

PROTOCOL TO DEAL WITH CALLS FOR POSSIBLE ANTHRAX/SUSPICIOUS CONTAMINATION

The initial call may come into your dispatch center. A police officer and a fire officer should be sent to the scene to perform initial assessment. Your initial approach to the scene should be handled as you would handle any hazardous materials scene.

The responding police and fire officer should **NOT** immediately go into the location where the letter/package/powder is located or handle the package or substances.

Have the person(s) that were at the location with the letter/package/substances leave the location and wash their hands with soap and water.

The first responders should gather information such as:

1. List all of the people who have had contact, or have handled the package/letter/substance.
2. Note any signs or symptoms of subjects (coughing, etc.)
3. Determine how they came into possession of the letter/package/substance.
4. Determine when they came into possession of the letter/package/substance.

The police officer will then contact his supervisor, who will then consult with both the beat officer and the fire officer and together they will decide if this situation warrants additional assessment. If they deem it not to be a hazard, they should advise the complainant that the substance is not a hazard to their safety and provide current information to them relating to Anthrax. (Clay County Department of Health document provided)

If the officers decide a hazard exists, the police/fire supervisor should call the Clay County Emergency Management at 218-**299-7357** between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30.

At that point, the Clay County Emergency Management will help evaluate the event and assist in determining if further action is warranted. If so, the EM will consult with the Clay County Department of Health (DOH) and the local Federal Bureau of Investigation. If warranted, a representative from these agencies may respond to the scene. If it is determined that the letter/package/substance is not a hazard, the first responders should advise the complainant that the substance is not deemed to be a hazard to their safety and provide current information to them relating to Anthrax. (Clay County Department of Health document provided)

In either case, the letter/package/substance should **NOT** be forwarded to the Mn BCA Crime Laboratory or the Clay County Department of Health.