



REPORT

CBRNe EVENTS IN THE WORLD

FROM 01 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2014



N°5/2014



WORLD



CBRNE Decontamination

Event - A team from the Edgewood Chemical, Biological Center (ECBC), contributed to the development of a full-spectrum set of Detection, Protection and Decontamination Equipment to be used by soldiers against biological and chemical hazards.

Status - The Joint Project Manager for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Contamination Avoidance developed the Dismounted Reconnaissance Sets, Kits, and Outfits (DR SKO) for CBRN teams in the U.S. armed forces. In March the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense approved DR SKO for full rate production. The final version of DR SKO contains 32 major components. First delivery of DR SKO is scheduled for September to the U.S. Deliveries will begin in fiscal year 2015 for the Marine Corps, Army National Guard, Army Reserve and Army. Readiness teams with the Air Force will receive the capability at a later stage.

The ECBC is the U.S. Army's principal development and research center for biological and chemical defense technology. The center has achieved significant technological results for national defense and the Warfighter.

Source: <http://bioprepwatch.com/biological-threats/ecbc-helps-army-develop-biological-decontamination-equipment/339138/>

All data as at 01/09/2014



ISIS Subway Nerve Gas Attack in US, EU, West's Nightmare: Israeli Analyst

Event - An Israeli intelligence researcher says that the successful nerve gas attack perpetrated by a Japanese doomsday cult, killing dozens of people and wounded over a 1,000, could be used as model by ISIS and other terrorists against the United States or Europe, Israel Defense wrote on 31 September.

Status - Ronen Solomon, based on recent ISIS threats, affirms that similar attacks could be carried out in New York and Paris.

Solomon is a widely quoted intelligence analyst that regularly appears in various Israeli and international publications, focusing on the links between information-gathering, terrorism and the Middle East. The growing concern is that ISIS activists holding western nationalities would be able to get their hands on unconventional weapons (chemicals and biological toxins) from Syrian stockpiles and likely smuggle them in Europe in order to carry out attacks in the subways, Solomon said.

Israeli Defense officials told Reuters that ISIS fighters are trying to embezzle weapons of mass destruction such as combat warheads, air-to-ground bombs and anti-tank missiles containing toxic gases like sarin.

The Tokyo attack, resulted in 12 deaths and over 5,500 casualties. Those injured were brought to 50 different hospitals throughout Tokyo suffering from injuries of different severity.

Source: <http://www.algemeiner.com/2014/09/28/isis-subway-nerve-gas-attack-in-us-eu-wests-nightmare-israeli-analyst-video/>

All data as at 28/09/2014



Bi terrorism – Botulism

Event - A recent study published by PlosOne explains how gene therapy may offer significant benefits in the prevention and treatment against Clostridium botulinum compared to current methods.

Status - Charles Shoemaker, Professor of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Global Health at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, presented the results of the Project, funded by the National Institutes of Health study (NHI). The current method of treating acute toxin poisoning consists of injecting antibodies, to neutralize the toxin. This method can present a great range of problems, from security to issues in developing, producing and maintaining the anti-sera in large quantities.

Sources: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140908-new-gene-therapy-approach-offers-better-treatment-of-botulism-exposure-other-illnesses>

Jean Mukherjee et al., "Prolonged Prophylactic Protection from Botulism with a Single Adenovirus Treatment Promoting Serum Expression of a VHH-Based Antitoxin Protein," PLOSOne (DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0106422)

All data as at 08/09/2014

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Coordination of Bibliographic Sources: Dr. Wanda D'Amico - International Edition Dr. Ed Locke, Ph.D.



Bioterrorism - Ricin

Event - Toxin Vaccine shows promising results in a Non-Human Primate Study.

Status – Soligenix Inc., a clinical- stage biopharmaceutical company developing several biodefense vaccines, announced promising preliminary results from a preclinical study about its ricin toxin vaccine RiVax, in a Non-Human Primate (NHP) lethal aerosol exposure model.

The company says the study demonstrated that NHPs vaccinated with RiVax were fully protected against a lethal aerosol of ricin toxin. RiVax™ is Soligenix proprietary vaccine developed to protect against exposure to ricin toxin and it is the most innovative vaccine product in the company's portfolio. With RiVax™, Soligenix is a world leader in ricin toxin vaccine research.

The immunogen in RiVax™ induces a protective immune response in animal models of ricin exposure and functionally active antibodies in humans. The immunogen consists of a genetically inactivated subunit ricin A chain that is enzymatically inactive and lacks residual toxicity of the holotoxin.

The company said that this pilot study was aimed to test the power of the stabilized RiVax vaccine to protect against an aerosolized form of ricin toxin. Animals were exposed to an aerosol of ricin toxin to an amount 3 to 5 times the one known to cause death of untreated animals. In the case of vaccinated NHPs, the vaccine regimen was safe and well-tolerated,; all animals developed antibodies in their sera that neutralized the activity of ricin toxin.

More important, all NHPs in the RiVax-vaccinated treatment group survived when exposed to the respiratory aerosol of ricin toxin, without any manifest signs of gross lung damage. On the contrary, all NHPs of the unvaccinated treatment group died within approximately thirty-six hours from the moment of exposure to aerosolized ricin, presenting severe lung damage, including hemorrhaging. The vaccination and exposure studies were conducted at the Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) under the direction of Dr. Chad Roy, director of Infectious Disease Aerobiology. These studies were performed thanks to a sponsorship cooperative grant from a National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) to Soligenix with TNRPC and other collaborators.

Ricin toxin is a plant toxin thought to be a bioterror threat because of its stability and high potential as well as its large worldwide reservoir created as a by-product of castor oil production. Ricin comes in many forms like powder, mist, pill, or pellet. Ricin can also be dissolved in water and other liquids. As a poison, ricin is so strong that the U.S Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates the lethal dose in humans is about the size of a grain of salt.

Sources: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140908-ricin-toxin-vaccine-shows-promise-in-a-nonhuman-primate-study>
http://www.soligenix.com/prod_def_rivax.shtml

All data as at 08/09/2014



Radiation Detection

Event – Researchers created new radiation detection device.

