



Civil Protection Directorate



Joint Emergency Management Operational Centre

Cellule Nationale de Conseil

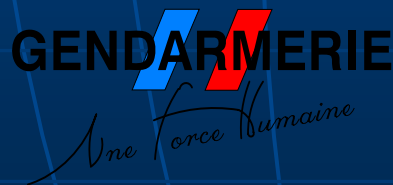


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OBJECTIVE : Governmental response mechanism dealing with mail, parcels and substance likely to contain dangerous CBR agents

REFERENCE : Circulaire n° 750/SGDN/PSE/PPS/CD du 07/02/2003.





Operational guidance:

Evaluation of the situation and identification of priorities in terms of risks

Advice to first responders (law enforcement authorities : police, *gendarmerie*, firemen)

Assistance to the administrative or judiciary authorities in the operational decision process

Coordination of the different stakeholders involved in the response mechanism

Reporting to governmental authorities

Operational management : Biotox-Piratox national laboratories network activation

Regular update of the list and contacts of reference laboratories

Identification of the laboratory(ies) able to respond to the given situation

Activation of the network in case of a crisis having a national impact

Monitoring of the evolution of the reference laboratories' operational capacity during a crisis situation

Compilation and analysis of the results



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THE MISSIONS



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Contribution to permanent vigilance on the French territory :

- **Update and circulation of** models of adapted documents for law enforcement authorities
- **Establishment** of weekly-based synthesis
- **Participation** in national and international CBR exercises.



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MANAGING EVENTS: SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES

1 – International level

February 2004 : thousand of mails sent to destinees on the French territory by a foreign-based organisation of clairvoyants ensuring happiness and prosperity to all persons sending them ashes.

Very quickly, the CNC dealt with 69 cases of possibly contaminated mails in 27 regions. The first four mails have been analyzed in a laboratory. The cross-checkings made by the CNC allowed to quickly prove the unlikelihood of an attack or a malevolent action.

An information message has been circulated to all the prefectures (responsible for security in the *départements* of France). This information has allowed to dismiss 65 new cases.

These events, which have been given large media coverage, have been dealt with by the administrative and the judiciary authorities through international investigations.



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MANAGING EVENTS: SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES

2 – National level

In march **2008**, the CNC is informed of the discovery of a **few tubes marked with the name of a virus** at the Gare du Nord in Paris. This station, as well as many public places, is considered as a potential target for terrorist or malevolent actions and for possible attempts to the country's activities. The case has been submitted to the judiciary authority :

In this case, the preservation of traces or clues was a priority. **The coordination ensured by CNC allowed to rapidly put the investigation officers and the reference laboratory in relation** in order to ensure the proper enforcement of the forensics procedures in the laboratory responsible for analyses.



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MANAGING EVENTS: SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES

The involvement of CNC allowed :

- to avoid paralyzing the normal running of public services ;
- to engage capacities in adequation with the evaluation of the risk ;
- to avoid panic ;
- to collect and preserve all traces and clues, in order to facilitate the judiciary action;
- to avoid overwhelming laboratories and to save money;



- CBRNE threat can burst in our daily lives :
 - In this context, the CNC is regularly **informed** of the discovery of parcels and substances likely to contain dangerous radioactive, biological or chemical agents.
- Since 2003, this new mechanism, has been set up to **assist and advise operational decision-makers**, and **relies primarily on first responders**. This coordination and advice mechanism allows to detect whether an event constitutes a real threat or not. If an event is considered as a real threat, the decision makers are assisted by a dedicated network of laboratories.



- This procedure is under the authority of the representatives of the government at the local level and **complements the investigation carried out under the responsibility of the judiciary authority**. Thus, if the situation calls for it, the CNC follows up its action in **close cooperation with the officer in charge of the investigation**.
- Traceability of the sample, preservation of traces and clues and optimal security conditions shall remain ensured until the reception of the sample in the reference laboratory.
- Through various concrete cases, the **close coordination between first responders, decision-makers and the network of laboratories** and experts triggered by CNC has proved its efficiency.