

State of Ohio Security Task Force INVESTIGATION OF AN ANTHRAX INCIDENT

HANDLING SUBSTANCE

1. Do not open.
2. If opened already, do not smell, shake or taste.
3. Use one zip lock bag, and place the product in this bag. Place this bag into a second zip lock bag. If the product cannot be bagged, cover it with anything (paper, clothing, etc.) Wash your hands with plain soap and water. Anyone who has touched the suspect item must also wash his or her hands.

“Person perceives they have been threatened by ANTHRAX” (one or more of following)

1. Written note indicates anthrax?
2. Verbal threat prior to or with delivery of item?
3. Is there “product” or some visible substance present?

YES

CALL LOCAL Law Enforcement or 9-1-1 and follow their instructions

NO

Dispose in regular trash in double bag.

Follow local procedures and notifications (e.g. Fire, FBI, EMS, EMA, Police, and local health department).

Always X-ray an unopened specimen before submission to ODH Lab

Criminal investigation begins.

Local officials use the following to help determine if an exposure has occurred. Contact local health department if in doubt.

Local authorities determine threat is **NOT credible.**

Local authorities determine threat **IS credible.**

Exposure may include (any/all):

1. Dissemination device was activated that forced product into air.
2. Product was inhaled deeply (probably with severe coughing).
3. Product landed on an open wound or an opening in the skin.

Specimen could be tested in ODH lab on a case-by-case basis. Local officials will call ODH Infectious Disease Officer to notify. Transportation must be arranged by local law enforcement.

Contact the FBI and follow their current procedures. Initiate chain of custody and transport to the ODH Lab. Ohio State Highway Patrol may help in transport. LHD calls ODH Infectious Disease Officer.

YES, An exposure has occurred. A person may be required to follow-up with the local health department and his/her private physician. This includes all responders.

NO, exposure has not occurred. **No threat to public health.**