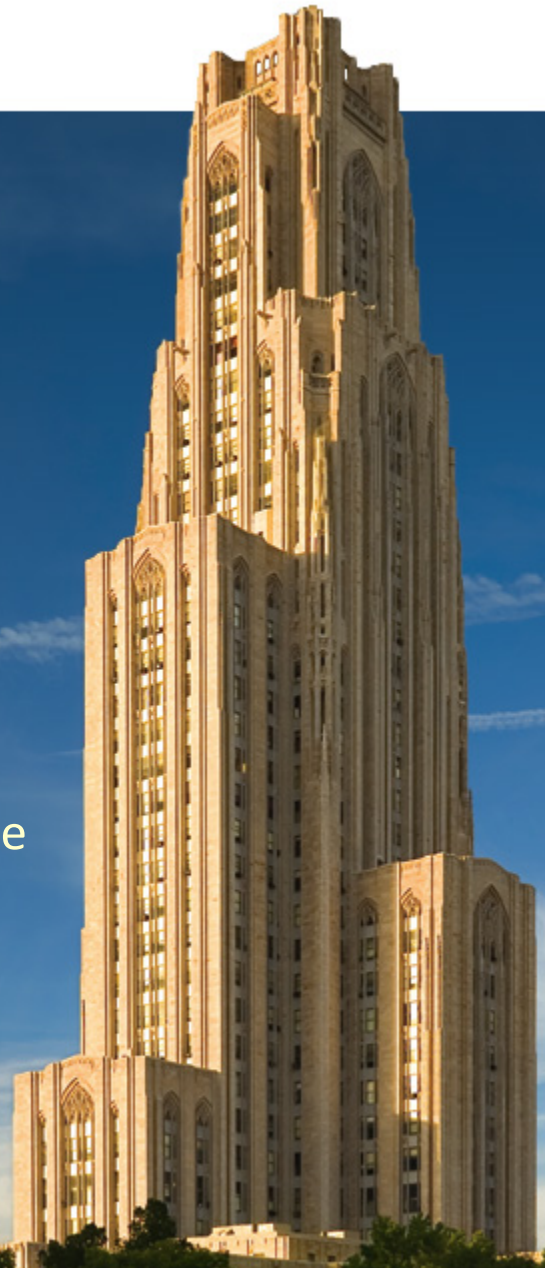




University of Pittsburgh

# Benefits of a multi-pronged teaching model for Select Agent Training

Kathryn Board, Molly Stitt-Fischer, and Jay M. Frerotte





## Training requirements

### 7 C.F.R. 331.15:

“An individual or entity required to register under this part must provide information and training on **biocontainment, biosafety, security** (including security awareness), and **incident response**.... annually for individuals with access approval from the HHS Secretary or Administrator or at such time as the registered individual or entity significantly amends its security, incident response, or biocontainment plans.”



## Methods of Teaching

- Passive (traditional lecture)
- Active (essays, projects, class participation)
- Group Based (workshops and tabletop exercises)

There is no one way to present information that works for everyone!!!!



# Live exercises: Active Teaching Method

## Pros

- Requires cooperation between personnel groups
- Mimics the immediacy of an emergency situation
- Tests knowledge AND effectiveness of emergency response plans

## Cons

- Involvement from only a subset of personnel
- Outcomes can be unpredictable
- Must be carefully planned



# Choosing a Situation to Drill: Examples

Exercise	Biocontainment	Biosafety	Security	Incident Response
Suspicious/ Threatening phone call			✓	✓
Spilled Biological Agent	✓	✓		
Injured Worker		✓		✓
Suspicious Package	✓	✓	✓	✓

# “Props”: Suspicious package

**SUSPICIOUS MAIL OR PACKAGES**

**Protect yourself, your business, and your mailroom.**

**If you receive a suspicious letter or package:**

- Stop. Don't handle.
- Isolate it immediately.
- Don't open, smell, or taste.
- Activate your emergency plan. Notify a supervisor.

**Examples of suspicious mail and packages:**

- Restrictive markings
- No return address
- Sealed with tape
- Misspelled words, badly typed or written
- Unknown powder or suspicious substance
- Possibly mailed from a foreign country
- Excessive postage
- PERSONAL!
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- 222 N. HARVEY ST.
- PHILADELPHIA
- Operations Manager
- 222 N. 44th
- PHILADELPHIA, PA
- DO NOT REMOVE TAPE ENCLOSED
- Operations Manager
- 5632 D 1ST
- Annapolis, MD
- Excessive tape
- Oily stains, discolorations, crystallization on wrapper
- Strange odor
- Rigid or bulky
- Incorrect title or addressed to title only
- Loosened or uneven
- Protruding wires

**If you suspect the mail or package contains a bomb (explosive), or radiological, biological, or chemical threat:**

- Isolate area immediately
- Call 911
- Wash your hands with soap and water

To order this poster, call 1-800-322-2511. Photo © Shutterstock.com

- Excessive tape
- Stains or discolorations
- No Return Address
- Use of a general address that is hand-written
- Questionable postage



## Running the Drill



- Pitt EH&S and Pitt Police leadership were notified
- Package was designed and placed where packages are typically received
- Response was timed
- Procedures for isolation and decontamination were followed and evaluated



## Unexpected benefits

- Team-building
- Increased vigilance
- Identified helpful details to add to SOPs








# Using the Drill as a lecture and group exercise tool

University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Wednesday 10/22/2014

10:30 AM: A package appears in the freight elevator lobby...



University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety


Wednesday 10/22/2014

- 5 RBL personnel traffic through the freight elevator lobby...

University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Wednesday 10/22/2014

- 12:05 PM: The package is in a clean corridor of the RBL.



University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety

Should We Do Anything?

Group Exercise

Present the situation...



# Group Exercise

## Defined Expectations

- Notice suspicious package
- Notify someone of package
- Meet first responders
- Secure the area
- Evaluate event
- Secure the package
- Decontamination

## Group Feedback

- Question for specific personnel groups
- “What-if’s” presented





# Using the Drill as a lecture and group exercise tool

University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety

### Lessons Learned from Drill

- Secure the package
  - Pitt Police and EH&S will direct
  - May need extra personnel to communicate, gather supplies etc
- Decontaminate the area
  - In case of potential biological contamination, RO/ARO will form spill clean up team and direct operations

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

### Lessons Learned from Drill

Safety: Leaking package, spill clean up

Incident Response: communication, area security, coordination of efforts

Security: Suspicious package, could indicate criminal activity

University of Pittsburgh Department of Environmental Health and Safety

### Lessons Learned from Drill

- Secure Area
  - Pitt Police
  - RO/ARO
  - RBL Manager on Call

Expectations are reinforced using lecture (Passive learning)



## Conclusions

- Using multiple training methods (passive, active, and group) increases the probability of retention and practical application of information.
- Live exercises offer a way to test SOPs, cover multiple required training areas at once, fortify interdepartmental cooperation, and produce unexpected benefits
- Live exercise summaries can then be presented to larger audiences as a group learning exercise or lecture



# Coming soon to the University of Pittsburgh RBL....





# Thank you

## Environmental Health and Safety:

- Molly Stitt-Fischer
- Jay Frerotte

## Pitt Police:

- Commander Shawn Ellies
- Sergeant David Nanz
- The excellent officers who serve us every day

## Facilities Management:

- Dan Fisher
- Dan Divito
- The dedicated and professional team of building engineers

## Researchers:

- RBL Researchers, especially those who get roped into my live drills!

**And to you! Thank you for listening!**



# Questions?