Status - Researchers have created a very sensitive and tiny detector that is capable of detecting radiation from various sources at room temperature. The detector is eight to nine orders of magnitude - 100 million to as high as 1 billion - times faster than the existing technology. The researchers' goal was to utilize the exceptional electronic carrier properties of graphene to create a photo detector device that could detect radiation at room temperature with the fastest response; detection that previously was extremely difficult to perform. The researchers used a two-dimensional material called graphene that is made of carbon atoms arranged in a honeycomb-like geometrical structure (the diameter of a human hair is 300,000 times thicker than a two-dimensional sheet of graphene).

Graphene was chosen because is a great electricity conductor , nearly transparent and remarkably strong (100 times stronger than steel). Furthermore, it is very sensitive to energy absorbance. As it is much more effective in detecting radiation, the device could be very promising for homeland security purposes. It also might have applications in mobile devices, medical imaging and other uses.

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140908-new-device-improves-radiation-detection>

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Nuclear Waste

Event – Discovery of a waste-eating bacteria that can help in nuclear waste disposal.

Status - Researchers at the University of Manchester are investigating the biological processes that garbage-eating bacteria use to survive in extreme conditions, as well as the stabilizing effects they have on radioactive waste. Bacteria "extremophiles" have been found thriving in soil samples from an industrial site strongly alkaline in the Peak District of England. Although the site is not radioactive, the conditions are similar to alkaline conditions provided in sites of radioactive waste in concrete base. The researchers say that the ability of bacteria to thrive in these conditions and to feed Isosaccharinic acid (ISA) makes it a promising candidate to assist in the disposal of nuclear waste.

An extremophile is a microorganism that survives and proliferates in prohibitive environmental conditions for human beings, for example in environments that present extremely high or low values of temperature, pressure, pH or salinity.

Source: <http://www.gizmag.com/extremophile-bacteria-nuclear-waste-disposal/33771/>

All data as at 10/09/2014

AFRICA

South Africa

Ebola

CDC Laboratories Produces First Genomic Sequence of Liberian Ebola

Event - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s scientists have obtained the gene sequence of the Ebola Virus Liberian blood of Kent and Nancy Brantly Writebol, the first Americans to have been treated with the drug Zmapp.

Status -The gene sequence confirmed that the virus present in the samples was 99% alike the virus in Guinea and Sierra Leone and was similar to the virus discovered in 1976 at a 97% percentage.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/amd/stories/ebola.html>

All data as at 01/09/2014



CDC Software Helps Fight Ebola

Event - Health workers have a new toolset to detect and help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, such as Ebola, as a team at the CDC continued efforts to fine-tune a suite of lightweight software used by epidemiologists and other health field workers.

Status - CDC Health Workers have used the latest version of the Epi Info software to track down people exposed to the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa.

Epi Info dates back to the 1980s, when CDC researchers developed software tools that public health staff. When epidemiologists deploy to the field this software assists them in collecting data for a wide variety of public health uses, said David Walker, health scientist and branch chief for the Analytic Tools and Methods Branch in CDC’s Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Science.

Sources: <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20140825/FEDIT/308250012/CDC-software-helps-fight-Ebola?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Personnel|p>
<http://www.federaltechnologyinsider.com/federal-news-round-u-s-cto-stepping-qsas-unified-acquisition-strategy-cdcs-fights-ebola/>

All data as at 02/09/2014

Ebola

Event - Pentagon to set up field hospital in Liberia.

Status - The Pentagon will send and staff a 25-bed field hospital to Monrovia. Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren said Monday the facility mainly will be used to treat health care workers. Warren did not provide details on which unit or command will be involved in the mission, estimated to cost \$22 million.

Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/article/20140907/NEWS05/309070035/Obama-U-S-military-help-fight-Ebola-W-Africa>

All data as at 07/09/2014

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To be continued

Games

Event - Plague Inc. and Infection 2 are two Bio War Simulation

Status - On the Apple platform you can find and download:



Source: <https://itunes.apple.com/it/app/infection-2-bio-war-simulation/id855412345?mt=>



Source: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/plague-inc./id525818839?mt=8&iq=mp=uo%3D2>

Black Market Blood

Event - A black market for the blood of Ebola survivors is emerging in the epicenter of the outbreak in West Africa, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Status - We are supporting use of whole blood and convalescent serum to manage Ebola virus disease in the West African Ebola outbreak, WHO spokesman Margaret Harris said.

Whole blood has already been used in a number of centers, but the WHO is concerned about the illicit trade, since giving a patient someone else's blood can cause anaphylactic shock and death or infection with other diseases such as HIV if the blood is tainted. Blood from Ebola survivors has a great number of antibodies against the deadly virus, and since currently there aren't approved drug to fight it, some people have become desperate enough to take fate into their own hands and turn to the black market for the experimental serum.

For that reason, the United Nations health agency said it will work with governments to stamp out the black market, WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said, and establish a safe system for collecting, storing and re-injecting blood.

It's unclear how successful convalescent serum has been in treating Ebola, but with nearly half of its victims still alive, the potential pool of donors is substantial.

In addition to WHO's work, doctors at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta and Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha are building a registry of survivors by blood type to help future victims.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/09/17/the-black-market-for-ebola-survivors-blood/?Post+qeneric=%3Ftid%3Dsm_twitter_washingtonpost

All data as at 15/09/2014

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Ebola

Safety Training Course

Event - The first CDC Ebola Safety Training Course starts on October 6, 2014.

Status - The courses are open to Healthcare Workers from all over the world and are being offered free of charge, but participants are responsible for paying for their own travel to attend the course in Alabama.

The International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) announced that they are sponsoring a limited number of travel grants to individuals who are attending one of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Ebola Safety Training Courses.

The courses will help prepare healthcare personnel to provide medical care to Ebola patients in an established Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU).

Sources: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/safety-training-course/index.html>

http://www.isid.org/grants/grant_ebola_training_travel.shtml

All data as at 24/09/2014

Ebola & Climate Change

Event- Association between Temperature, Humidity and Ebola virus Disease Outbreaks in Arica, since 1976 to 2014

Status – The report was published on Eurosurveillance, Volume 19, Issue 35, 04 September 2014.

Source: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20892>

All data as at 04/09/2014

Fighting Ebola with Data, Satellites and Drones

Event – Artificial Intelligence and Data Mining and High-Resolution Satellite Images

Status – Some of the intelligence tools that militaries use to gather intelligence could play a growing role in preventing the worst-case scenario.

