



DECONTAMINATION FOCUS

Industry representatives discuss their products supporting post-incident decontamination of personnel and material in the hot zone.

By Marty Kauchak, CST & CBRNE Editor

PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION

Industry provides DoD and other agencies' first responders with an array of products for personal and material decontamination.

Department first responders will recognize many of First Line Technology's products.

The company's Fibertect is said to be the next generation of activated carbon wipes and the best solution for dry and

cold-weather decontamination. Fibertect, a new technology, has already been fielded by several federal agencies and is currently being evaluated by several divisions of the DoD, the National Guard Bureau and Department of Homeland Security.

Randy Sakowitz, a company Vice President, pointed out what makes Fibertect unique is its activated carbon (the same powder material used in CBRN air canisters) is needle-punched into a flexible fabric that can absorb and/or adsorb chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, and pesticides. "And, because Fibertect encapsulates rather than neutralizes, it can be used for sampling or evidence collection following the decontamination of people, equipment, and weapons. Fibertect is the cost effective, sustainable method to dry decontamination, and when properly stored inside of its MilSpec packaging, Fibertect has an indefinite shelf life."

Another First Line product that is on the front lines of decontamination and disaster preparedness, and response is the firm's Individual Decontamination Kit. Each kit contains Fibertect (which does 95 percent of bulk decon) as well as Reactive Skin Decontamination Lotion (RSDL) (which neutralizes any chemical warfare agents remaining on the skin) into a small, portable package that can be carried on the warfighter or packaged with escape hoods.

Sakowitz observed that the kit is the perfect accessory for any escape hood because it allows the user to decontaminate the exterior of the respirator prior to removal, which lowers the chance of inhalation of contaminants. "Considering the safety, environmental, and logistical concerns associated with wet decon processes, the Individual Decon Kit is becoming popular with several federal and DoD CBRN response teams."

For its part, Force1Decon™ (FID) designs and manufactures products specifically for the tactical decontamination CBRNE response environment. The company provides rapid, effective and versatile tactical decontamination capabilities globally to all types operational forces including DoD, other government agencies, state and local governments, law enforcement and the private sector.

One FID product that caught our attention was the MDS™ (Modular Decontamination System). The MDS is a single complete decontamination station which sets up in 90 seconds and provides for highly effective decontamination of chemical, biological and radiological (alpha) contaminants utilizing Sandia Foam, SDS, sodium hypochlorite and surfactant decontamination media, read a company statement.

The system that utilizes a black powder-coated aluminum fold-out stand with an ballistic Cordura® workstation skirt and waste bin combination for set up and operation, decontamination is conducted in a 4 ft. x 4 ft. contamination control matt with hot and cold lines and a sensitive equipment control matt which attaches directly to the top of stand. The system includes hazardous material disposal bags; 6 mil heavy poly bags, 18 in. Zip ties, folding hook knife; EMT scissor; wash mitt; portable water container, wash basin, hand pump, pen with labels and pen lights.

Each system comes in nylon stuff-pack, which is transported in a universal carry/backpack. Systems are packaged into rugged Cordura® Ballistic transport backpack carriers which can range from 1 station (MDS 1X) to 4 stations (MDS 4X).

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A second F1D offering is its H2O Individual Sensitive Equipment Recovery System™. An F1D statement said the system provides the individual user with a first response "spot" decontamination capability for chemical agents, biological agents and radiological-alpha particle contaminants, as well as safe and effective weapon / equipment recovery bag system.

Decontamination media included in the kit are the SDS powder brush dispenser, Sandia Foam and sodium hypochlorite/ surfactant in two part ratio spray dispensers.

MATERIAL DECONTAMINATION

Clordisys Solutions is building upon its heritage of providing chlorine dioxide (ClO₂) technology in the form of services and products to pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, animal research facilities and food processing facilities.

The company's technology permits ClO₂ to be used to decontaminate the hotzone itself or the exterior of material as it leaves the area. "This is not for decontaminating people," Paul Lorcheim, a company spokesperson, told *CST & CBRNE*.



First Line Technology's Fiberfect is said to be the next generation of activated carbon wipes and the best solution for dry and cold-weather decontamination. Source: First Line Technology

Lorcheim further explained that ClO₂ is used in a gas state in fumigation-type applications. "It's not a spray of water. Our process is registered with the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) as a sterilant – we have proved that it kills everything, basically – in a biological environment."

As this issue was being published the company was participating in a large-scale test project with the EPA and Department of Homeland Security to prove ClO₂'s efficiency and effectiveness in the rapid deployment of decontamination equipment following a biological incident.

"Typically what we do in decon, other than shipping time, is take one day to set up and a day to actually decontaminate the building. So, with this test, the government gave us a three-day timeline," Lorcheim pointed out.

Clordisys uses a modular approach to decontamination, allowing it to deploy generators and supporting systems for an area up to 50,000 cubic feet.

FIRST RESPONDER FOCUS

First Line is also focused on first responder effectiveness while working decontamination and other duties in the hotzone.

In one instance the firm is mitigating the historical problem of heat stress for response personnel wearing CBRN and other equipment with its PhaseCore Personal Cooling Products. Sakowitz explained the PhaseCore heat-activated cooling vests absorb excess heat from the body, thus reducing the possibility of heat stress and enabling better operational awareness and faster rehabilitation.


PhaseCore is used nationwide by various organizations and municipalities and by select units in the 20th Support Command as well as in CERFP and CST communities.

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