taking a home study course to become an Electronics Technician. So, as you can surmise from reading all this, I still haven't decided what I want to do when I grow up!!



RED RIVER COUNTY – OLIN “KYLE” RUSSELL

Born in Clarksville, June 12, 1938. Kyle left Red River County in 1968, returning last year to live where he spent most of his adolescence on his Grandparent Parchman’s old farm.

Though semi-retired, he is a certified VIP Housing Inspector by the Texas Department of Insurance. In addition, he is retail marketing representative, a member of the Box elder VFD and the Annona United Methodist Church. He is most active in the restoring of the church building and rebuilding of the congregation. Kyle has three children. Brad, a registered architect and engineer, Alice, a school teacher and Patrick, a doctor. Kyle says it is great to be back home and his neighbors are wonderful people



CASS COUNTY – LINDA HOWARD

I have been married to Jim Howard for 30 years. We have 2 sons and 2 daughters-in-love, 2 beautiful granddaughters and a third granddaughter expected to arrive the first week in August. Jim is the Pastor of West Side Baptist church in Atlanta and I am a Registered Nurse employed by Atlanta ISD. Because of our commitment to the gospel ministry, I have been very selective about what I have committed time and effort to. However, I have chosen to serve on the Cass County Child Protective Service Board for the past 15 years and work in the public school system for the past 22 years as a school nurse. Without a doubt, these are uncertain days that are bringing new challenges to prepare to be our brother’s keeper. Failure

to prepare for disaster could mean the difference between life, death or quality of life for my family, friends and fellow citizens of Cass County. Therefore, I consider it a privilege to volunteer with the Health Department and Homeland Security Offices on local homeland security issues. I have appreciated the information, assistance and training opportunities that the regional office of Homeland Security has provided on county and regional disaster planning and crisis intervention. Thank you, Gary, Colleen, Matt and Sheri! You are all doing a great job with a tough assignment...working with people like me who would like to deny that the world's problems could come to our doorstep.

ANSWER TO QUESTION: Biological weapons are any infectious agent such as bacteria or virus when used intentionally to inflict harm upon others.