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**"Critical Biological Agents for Public Health Preparedness"**

In assessing public health preparedness, national experts in 1999 developed criteria for ranking biological agents that threaten civilians. These criteria include the ability of such agents to: (i) causes mass casualties; (ii) be widely disseminated; (iii) be transmitted from person to person; (iv) trigger public perceptions about being attacked; and (v) require special public health preparedness steps

**Category A**

Variola major (smallpox)  
Bacillus anthracis (anthrax)  
Yersinia pestis (plague)  
Clostridium botulinum neurotoxins (botulism)  
Francisella tularensis (tularemia)  
Filoviruses (e.g. Ebola and Marburg) and arenaviruses (e.g., Lassa and Junin) (hemorrhagic fevers)

**Category B**

Coxiella burnetti (Q fever)  
Brucella spp. (brucellosis)  
Burkholderia mallei (glanders)  
Alphaviruses (i.e., Venezuelan, Eastern, and Western equine encephalomyelitis viruses)  
Ricin from Ricinus communis (ricin intoxication)  
Epsilon toxin of Clostridium perfringens  
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B

Food and waterborne agents (e.g. Salmonella spp., Shigella dysenteriae, Escherichia coli O157:H7, Vibrio cholerae, Cryptosporidium parvum)

## **Category C**

**Nipah virus**

**Hantavirus**

**Tick-borne hemorrhagic fever viruses**

**Tick-borne encephalitis viruses**

**Yellow fever virus**

**Multi-drug-resistant Mycobacterium tuberculosis**

Category A includes many well-recognized biowarfare agents, which are likely to cause mass casualties and require broad-based public health preparedness. Category B agents also have some potential for large-scale dissemination, but generally cause less severe illness than those in Category A. Many of these agents have been or are being weaponized. Moreover, some Category B agents could be used to contaminated food or water sources, and many of them are relatively easy to obtain.

Biological agents that are not currently believed to present a high bioterrorism risk to public health, but which could emerge as future threats, were placed in Category C. Some of these agents are associated with emerging infections or are those with characteristics that could be exploited for deliberate dissemination. Officials at the National Institutes of Health also use this critical agent list as a guide for establishing bioterrorism research priorities."

If you would like to hear more please call us to deliver a presentation on this or related topics.

This link describes a partly successful attempt to contaminate a public food supply.

<http://www.rickross.org/reference/rajneesh/rajneesh8.html>

Public water supplies are constantly being contaminated with various biological and chemical agents. Sometimes they produce "outbreaks" but most often people get sick and the source of contamination goes undetected and unreported.

[Local Government](#)

**Note: There are all sorts of crazy ideas out there about what bioterrorists may do. Do we believe them? Not the crazy ones, but we do give due consideration to the ones that make sense. However, regardless of that threat, there is no doubt, that at some point, your water supply will become contaminated - whether intentionally or accidentally. We know this because the nature of public/municipal water purification and distribution systems make them vulnerable.**

**Constant pressure to reduce costs, human error, and the inability to enforce existing laws and regulations to keep water from being contaminated, make us vulnerable. Farmers still let cows, horses, and other animals and their fecal material and urine flow into surface streams and rivers. Most still do not comply with existing laws that require 25 to 50 foot buffers between animals and the water. In fact, we routinely observe cattle in the stream several hundred feet from where it enters the White County Water Treatment plant.**

**We know that failure to use best management practices in erosion and sediment control, by builders, developers, contractors - anyone with a backhoe or earth moving equipment, stress the capacity of existing purification systems beyond their limits. So we know that contamination is happening. The only question is when, by what, and whether or not you are healthy and strong enough to be resistant to its effects. (No one is resistant to the effects of long-term low level exposure to lead, arsenic, mercury and many other chemicals). So at the least, it is prudent to protect the water you drink - as many people are already doing. Even without bioterrorism, we have reasons to be concerned that sewage and chemical contaminants that are supposed to be removed by sewage treatment plants upstream, when re-released into our drinking water supply, will flow through the public purification systems and may increase in concentration with every pass through the cycle.**

**We believe that somewhere between "the sky is falling" and "I don't see nothin' wrong here" there is "prudent practice". We know the government is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to research ways to protect the water supply. And their efforts are appreciated. But we will risk offering this opinion without having done extensive research and investing millions of dollars. Ultimately, the government will deem it to be the individuals' responsibility to be sure their water is safe to drink. And, they will never be able to guarantee anyone that their water will be completely safe.**

**We can provide you with advice, testing, and instructions to install a water treatment system, in your home, that will protect you from ALL the above waterborne agents as well as virtually all chemical contaminants at a very reasonable cost. If you install such a system now, it will protect you against accidental contamination that passes through existing municipal water treatment plants (or enters groundwater and comes from wells) AND it will protect you against intentional contamination by bioterrorists (if the sky does fall) no matter what they use or when they use it. That's a level of security you cannot get from bottled water. Do you think that a total est. cost of \$750.00 is too much to pay for such a system? If not, contact us. Site Inspection and Consulting Fee: \$45.00**

**For more information please contact us and request a presentation on this, or any other topic on this site.**