Source: http://www.defenseone.com/technology/2014/09/fighting-ebola-data-satellites-and-drones/95171/?oref=defenseone_today_nl

All data as at 25/09/2014

Guinea

Ebola - Aid Workers Killed

Event – At least eight Ebola aid workers reported killed.

Status – The eight bodies were found in a village, Albert Damantang Camara, a spokesman for Guinea's government, told Reuters adding that they had been killed in cold blood by the villagers. The delegation had arrived on 16 September to do disinfection work and educate people about preventing Ebola, but residents pelted them with rocks and beat them, according to the Los Angeles Times, citing Guinean radio reports.

On 18 September, the bodies were found in the septic tank of the village school, according to Camara.

Six people have been arrested and the village is now reportedly deserted.

These deaths are believed to be the first resulting from resistance to international efforts to curb the Ebola outbreak in the region, Reuters reported.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/09/19/at-least-8-ebola-aid-workers-reportedly-killed-in-cold-blood-by-villagers-in/>

All data as at 19/09/2014

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To be continued Ebola

WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap

Event –Ebola Response Roadmap updates will now be issued on Friday evening and will replace the updates usually issued on Monday evening until further notice.

Status - Following the roadmap structure, country reports are classified into 2 categories: those with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone); and those with an initial case or cases, or with localized transmission (Nigeria, Senegal).

Table 1: Cases of Ebola virus Diseases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Country	Case definition	Cases	Deaths
Guinea	Confirmed	876	481
	Probable	162	162
	Suspected	36	5
	All	1074	648
Liberia	Confirmed	914	792
	Probable	1539	623
	Suspected	1005	415
	All	3458	1830
Sierra Leone	Confirmed	1816	557
	Probable	37	37
	Suspected	168	11
	All	2021	605
Total		6553	3083

Data are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health up to the end of 23 September 2014 for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

Source: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/135029/1/roadmapupdate26sept14_enq.pdf?ua=1

All data as at 26/09/2014



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Somalia, Mogadishu

Suicide Bomber

Event - At least 12 civilians have died as a result of a suicide attack in the city of Mogadishu.

Status - The event happened on September 8, near the settlement of Elasha Biyaha when a suicide bomber detonated his car full of explosives near the convoy of African Union Forces. Another car bomb exploded shortly after hitting the convoy escorting Abdifatah Shaweye, intelligence commander of Mogadishu.

Source: http://www.the-news-daily.com/12-civilians-killed-in-somalia-attack-say-police_232585

All data as at 09/09/2014

AMERICAS



United States of America

Terrorist Could get Syria Chemical Weapons

Event – The United States is concerned that the Islamic State group and other terrorists could get a hold of chemical weapons if Syria was hiding any stockpiles.

Status - The joint mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will end at the end of the month after destroying nearly all of Syria's declared stockpile. Kaag says the OPCW is still working with Syria to resolve discrepancies in its declaration.

Experts think that if there are chemical weapons left in Syria, there will be a risk that those weapons might fall into ISIL's hands.

Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/syria-chemical-weapons/>

All data as at 04/09/2014



Toxins Improperly stored in NIH and FDA labs

Event - In the wake of the July discovery of smallpox in government laboratories and the mishandling of other infectious agents in federal facilities in the recent months, government workers have found half a dozen more improperly stored substances, including the deadly toxin ricin and the bacteria that cause plague.

Status - Officials at the National Institutes of Health said a search on their sprawling Bethesda campus had turned up five different misplaced biological materials in recent weeks.

All of them are considered so dangerous (they are known as select agents) that the government requires them to be stored in specially secured facilities. But in these cases, the vials were in regular labs, often part of collections of samples that date back decades.

Simultaneously, the Food and Drug Administration said it had found vials of staphylococcal enterotoxin, a frequent cause of food-borne illness, at a lab within the agency's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition that was not registered to handle it.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/six-more-deadly-pathogens-found-improperly-stored-in-nih-and-fda-labs/2014/09/05/9ff8c3c2-3520-11e4-a723-fa3895a25d02_story.html?wpisrc=nl_eve

All data as at 05/09/2014

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Chikungunya and Dengue

Event - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) urged its member countries that have mosquitoes that transmit the Dengue and Chikungunya viruses to step up their vector control programs anticipating a possible increase in infections.

Status -The recommendation from PAHO, the World Health Organization's office in the region, comes before the peak transmission season for dengue and in the wake of local Chikungunya transmission in a number of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Since the beginning of the year countries in the PAHO region have reported almost 850,000 Dengue infections, including 470 deaths.

The group said Dengue prevention strategies can be applied to Chikungunya, and it recommends beefing up efforts in six ways: patient care, social communication, surveillance, lab capacity, mosquito control, and environmental control.

Sources : http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9922%3Aops-llama-a-paises-a-redoblar-esfuerzos-para-eliminar-los-criaderos-del-mosquito-que-transmite-los-virus-de-dengue-y-chikungunya-&Itemid=1926&lang=en

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&view=article&id=343&Itemid=40931

All data as at 19/09/2014

Dengue Update

Status - According to new data released by the PAHO on 2 September , the number of Dengue Fever cases reported in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean has exceeded the one million case mark.

Status - The total number of cases stands at 1,060,441 suspected and confirmed cases; there were 431 fatalities related to dengue this year, Brazil accounting for 261 of them.

The United States reported 172 cases so far with 99 % of the cases classified as imported.

Source: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/dengue-fever-in-the-americas-1-million-cases-and-counting-66854/>

All data as at 02/09/2014

Dengue Vaccine

Event - Preliminary Results of Dengue Vaccine.

Status - The vaccines division of the French pharmaceutical Company Sanofi published the preliminary results of a Phase 3 trial of its candidate Dengue Vaccine conducted in five countries in Latin America. The trial showed efficacy of 61% of reduction of Dengue Disease.

