

# **Strategies and Tools for Evaluating a Full-Scale Mass Prophylaxis Exercise: The San Francisco Experience**

R. Shiau<sup>1</sup>, M. Gough<sup>2</sup>, R. Reiter<sup>1</sup>, A. Pine<sup>1</sup>, E. Pan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco, CA; <sup>2</sup>County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services, San Rafael, CA

### **Exercise Description**

Full scale functional exercises are a source of rich evaluation data, which may be collected through many different methods. Devoting the resources to design a detailed evaluation strategy before the exercise can ensure that this rich data is captured, analyzed and interpreted to aid future planning.

The City of San Francisco, in collaboration with the United States Postal Service (USPS). conducted an exercise in July 2005 to evaluate a multi-agency response to a mock positive anthrax test result in the Biohazard Detection System. Over 1000 persons are employed at this USPS location.

In this scenario, one of the main responsibilities of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to provide antibiotics for USPS employees. For this exercise 35 SFDPH staff operated the Mass Prophylaxis Clinic (MPC), which was set up in a USPS outdoor tent. Medical screening and mock prophylaxis was provided to 164 people (130 USPS employees and 34 first responders and exercise observers) in one hour.

Using findings this exercise evaluation, planners were able to create a new screening protocol. forms, clinic layout and health education materials that are more simplified and remain medically sound.

### **Evaluation Goals**

The MPC portion of the exercise was evaluated by a team of 4 SFDPH staff members. We sought to assess:

- 1) The efficiency of MPC set-up
- 2) The effectiveness of a 40-min just-in-time training session for SFDPH staff on the use of screening and dispensing procedures
- 3) The usefulness and accuracy of the medical screening form to MPC staff and patients
- 4) The accuracy of antibiotic and education material distribution to patients
- 5) Overall clinic flow and documentation
- 6) Overall medical profile of a sample of the USPS population

### Evaluation Indicators and Methods

The following tools were used to collect data (see side pocket for a display of all tools):





### **Evaluation Findings**



### Evaluation Findings and Changes in Clinic Design

Based on evaluation findings, the following changes were made to the medical screening process and clinic design:





Exercise Version

**Revised Version** 



# Table 3. Changes to Mass Prophylaxis Plan based on Evaluation Results

## Conclusions

Using a variety of evaluation techniques as well as actual medical information provided by a sample of USPS employees, San Francisco mass prophylaxis planners were able to improve and simplify the medication screening tools and clinic layout. They were also able to apply lessons learned from this anthrax-specific scenario to other large-scale general dispensing plans. In collaboration with local community partners. San Francisco will be testing the newly revised general dispensing protocols in a full-scale operational exercise in Spring 2007.