## Scenario B16: Powder letter in office building

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| **Scenario B16: Powder letter in office building** | |
| **Complexity of the scenario: easy** | |
| **Possible application of the scenario: Topics 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.6 and 6.1** | |
| **Scenario description:** | |
| In a mail room of the ministry of interior affairs in a large office building, mail is registered, scanned and prepared for distribution among civil servants. When opening a letter for the minister, a white powder comes from the envelope and is spilled on the desk of the worker. The worker panics when seeing the powder and he moves from his desk and goes outside to the toilet to wash his hands and face. His colleagues in the same room also move from the room and call the internal alert number. In turn, the local safety and security officer calls the dispatch office.  The incident occurred on the 2nd floor of the ministry of interior in Maintown. The room number is 2.28. Internal response services await the first responders at the main entrance of the ministry of interior  The powder letter contains ricin powder and a threat letter to the interior minister. The letter is still on the desk in the mail room.  The exposed mail room worker is waiting in the coffee corner on the same level. His colleagues have moved to the canteen to wait further instructions.  **Things to consider:** Most powder letters contain benign powders and do not contain any risks to persons exposed to the material. In this case, the letter does contain ricin which has a delayed onset of symptoms. There is no medical treatment of ricin poisoning other than supportive care. The person opening the letter should be admitted to the hospital directly and the other persons in the room should be monitored for signs of exposure. Dermal exposure to ricin powder is unlikely to penetrate the skin but persons in the room as well as the room itself should be decontaminated.  The trainer could consider adapting the scenario in such a way that the victims are self-referring to the GP office or EMS to allow trainees from these target audiences to perform a risk assessment and triage.  Sources:  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001\_anthrax\_attacks  https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/19/us/politics/ricin-white-house-postal-service.html | |
| **Application: First alarm (Topic 4.1)**  **Target audience: DO, (M)P, AS, FB** | **Learning objective:** To recognize signs of a potential CBRN release and (initiate first) respond(ers).  **Aim:** The dispatch officer interacts with the caller to identify the likelihood of a possible CBRN release and to know which information should be shared with the chain of command. Use of METHANE and Four W’s protocols. |
| Example: |  |
| **Application: Arrival on scene (Topic 5.1)**  **Target audience: First responders on scene ((M)P, AS, FB) (GP and EMS target audiences can be included by adapting the scenario)** | **Learning objective:** To recognize how to carry out an on-site risk assessment, zoning of the area, and isolation and registration of victims.  **Aim:** The first responders arrive on scene, perform a risk assessment, talk with the caller, perform a reconnaissance of the incident scene and discuss actions. They apply METHANE, establish zoning, isolate people and pet animals, initiate evacuation, register persons. |
| **Example:** |  |
| **Application: Forensic awareness (topic 5.2)**  **Target audience: First responders on scene ((M)P, AS, FB) (GP and EMS target audiences can be included by adapting the scenario)** | **Learning objective:** To recognize how to carry out your work without forensic disruption of the scene.  **Aim**: The responders discuss the possible forensic value of the materials found on the scene and preserve the evidence. |
| **Example:** |  |
| **Application: Medical treatment and triage (topic 5.6)**  **Target audience: First responders on scene ((M)P, AS, FB) (GP and EMS target audiences can be included by adapting the scenario)** | **Learning objective:** To recognize how to apply appropriate medical care towards patients involved in a CBRN incident.  **Aim:** The responders assess the medical conditions of the victims, perform triage on the victims and recommend possible treatment. |
| **Example:** |  |
| **Application: Alarm Protocol (topic 6.1)**  **Target audience: DO** | **Learning objective:** To differentiate a possible CBRN incident (from normal incident) and to carry out appropriate procedures & protocols.  **Aim:** The dispatch officer interacts with the caller and relays necessary information to the responders moving towards the scene. |
| **Example:** |  |