The study was first conducted in Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico and Puerto Rico and involved 20,875 children and teenagers aged 9 – 16 years. Afterwards, study follows a trial of the same vaccine candidate conducted in in Asia with 10,275 children and teenagers aged 2 – 14 years. The Asian trial also showed that vaccine efficacy was statistically significant for all serotypes except serotype 2. The Dengue Vaccine Initiative (DVI) is a consortium of organizations working to on the ground for dengue vaccine introduction in endemic areas so that, once licensed, vaccines to prevent dengue will be swiftly adopted.

DEVIL's partners are the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Sabin Vaccine Institute and the International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) at Johns Hopkins University.

Source: <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=3805c2f42ef8400c2e9729b91&id=e8a3cec963&e=94138a0ae5>

All data as at 03/09/2014



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Mexico, State of Tamaulipas

Dengue

Event - Nuevo Laredo has reported over one hundred cases of Dengue Fever.

Status - The Health Department Director, Hector Gonzalez said they're monitoring the situation.

Source: http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/index.php?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=BH-20140911-45236-MEX

All data as at 11/09/2014

Jamaica

Chikungunya

Event - Jamaica records new Chikungunya cases.

Status - The number of mosquito borne virus Chikungunya cases on the island is now 24. Twenty-one are locally transmitted, two are imported and one considered cryptic due to the uncertainty of where it was contracted.

Source: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/jamaica-records-new-chikungunya-cases-critic-says-government-not-taking-it-seriously-40209/>

All data as at 07/09/2014

Venezuela

Chikungunya-Dengue

Event - Venezuelan Health Minister, Nancy Perez confirmed 398 cases of Chikungunya virus and 45,745 cases of Dengue virus in the country.

Status - The government plans to intensify its campaign to eradicate the mosquitoes that spread the diseases to prevent more cases, the Venezuelan News Agency reported.

Perez has called on the public to make efforts for the mosquito control, as discarded tires with foul water and lidless water containers are good breeding of the Aedes mosquito.

Source: http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/index.php?pageid=event_summary&edis_id=BH-20140918-45328-VEN

All data as at 18/09/2014

Houston Texas, USA

Ebola

Event - An American federal air marshal was placed in quarantine in Houston, after being attacked at the Lagos, Nigeria airport.

Status - The assailant wielded a syringe which contained an unknown substance, and was able to inject it into the back of one of the air marshal's arms. The marshal was able to board the United Airlines flight to Houston, where he was met by FBI agents and health workers from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Fearing the syringe contained liquid contaminated with the Ebola virus, the authorities in Houston immediately put him into quarantine.

An FBI spokesperson said that the victim did not exhibit any signs of illness during the flight and was brought to a hospital upon landing for further testing. None of the testing conducted has indicated a danger for other passengers. ABC News reports that while the unknown assailant escaped, Nigerian officials said the other air marshals on the team secured the needle and brought it on the flight for testing in the United States. Officials noted that U.S. air marshals travel undercover in plain clothes and an attacker would not be able to identify his target as an American law enforcement agent. Because air marshals do not have a uniform identification, experts believe it is not a targeted attack on the United States, rather than the airport in Lagos could be a good target for the Islamic Group Boko Haram.

Sources: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20140909-u-s-air-marshal-in-quarantine-after-suspected-ebola-syringe-attack-at-lagos-airport>

<http://beforeitsnews.com/israel/2014/09/u-s-air-marshal-in-quarantine-after-suspected-ebola-syringe-attack-at-lagos-airport-2447354.html>

All data as at 09/09/2014



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Atlanta Georgia, USA

Ebola

Event - Fourth Ebola patient arrived in the USA for treatment.

Status - The patient arrived at Emory University Hospital, was treated in the same isolation unit in which were treated, doctor Kent Brantly and missionary Nancy Writebol. Emory has not released the patient's name or other identifying information because of patient privacy laws.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/09/09/third-ebola-patient-at-emory/15328685/>

All data as at 09/09/2014

Dallas Texas, USA

Ebola

Event - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed, through laboratory tests, the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States in a person who had traveled to Dallas, Texas from Liberia.

Status - The patient did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, but developed symptoms approximately four days after arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 20.

The person fell ill on Sept. 24 and sought medical care at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas on September 26. After developing symptoms consistent with Ebola, he was admitted to hospital on Sept. 28. Based on the person's travel history and symptoms, CDC recommended testing for Ebola. The medical facility isolated the patient and sent specimens for testing at CDC and at a Texas lab participating in the CDC's Laboratory Response Network. CDC and the Texas Health Department reported the laboratory test results to the medical center to inform the patient. A CDC team is being dispatched to Dallas to assist with the investigation. The ill person did not exhibit symptoms of Ebola during the flights from West Africa and CDC does not recommend that people on the same commercial airline flights undergo monitoring, as Ebola is contagious only if the person is experiencing active symptoms. The person reported developing symptoms several days after the return flight. Anyone concerned about possible exposure may call CDC-Info at 800-CDC-INFO for more information.

CDC recognizes that even a single case of Ebola diagnosed in the United States raises concerns. Knowing the possibility exists, medical and public health professionals across the country have been preparing to respond.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/s930-ebola-confirmed-case.html>

All data as at 30/09/2014

San Francisco California, USA

Malaria Prediction System

Event - University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is working to create an online platform that health workers around the world can use to predict where malaria is likely to be transmitted using data on Google Earth Engine.

Status - The goal is to enable resource poor countries to wage more targeted and effective campaigns against the mosquito-borne disease, which kills 600,000 people a year, most of them children. It these maps, health workers will know exactly where to target their scarce resources.

Source: <http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/622829/?sc=rsmn>

All data as at 10/09/2014



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United States of America

EV-D68

Event - Increases Cases.

Status - Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is one of many non-polio enteroviruses. This virus was first identified in California in 1962, but it has not been commonly reported in the United States.

EV-D68 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches.

Most of the children who got very ill with an EV-D68 infection in Missouri and Illinois had difficulty breathing, and some had wheezing. Many of these children had asthma or a history of wheezing. Since EV-D68 causes respiratory illness, the virus can be found in an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as saliva, nasal mucus, or sputum. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches contaminated surfaces. From mid-August to October 1, 2014, CDC or state public health laboratories have confirmed a total of 500 people from 42 states and the District of Columbia with respiratory illness caused by EV-D68. The 42 states are Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. This indicates that at least one case has been detected in each state listed but does not indicate how widespread infections are in each state

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/outbreaks/EV-D68-states.html>

All data as at 30/09/2014

Canada

West Nile

Event - West Nile virus found in Ottawa mosquitos.

