



Texas Tech University  
**BIOTERRORISM  
RESPONSE LABORATORY**

# ***BRL – X***



*2015 First Responder Exercise*

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# Overview

- **Preparation**
- **Participants**
- **Exercise Objectives**
- **Exercise Highlights**
- **Lessons Learned**



# Preparation

## Participants

- BRL, TIEHH, TTU, LFR HazMat, LSO, LPD, EMS, FBI, COL, LBK CO, SPAG

## Exercise Objectives

- BRL - Test Contingency Plans
- HazMat - Specimen Collection and Submission
- First Responders – Response and Interagency Interactions

## Set-up

- Started Planning 3 mos. Prior
- Three Day Exercise
- Exercise Facilitators/Evaluators
- Staging Area
- Calling 911 – Declare Exercise
- Weapons Remained at Gate



# Day 1

## Scenario

*Microbiologist receives a package and is asked to put the contents away in the BSL-3 lab. Upon opening the package, the microbiologist discovers a threatening letter and is dusted with a fine white powder.*



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



# Day 1



Flashback to 2012....



# At the End of the Day...

- N-95 Masks not so great wet
- Emergency doffing kits saved the day
- Cell phone reception is terrible
- HazMat procedures effective at decon but didn't consider the space in between
- LFR HazMat specimen collection and submission showed marked improvement

# Day 2 and 3

## Scenario

*1905, Thursday - Attendees at symphony concert event in Civic Center Auditorium complain of “fine white dust, almost looked like snow under air vents” coming from HHVAC in auditorium.*

- 390 people in attendance;*
- People in auditorium panic and try to leave building;*
- Media w/ cameras everywhere, talking to everyone, live on-air;*
- HAZMAT Team manages to recover 0.4 Kg of white powder.*
- “Local government official” tells media interviewer that “... BSL-3 lab at Reese is going to test the samples for biological agents”.*

*2235, Thursday - BRL-LRN 24/7 Duty notified that white powder sample is ready to be submitted and is enroute to BRL.*

*2305, Thursday –BRL-LRN takes possession of sample, and begins processing.*

# Day 2 and 3

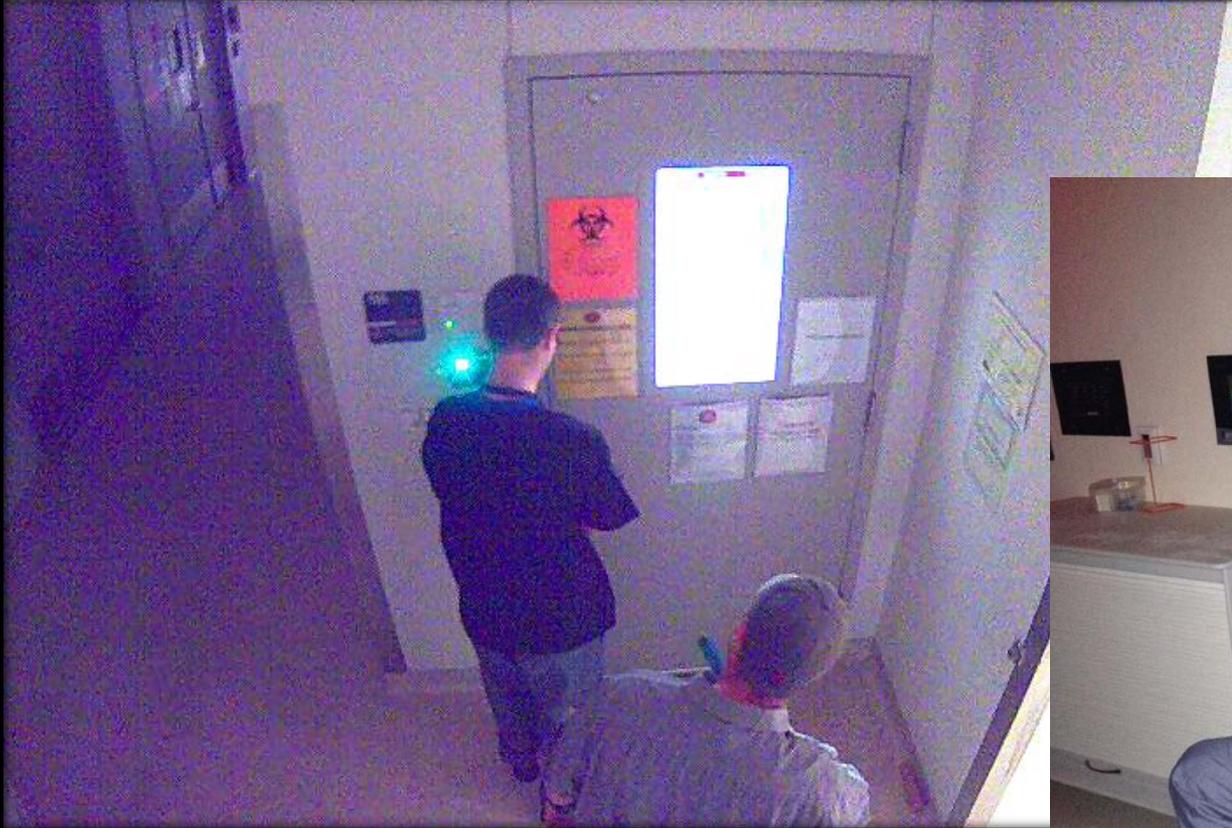
## Scenario

*0815, Friday – A man wearing a TTU Physical Plant shirt, carrying a tool bag and carrying a ladder checks-in at TIEHH front desk, requesting access to lab area to replace lighting ballasts. Allowed into lab area and then sets-up ladder in passageway near the LAB anteroom door.*

*0819, Friday – BRL-LRN Microbiologist (with Duty phone) enters anteroom (using keycard), and is followed in by workman. Workman takes pistol from tool bag and forces microbiologist, at gun point, to use keypad, open door and enter into LAB.*



# Day 2



# Day 2



# Day 2



# Day 2



# Day 2



# Day 2



# Day 2



# At the End of the Day...

- Cell phone reception is terrible.....again
- HazMat – Law enforcement interaction
- Booties please
- Incident command
- Duty phone, walkie, cell phone, text....who are you?!?
- No, please do not shoot out my window!
- Fight or flight....

# Day 3



# Day 2



# Day 3



# Day 3



Day 3



# Day 3



# At the End of the Day...

- Yep.....cell phone reception is terrible
- You have what in there?!?!?
- Tactical gear decontamination
- Where does all that water go?

# After-Action

- **NIST Special Publication 981** - *Aid for Decontamination of Fire and Rescue Service Protective Clothing and Equipment After Chemical, Biological, and Radiological Exposures*
- **U.S. National Response Team (NRT) Guidance Documents** - *Bacillus anthracis PPE Wash Water Decontamination*
- Installed additional security features AND a cell phone signal amplifier!
- Response decision and communication trees



# Thank you!

