



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE  
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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCHB-TS-O

04 NOV 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR All RMC Commanders

SUBJECT: Distribution of USACHPPM Technical Guide (TG) 275, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guide for Military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) Personnel Handling Casualties from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Terrorism Events

1. The Industrial Hygiene Field Services Program, Directorate of Occupational Health Sciences, this Center, is pleased to provide you a paper hardcopy (Enclosure 1) and a compact disk (Enclosure 2) of TG 275, **PPE Guide for Military MTF Personnel Handling Casualties from WMD and Terrorism Events**. This Guide was written for fixed-facility military MTFs, to assist hospital commanders and their staffs in planning to respond to an installation or local community incident. It provides guidance relating to the selection of PPE and program requirements for PPE use, and provides guidance for those who go to the incident site, transport patients from the incident site, receive contaminated patients at the MTF, or treat patients inside the MTF. Though this guide may be of some use after an event has occurred, the primary intent is to help fixed-facility military MTFs anticipate and prepare before an event occurs. Adequately protecting the MTF staff requires anticipation and planning, and not waiting until an event happens to begin this process.

2. You will find TG 275 useful in many ways.

a. Chapters 1-4 provide background information on nuclear, radiological, biological, and chemical threats including toxic industrial chemicals (TICs). Chapters 5-9 provide guidance on PPE selection, as well as directing users to other references that will help in the selection process, including sources from the Army, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, National Institute of Justice, National Fire Protection Association, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Standardized Equipment List from the InterAgency Board (IAB) for Equipment Standardization and Interoperability, among others.

b. Chapters 10-14 provide guidance on PPE program issues, as well, including training (e.g., to ensure users know how to use their PPE properly), medical approval to wear respirators (e.g., to ensure that users are physically, physiologically, and psychologically fit to wear a respirator), and fit-testing of respirators (to ensure tight-fitting respirators fit properly on the users face). It is absolutely essential that program requirements are met; otherwise the benefits of even properly selected PPE can be jeopardized or greatly diminished.

*Readiness thru Health*

MCHB-TS-O

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c. A very useful assortment of Appendices is also provided, including an extensive glossary, references (many that are web-site linked), OSHA/EPA PPE Levels, IAB PPE Levels and Standardization List for WMD and Terrorism, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim recommendations for PPE use against biological agents, OSHA PPE guidance for anthrax in the workplace, generic approval of commercial PPE for protection against chemical warfare agent, and a list of TICs that may be targeted or used in a terrorism event.

3. This TG has also been coordinated with the MEDCOM Homeland Security Branch, Plans Division, so central PPE equipment purchases can better meet the anticipated needs of your medical treatment facility.

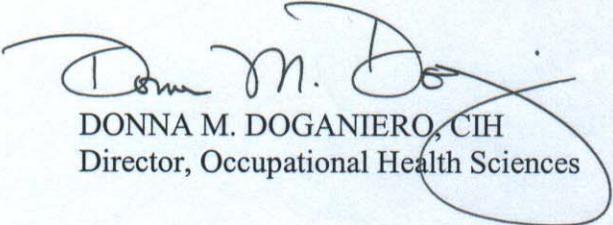
4. This guide is NOT intended to apply to AMEDD soldier field deployments during training, peacetime, or wartime whereby other appropriate US Army references should be consulted.

5. A compact disk and printed paper hardcopy of TG275 are provided as Enclosures 1 and 2. Additional copies can be obtained from the USACHPPM Industrial Hygiene Field Services Program, commercial 410-436-3118/3144 or DSN 584-3118/3144. The TG275 can also be found at the USACHPPM website, <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/>, under publications, USACHPPM Technical Guides.

6. For your assistance, the USACHPPM Industrial Hygiene Points of Contact List is at Enclosure 3.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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