Status- Ottawa Public Health (OPH) is reminding residents to continue to protect themselves against mosquito bites when going outdoors.

Ongoing testing of mosquito pools has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the Ottawa mosquito population again this year.

In 2013, there were four confirmed and probable human cases in Ottawa and 53 confirmed and probable human cases in Ontario.

Source: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/canada-west-nile-virus-found-in-ottawa-mosquitoes-13567/>

All data as at 05/09/2014

Los Angeles California, USA

Nuclear Power Plant in Los Angeles

Event - Rejected the request for shut down of the nuclear plant in Los Angeles, where there is a huge risk of earthquakes

Status - The request to close the plant was submitted to the company Diablo Canyon, for the closing of the Nuclear Central Los Angeles, as its reactors would not be ready to withstand another major earthquake and experts believe that the risk of a Fukushima Americana, is very high.

Source: http://www.centrometeoitaliano.it/rifiutata-la-chiusura-per-rischio-terremoto-della-centrale-nucleare-a-los-angeles-19307/?refresh_cens

All data as at 11/09/2014

Oak Ridge Tennessee, USA

Radioactive Leak

Event – Small and slightly radioactive leak in an old research reactor pool at Oak Ridge.

Status - A cleanup contractor at Oak Ridge National Laboratory says an old research reactor pool has a small leak; this finding led to an urgent response by the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractor. Allen Schubert, communications chief for URS-CH2M Oak Ridge, said the water leaking from the reactor pool is only slightly radioactive. According to records, the leak has been measured at about 100 drops per minute. The entire reactor pool holds about 125,000 gallons of water, which provides shielding for the radioactive materials. The leak is being contained in a basin, and Schubert says it does not pose any health or safety threat. The research reactor has been shut down for more than 25 years.

Source: http://hisz.rsos.hu/alertmap/site/index.php?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=HZ-20140912-45255-USA

All data as at 12/09/2014



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Texas, USA

Chemical Leak

Event - A chemical leak at the Port Neches Huntsman facility resulted in the hospitalization of one employee on September 18.

Status - The leak occurred at about 11:30 AM in the shipping and receiving area of the Huntsman plant at 2701 Spur 136, according to Huntsman spokeswoman Anne Knisely. The Port Neches Fire Department responded to the scene, but an on-site crew was able to contain the leak in approximately one hour, Knisely said. The employee was treated at the plant and taken to the hospital by ambulance as a precaution. His injuries are not life threatening. Huntsman notified all necessary agencies of the leak including the Texas Commission on Environment Quality, Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. There were no off-site impact and the community was never in any danger, Knisely said. Huntsman has begun an investigation to find out what caused the leak.

Source: http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=HZ-20140919-45331-USA

All data as at

19/09/2014 Canada, Kincardine

Ontario Power Generation

Event - Storage of Nuclear Waste in Kincardine, Canada.

Status - Federal Auditing spent two weeks examining the proposal to bury 200,000 cubic meters of radioactive waste of low and medium activity near the Bruce Nuclear Power Station, on the shore of Lake Huron.

Source: http://www.thestar.com/business/economy/2014/09/08/kincardine_nuclear_waste_site_hearings_reopen.html

All data as at 08/09/2014

Chile, Santiago



Bomb Attack

Event – Fourteen injured after a bomb attack

Status – The bomb exploded on September 8 in a crowded area near a subway station of Santiago. No-one claimed the attack, but the police arrested two men and a woman.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-29257688>

All data as at 18/09/2014

ASIA

China, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (Shanxii)



Ammonia Gas

Event - At least 33 people fell sick after an ammonia gas leak at a chemical plant in northwest China.

Status - The accident took place in the Jiemeifengyou Chemical Plant in Ningdong Energy and Chemical production base located in Yichuan provincial capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, state-run Xinhua. Most of the victims showed minor poisoning symptoms, but four people were seriously poisoned and came out of danger after overnight emergency medical treatment. Witnesses say ammonia gas and highly concentrated ammonia liquids spurted out from a flare piping in the southeast corner of the plant. The company kept spraying water in the polluted areas to dilute the gas in the air.

Source: http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/index.php?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=HZ-20140908-45206-CHN

All data as at 08/09/2014

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Kazakhstan

BSL 3 Research Laboratory Opens in Kazakhstan

Event - Kenneth A. Myers, Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) and John Ordway, U.S. Ambassador to Kazakhstan visited the first Biological Safety Level Three (BSL 3) Laboratory in Kazakhstan.

Status - This is a state of the art laboratory, staffed by Public Health Professionals, Scientists, Researchers and Laboratory Technicians from Kazakhstan. The laboratory will be used to conduct clinical and diagnostic research of infectious diseases that may affect both humans and animals. Working in coordination with other public health related agencies, this facility will enable Kazakhstan and the surrounding region to better anticipate and respond to human and animal diseases which have potentially significant consequences for human and animal health. The laboratory is the result of an ongoing partnership between Kazakhstan and the United States to improve public health safety in Kazakhstan and is the first research facility of its kind in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The Biocontainment facility will be administered by the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science and will support clinical and diagnostic research of infectious diseases that may affect both humans and animals.

Source: <http://globalbiodefense.com/2014/08/27/bsl-3-research-laboratory-opens-kazakhstan/>

All data as at 01/09/2014

MERS-CoV

Event - Low Transmissibility, Dangerous Illness.

Status - An international team of researchers led by virologists from the University of Bonn, has come to the conclusion, through direct observation, that the rate of human transmission is low; however a third of infected persons with symptoms die.

The study results were recently in the New England Journal of Medicine.

After new infections occurred, in Saudi Arabia, the researchers tracked how the disease spread further in the patients home environments. A total of 280 people who lived in the households of 26 infected persons were examined. There was an infection in not more than twelve cases (four percent).

Source: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1405858>

All data as at 02/09/2014

Saudi Arabia

MERS-CoV

Event - The Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported a new case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Status - Since 2012 have been recorded 753 Total Cases: 10 Cases Under Treatment; 425 Cases Recovered, 318 cases passed away.

