



U.S. Army
Edgewood Chemical Biological Center

Public Affairs Office

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News Release

ECBC Announces WMD Preparedness Courses For Emergency Responders

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Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. – The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) is offering a one-day workshop on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) with a focus on basic awareness and responder operations for civilian and military emergency responders. This workshop is intended to enhance the response capabilities of emergency first responders to a terrorist use of WMD. The seminar will take place on August 20, 2003 at the Battelle Eastern Science & Technology Center (B.E.S.T.) in Aberdeen, Md. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two courses will be included in the workshop. The Responder Awareness Course will help participants build their level of awareness and improve response capabilities during a WMD incident. Course topics include identifying signs, symptoms and characteristics related to a terrorist incident involving chemical, biological and nuclear materials, as well as recognizing possible dissemination devices. The Responder Operations Course will train responders on how to initiate the correct defensive posture during a WMD terrorist incident and includes discussions on personal protective equipment, decontamination, basic concepts of downwind hazard analysis, and detection and identification equipment.

The classroom courses are available to all interested emergency responders. The cost of the Responder Awareness course is \$180 per person. The full day workshop including both courses is \$270. Lunch will be provided for full day participants, and certificates of attendance will be presented. For more information, or to register, please contact Verna Puckett at (410) 306-8691.

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ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.ecbc.army.mil> or call (410) 436-4347.