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## Texas Tech's Fibertect Selected As Top Innovation by Cotton Incorporated

Posted on October 26, 2010 @ 12:44 pm

Fibertect, a decontamination technology developed by researchers at Texas Tech University, was one of seven new innovations selected by Cotton Incorporated to show the versatility of the fiber.

The products are highlighted in short vignettes on Cotton Incorporated's Cotton Today website.

In 2005, Seshadri Ramkumar and his team at the Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech leveraged the absorbent capabilities of cotton to create the Fibertect wipe that can absorb and neutralize gases and liquids that might be used in chemical warfare.

"To be recognized by the U.S. cotton industry as one of seven inventions is humbling, as it showcases the practical use of cotton technology developed at Texas Tech," Mr. Ramkumar said. "The need for decontamination wipes, such as the kind we've created here at TIEHH, were a top priority for the Department of Defense. Years ago, we began the research, developed a product and met a top national security issue. Now we're finding even more uses for the material."

The process to make Fibertect has received a patent and has been validated for use as a low-cost decontamination wipe for the U.S. military. Also, the wipe's qualities were re-engineered to create a better absorbent material to pick up the "chocolate mousse" oil slicks inundating Gulf Coast beaches following the Deepwater Horizon disaster.



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