Source: <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/CCC/PressReleases/Pages/Statistics-2014-09-28-001.aspx>

All data as at 28/09/2014

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Saudi Arabia

Cina, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region

H7N9 Avian Flu

Event - The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) on 04 September raised its travel alert for Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in China after two human infections of H7N9 avian flu were reported there.

Status - Upon the recommendation of Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the council raised its epidemic travel advisory for Xinjiang from a level-1 watch to a level-2 alert, which advises travelers to maintain a high degree of caution and take strong protective measures, especially when visiting certain high-risk places.

The CDC said that a 66 year old woman died on July 14 and a 53 year old died on August 5. Except for Xinjiang, all Chinese provinces are still under the council level-1 advisory, issued in light of reports of other H7N9 cases. The CDC said that the H7N9 situation in China could worsen in the autumn and cautioned people traveling to affected areas in China to:

- Wash their hands frequently;
- Wear a surgical mask;
- Avoid direct contact with birds or poultry;
- Avoid eating uncooked meat and eggs;
- Not to feed wild birds.

Source: <http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?id=20140904000175&cid=1103>

All data as at 04/09/2014

Japan

Global warming makes more vulnerable to tropical diseases

Event - A source of the Environment Ministry Japanese is quoted as saying that there are concerns that Dengue Fever might be related to the rise in average temperatures due to climate change.

Status - This year, there have been frequent heavy downpours and the volume of rainfall has been heavier than in previous years. This is producing more mosquitoes and other carriers of viruses, creating more factors that enable the spread of diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) has also noted that irregular weather patterns brought on by the El Nino phenomenon cause heavier precipitation. Epidemics of cholera were frequent occurrences in South America up to 1990 in years when the ocean temperature rose as a result of El Nino. The Asian tiger mosquito that transmits Dengue fever had previously not been found north of the Kanto area, but recently it has moved as far north as Morioka in Iwate Prefecture. This indicates the high likelihood that changing weather patterns are enabling carriers of tropical diseases to spread to increasingly wider parts of the archipelago. Dr Yoshikazu Shirai, an authority on vermin, says that malaria, of which cases have not appeared for over 50 years, used to be common in Japan, which is why caution is warranted.

The outbreak of dengue fever in Yoyogi Park might very well be a harbinger of even nastier things to come.

Source: <http://www.japantoday.com/category/kuchikomi/view/will-global-warming-make-japan-more-vulnerable-to-tropical-diseases>

All data as at 03/09/2014



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Japan, Tokyo

Dengue

Event - Japan Dengue outbreak up to 144 cases, now seen in Sumida Park.

Status - The number of locally acquired Dengue Fever cases reported in Japan is now up to 144.

The first locally transmitted case in 70 years was reported in a teenage girl from Saitama Prefecture one month ago.

The CDC notes that the Japanese Ministry of Health says that 80 confirmed cases of dengue have been reported in Japan, as of September 8.

Almost all cases refer to people who were in or near Yoyogi Park in Tokyo. In response to the outbreak, the Health Ministry along with the Tokyo Metropolitan government have closed parts of Yoyogi, Shinjuku Gyoen and Meijijingu Gaien parks in an effort to prevent further dengue transmission. The last indigenous case of dengue fever was reported in Japan in 1945. Japan sees scores of imported dengue cases annually from travelers to endemic areas. In 2013, they reported 249 cases.

Sources: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/japan-dengue-outbreak-up-to-144-cases-now-seen-in-sumida-park-40478/>

<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/japan-denque-outbreak-prompts-cdc-travel-warning-95197/>

All data as at 27/09/2014

Singapore

Dengue

Event -Singapore reports 3rd Dengue death as outbreak reached 15,000 cases.

Status - The Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH) and the National Environment Agency (NEA) have been notified of the death of a Dengue patient at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).

The patient was an 81-year-old Chinese woman who lived at Serangoon North Ave 1, where there is currently an active cluster with two cases. She was first seen at the Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) Emergency Department (ED) on 6 September and was admitted. They urge citizens about the need to remove stagnant water from the environment, so as to deprive the mosquitoes of their breeding habitats. Inverting pails and plant pot plates, changing water in vases regularly, and capping bamboo pole holders when they are not in use are simple steps that everyone can take to prevent mosquitoes from establishing a foothold in our neighborhoods. The total dengue fever cases in Singapore has been accounted 14,651 since the beginning of the year.

In 2013, Singapore recorded its most severe dengue outbreak, recording more than 22,000 cases and seven fatalities.

Source: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/singapore-reports-3rd-denque-death-as-outbreak-nears-15000-15000/>

All data as at 13/09/2014

Syria

Vaccine Adverse Event

Event - Human Error likely behind Syria measles vaccination deaths.

Status - Spoiled or likely sabotaged measles vaccine has killed as many as 50 children in insurgent-held areas of northeastern Syria.

The victims, some of them infants, apparently all died, mostly concentrated in the cities of Jarjanaz and Sinjar in Idlib province, an area controlled by forces against President Bashar Assad. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), a muscle relaxant was said to have been mixed with the measles vaccine, while calling the situation the biggest tragic incident of that kind caused by a very bad human error. In the hub, apparently, the diluent had been kept in a fridge with a muscle relaxant, Atracurium, which is normally used for anesthesia. As the muscle relaxant, which contaminated the vaccines, was working according to weight, all the children who died were under the age of two, while the older ones survived, although they had shown symptoms of diarrhea and vomiting, he stated, adding that the underlying reason of the subsequent deaths is still under investigation, as the WHO reported that three teams were dispatched to clarify how this could have happened and who was responsible for the very bad human error.

Sources: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/bad-measles-vaccine-kills-up-to-50-children-in-northern-syria/article20647789/>

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-19/271256-who-human-error-likely-behind-syria-measles-vaccination-deaths.ashx#axzz3Drzwrh1J>

All data as at 19/09/2014



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Kazakhstan, Province of Manghystau

Cesium-137

Event - Kazakh authorities are searching for a canister of radioactive cesium 137 that has gone missing in the western part of the Central Asian nation.

