Background

Comprised of cooperating units within the LSU system, the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) includes the following elements:

- Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (ACE)
- LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
- LSU Health Science Centers

Additionally, the NCBRT is a primary component of the LSU National Center for Security Research and Training (NCSRT). In addition to the NCBRT, other LSU units included within the NCSRT are the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program, the Law Enforcement Training Program, the Fire and Emergency Training Institute, and Law Enforcement Online.

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has a history of distinguished research in a variety of areas, most notable of which are the School’s studies (completed or underway) that involve anthrax. To facilitate the research of its faculty and staff, the School boasts state of the art equipment and facilities, including a Level 3 lab. Veterinary School Faculty collaborated with ACE staff to develop, produce, and deliver the nationally renowned course, Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents.

The LSU Health Science Center and its Schools of Medicine (located in New Orleans and Shreveport) are world-renowned for the training of physicians as well as for the excellence of its medical care and research. The development of the Virtual Hospital and its interactive computer based diagnostic and management software enables the Schools of Medicine to integrate realistic learning experiences into a comprehensive training program.

NCBRT is a founding member of two significant, national consortia that are focused on assisting the federal government’s response preparedness for incidents involving WMD: the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and the National Health Professions Preparedness Consortium.

To schedule a class at your location, contact your state’s Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP).

For more information about this program, please contact the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training.
Mid-level supervisory personnel from local, county/parish, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, fire agencies, EMS, Emergency Management, and public health and medical personnel with responsibility for planning for, responding to, and managing a biological event.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Emergency Response to Domestic Biological Incidents is to provide information for emergency responders and local government officials so that they may develop a plan of action to deal with potential bioterrorist attacks in their community. This goal is achieved by providing information about the nature of a biological attack, their potential for destruction, and how to deal with such attacks.

This course provides a balanced view of the risks and threats of biological attacks; it also highlights some of the current strategies for dealing with the problem. In addition, the course provides an overview of the biological agents most likely to be used in a terrorist attack, their effects, and treatment is covered. In addition, the course explains the fundamental principles of biological warfare and the evolution of biological weapons.

Participants will gain a basic understanding of the procedures and constraints of the microbiological laboratory. The course also offers participants strategies for how to assess potential bioterrorists and biocriminals, and targets; the likelihood of future biological incidents is also explored.

A major segment of the course focuses on the procedures required to make biological incident response safe for both the emergency responders and the general public. Participants will learn strategies for mitigation of the event (casualty management, psychological aspects, and public information). Another major component of the course includes two interactive exercises that will allow participants to work through a community response to bioterrorist incidents.

**Course Topics**

**A Background for Bioterrorism**

Background information on bioterrorism, definitions of terms, & evolution of biological weapons from the 14th-21st centuries

**Threats & Vulnerabilities**

Discussion of the groups & individuals most likely to be involved, & the vulnerability of our society to these threats

**Biological Agents, Effects, & Treatment**

Introduces characteristics of bacterial, viral, & toxin agents potentially used as biological weapons; diseases caused by these agents; & possible mitigating actions

**Basic Principles in the Use of Biological Agents**

Presents basic principles of biological warfare to provide a better understanding of problems associated with bioterrorism

**Sverdlovsk, USSR**

Presents an account of an accidental release of weapons-grade anthrax from a Soviet biological weapons laboratory in 1979

**Managing Bioterrorism Incidents**

Introduces emergency responders to the concept of integrated, coordinated response to WMD incidents. Sets the tone for subsequent training by showing where local & state emergency responders fit within the overall response structure

**Immediate Action & Decontamination Principles**

Discusses a plan of action for responders when encountering biological incidents, and the pros & cons of decontamination

**Response to Bioterrorism Incidents**

Focuses on strategies & tactics of responders during bioterrorism incidents. Summarizes roles & responsibilities of emergency response agencies in all phases of the response

**Response to Public Health Emergencies**

Analyzes a domestic response planning guide to respond to acts of bioterrorism that emerge as public health emergencies

**Perspectives on the Future of Terrorism**

Addresses the likelihood of future terrorist threats & discusses actions that can be taken to prepare for those threats