The 3 A.M. Emergency Call:

An Anecdote in Information, Collection, Validation, and Dissemination (with Emphasis on Coordination) During Public Health Emergencies

Aaron Firoved, PhD
Director
National Biosurveillance Integration Center
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Laboratory reviews, interprets, and reports filter analysis data

Consults with CDC and DHS (if needed)

BioWatch Actionable Result (BAR) Determination

BAR Declaration
BAR – BIOWATCH ACTIONABLE RESULT

• The lab analysis and verification process detected genetic material on the filter
• The collector location identifies part of affected area
• The result is ACTIONABLE

• A terrorist attack has occurred
• There is a risk to the public’s health
Natural occurrence?
Levels?
Conditions?
Baseline?
Quality assurance?
Intelligence?
Case counts?
Hospitals?
Past detection?
NATURAL OCCURRENCE?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
LEVELS?
ONGOING EVENTS?
CONDITIONS?
CONTAMINATION?
BASELINE?
DATA

QUALITY ASSURANCE?

INTELLIGENCE?
LAB ERROR?
CASE COUNTS?
HUMANS?
HOSPITALS?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
PAST DETECTION?
DATA

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE
IS THIS AN ACT OF TERRORISM?

IS THIS NATURALLY OCCURRING?

DO I CALL THE GOVERNOR?
NATIONAL RESPONSE

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
HHS ASPR CDC
EPA
DOD

STATE PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DOJ FBI
DOE
DHS BIOWATCH, NBIC
National Biosurveillance Integration Center

The National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) integrates, analyzes, and distributes key information about health and disease events to help ensure the nation’s responses are well-informed, save lives, and minimize economic impact.
NATURAL OCCURRENCE?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
LEVELS?
ONGOING EVENTS?
CONDITIONS?
CONTAMINATION?
BASELINE?
DATA

ANIMAL?

INTelligence?
LAB ERROR CASE COUNTS?
HUMANS?
HOSPITALS?
WHAT IS GOING ON?
PAST DETECTION?
DATA
SHEEP

WILDLIFE

COMPANION

PEOPLE

RODENTS

TULAREMIA
LOCAL DATA

Tularemia Activity, 2015
Populations Affected

- None Reported
- Animal(s)
- Human(s)
- Human(s) and Animal(s)

Colorado
WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBORING STATE?
TRUTH: GAPS IN DATA
ARE WE OK WITH THESE GAPS IN ACCESSIBLE DATA?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOTERRORISM?</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Wide area high level detection</td>
<td>✓ One low-level detection</td>
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<td>✓ Unusual area</td>
<td>✓ Environmental</td>
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<td>✓ Explicit threat</td>
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**CALL GOVERNOR**

**DO NOT CALL GOVERNOR**
BIOTERRORISM?

- Wide area high level detection
- Unusual area
- Explicit threat

CALL GOVERNOR

ENVIRONMENTAL?

- One low-level detection
- Environmental
- No threat info

- Couple moderate detection
- Conducive environment
- Threat chatter non-specific

DO NOT CALL GOVERNOR
This time, let the governor sleep.