Status - Local authorities in the western Manghystau region said on September 2 that a metal cylinder containing the substance had been lost in the region on August 27 while being transported by car. They have warned residents not to open the container if it is found because it could be deadly. Cesium 137 is a radioactive isotope used in the nuclear industry and in medicine. It can sharply raise the level of radioactivity in an area it contaminates. Kazakhstan's National Security Committee (KNB) has joined the investigation and search for the container.

Source: http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/index.php?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=HZ-20140902-45119-KA

All data as at 02/09/2014

Pakistan

Tactical Nukes

Event - Pakistan is likely working to create tactical nuclear weapons.

Status – Tactical Nuclear Weapons are smaller warheads built for use on battlefields rather than cities or infrastructure. These weapons are small enough to be launched from warships or submarines, which makes them easier to use on short notice than traditional nuclear weapons. Developing tactical nuclear weapons calls for miniaturization of current weaponry, but, as The Washington Post reports, analysts are divided on whether Pakistan will be able to make warheads tiny enough for sea-launching.

A warhead-toting navy would allow Pakistan to stay nuclear-capable regardless of what happens to its homeland, where its nuclear infrastructure is spread out. The trade-off there, for both Pakistan and the world, is that nuclear missiles become more likely to fall into rogue hands, whether those of a maverick military commander or extremist groups.

Source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/pakistan-is-working-to-create-tactical-nuclear-weapons-2014-9#ixzz3EizT4qFT>

All data as at 26/09/2014

Afghanistan, Kabul

Car Bomb

Event- Taliban bomber kills 3 NATO troops in Kabul.

Status - A Taliban attacker detonated his car bomb next to an international military convoy, killing three members of the NATO-led force and wounding nearly 20 troops and civilians, officials said.

The attack happened only a couple hundred yards from the U.S. Embassy, on a main Kabul road that leads to the airport. The statement from the military coalition known as ISAF said five troops were wounded in addition to the three killed, but did not disclose their nationalities. The Polish Defense Ministry said one Polish soldier, Sgt. Rafal Celebudzki, was killed in the blast, and two other Poles were wounded. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which happened next to an ISAF base that houses many Americans.

The three military deaths, and a fourth in the country's east, brought the total number of international troops killed in Afghanistan this year to 59, at least 42 of whom were American. The U.S. and NATO military commitment to Afghanistan is winding down, with all combat troops scheduled to be out of the country by the end of the year. But violence remains. Afghan Interior Minister Omar Dawoodzai said that more than 1,500 Afghan police have been killed in violence in the past six months. Nearly 1,000 Afghan civilians have also been killed, he said.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/09/16/afghanistan-suicide-bomber/15703387/>

All data as at 16/09/2014

Car Bomb

Event – Blast rocks Kabul diplomatic area.

Status - Explosion near presidential palace injures one person. The blast, in a square outside the gate of the presidential palace in Kabul, was caused by a magnetic bomb attached to a military vehicle.

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/09/afghanistan-kabul-explosion-201492856473267.html>

All data as at 28/09/2014

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Syria, Damascus

Suicide Bomber

Event - The leader of one of the largest groups of Syrian rebels was killed in a suicide attack on September 9.

Status - The bomber wore an explosive belt that was detonated during a meeting of the leaders of the Ahrar al-Sham.

Source: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/09/09/leader-of-major-syria-rebel-group-killed-in-suicide-bombing-reports/>

All data as at 09/09/2014

Iraq, Baghdad

Car Bomb

Event - At least 30 people died in a suicide bomb attack in the Iraqi capital on September 10.

Status - 2 car bombs hurled at a police checkpoint resulted in the deaths of 90 people.

Source: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/double-car-bomb-attack-kills-10-iraq>

All data as at 10/09/2014

Lebanon

Car Bomb

Event - A suicide car bomber reportedly killed 3 people at a checkpoint manned by the Shia.

Status - On 20 September Hezbollah-run TV station reported that the suicide bomber did not kill anyone at the checkpoint in the Bekaa Valley. There was no immediate way to reconcile the contradictory reports. The bomber detonated his explosives-rigged vehicle at the checkpoint about 5 km from the Syria border near the town of Khreibeh, Lebanon's National News Agency said. It was not immediately clear if the reported casualties were bystanders or Hezbollah fighters. It was not immediately clear if the reported casualties were bystanders or Hezbollah fighters.

Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/hezbollah-checkpoint-hit-suicide-attack-201492020221924323.html>

All data as at 20/09/2014

Pakistan, Hangu

Moto Bomb

Event - 6 killed as blast hits IDPs camp in NW Pakistan

Status - At least 6 people were killed and several others injured when a bomb went off inside a camp of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Pakistan's northwest town of Hangu. Police said that the blast was triggered off by a remote controlled device and explosive materials were fixed at a motorbike parked inside the camp.

Source: http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=243706

All data as at 28/09/2014



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Coordination of Bibliographic Sources: Dr. Wanda D'Amico - International Edition Dr. Ed Locke, Ph.D.



EUROPE

Russia



CBRNe Training

Event – Russia’s Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection Units of the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) began training on the detection of different viruses and harmful bacteria, including the Ebola virus.

Status: Defense Ministry spokesman for SMF IgoYegorov said that in order to ensure proper coordination of the units soldiers will learn how to use electronic operational maps transmitting information about troop movements and distribution of viruses in real time. During the exercise, Radiation, Chemical and Biological Protection units, equipped with the newest RKHM-6 chemical reconnaissance vehicles, will perform detection tasks trying to locate more than 10 bacterial and viral pathogens, including anthrax, plague and Ebola.

Source: <http://en.ria.ru/russia/20140917/193034627/Russias-Strategic-Missile-Troops-Training-to-Find-Ebola.html>

All data as at 17/09/2014

Russia, Rostov

Anthrax

Event - 2 employees of a dairy farm in Rodionovo, Nesevetayskom district of Rostov region, were hospitalized with a diagnosis of anthrax.

Status - The regional station for animal disease control reported that the victims were infected with *Bacillus Anthracis*, while butchering carcasses.

Veterinarians who visited the area found the skin of a cow. Investigation of samples taken showed that the animal was infected with anthrax. The affected farm workers were hospitalized, and their lives are out of danger. To prevent the spread of infection, the hide was burned and the slaughter area disinfected. All 717 animals on the farm were examined by veterinarians and received the vaccine. The situation regarding anthrax remains tense because of the presence of a soil foci of infection. Prevention is mainly through the use of vaccines, the head of the veterinary department of the Rostov Region, Sergey Kartashov, was quoted as saying by the official website of the department on 1 September In the Rostov region, there are 794 infection loci and 1659 animal cases of anthrax officially registered. A previous case was registered in 2010 in the village of Hlebodarnoe, Tselinsky district.

Source: <http://www.jurnal.md/ro/news/cahul-alte-trei-persoane-internate-cu-antrax-1176631/>

All data as at 10/09/2014

Anthrax Vaccine

Event - PharmAthene Inc. announced it has received a federal contract worth up to \$28.1 million to develop a lyophilized (freeze-dried), heat-stable version of its next-generation anthrax vaccine.

Status - The contract, awarded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), relates to the SparVax® RPA Anthrax Vaccine, Recombinant Protective Antigen (RPA) Anthrax VACCINESPARVAX (®) - Second Generation Novel Vaccine Technology.

The announcement was made two days away from the dell'Emergent BioSolutions has received a contract for approximately \$ 29 million from NIAID to develop a freeze-dried and heat-stable version of NuThraxTM, also known as AV790

Sources : <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/pharmathene-awarded-contract-of-up-to-281-million-to-develop-next-generation-thermostable-anthrax-vaccine-2014-09-10-918330>

<http://www.pharmathene.com/product-portfolio/sparvax-rpa-anthrax-vaccine>

http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20140908006391/en/Emergent-BioSolutions-Awarded-Contract-Develop-Dry-Formulation#.VBakK5R_sI

All data as at 10/09/2014

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Germany, North Rhine-Westphalia

Legionnaire's Disease

Event - Community-acquired Legionnaires' in hospital Juelich, in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Status - The District of Dueren has announced that in the period from 14 August to 11 September 2014, forty-two people were treated in the hospital for a certain type of pneumonia. 5 of the 9 cases tested for Legionellapneumophila tested positive for the bacterium. Legionellapneumophila, more commonly known as Legionnaires' disease is a lung infection caused by the bacterium Legionella pneumophila, whose name means "lover of Legionella lungs." The genus Legionella was renamed in 1976 after an epidemic had spread among the participants in the meeting of the American Legion at the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia. On that occasion, 221 people contracted this form of pneumonia not previously known, and 34 died. The source of bacterial contamination was identified in the system's air-conditioning.

Legionnaire's disease can manifest itself in two distinct forms:

- Legionnaires' disease itself, which often includes a more acute form of pneumonia
- Pontiac fever, a much less severe form.

Source: <http://www.promedmail.org/>

All data as at 22/09/2014

Netherlands, Province of North Holland

Ricin Toxin

Event - Ricin poisons six in Amsterdam.

Status - Six employees of logistics company GLS had to be hospitalized when they got sick after breathing in vapor emanating from a broken package on 10 September, AT5 reports.

It appeared that a bottle of ricin, a poisonous substance manufactured from nuts which is used as a chemical weapon, had broken inside a package, and the liquid was leaking out.

The six employees had breathed in the vapor that came free, and had to be hospitalized. They were mildly injured. A special unit from the Osdorp barracks came in to stabilize and remove the substance

Source: http://www.dutchnews.nl/news/archives/2014/09/six_hospitalised_after_work_ac.php

All data as at 17/09/2014

France

Dengue

Event - 3rd indigenous Dengue fever case reported in France

Status - The Regional Health Agency Paca and the Prefecture of Bouches-du-Rhône confirmed first indigenous cases of dengue in the Bouches-du-Rhône in Aubagne.

This is the third locally acquired Dengue fever case in France, earlier cases were reported in Var and Toulon. No epidemiological link has been found between the 3 cases.

The state services, ARS Paca, the Interdepartmental Agreement for mosquito control (EID) Mediterranean, local and doctors are highly mobilized to prevent the spread of the virus, through surveillance and mosquito control to protect communities' populations

Source: <http://outbreaknewstoday.com/3rd-indigenous-denque-fever-case-reported-in-france-56870/>

All data as at 26/09/2014

Italy

Ebola

Event - 1.5 million euros aid for Ebola fight.

Status - The Farnesina has defined a program of emergency assistance for about 1.5 million to fight the Ebola epidemic that is affecting some countries in Africa.

The Italian cooperation has earmarked contributions to send doctors, to supply of medicines and equipment, and for the strengthening of surveillance systems. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will also send specialist medical staff

Source: http://www.tgcom24.mediaset.it/mondo/2014/notizia/ebola-dall-italia-aiuti-per-1-5-mln_2065178.shtml

All data as at 01/09/2014



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Germany, State of Saxony

Environment Pollution

Event – 28 years after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, its effects are still being felt as far away as Germany, in the form of radioactive wild boars.

Status – Wild boars still roam the forests of Germany, where they are hunted for their meat, which is sold as a delicacy. But in recent tests by the state government of Saxony, more than one on three boars were found to give off such high levels of radiation that they are unfit for human consumption. Outside the hunting community, wild boar is seen as a menace by much of German society.

Autobahns have to be closed when boar wanders onto them, they sometimes enter towns and, in a famous case in 2010, a pack attacked a man in a wheelchair in Berlin. But radioactive wild boars stir even darker fears.

radiation. Many mushrooms from the affected areas are also believed to be unfit for human consumption.

Since 2012, it has been compulsory for hunters have wild boar they kill in Saxony tested for radiation. Carcasses that exceed the safe limit of 600 becquerels per kg have to be destroyed.

In a single year, 297 out of 752 boars tested in Saxony have been over the limit, and there have been cases in Germany of boar testing dozens of times over the limit.

Germany, State of Saxony

Environment Pollution

They are believed to be a legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986, when a reactor at a nuclear power plant in the Soviet-ruled Ukraine exploded, releasing a massive quantity of radioactive particles into the atmosphere. Even though Saxony lies some 700 miles from Chernobyl, wind and rain carried the radioactivity across western Europe, and soil contamination was found even further away, in France. Wild boar is thought to be particularly affected because they root through the soil for food, and feed on mushrooms and underground truffles that store The radioactivity causes economic problems as well. Many hunters sell the boar as a game, and across Germany hundreds of thousands of euros are paid out each year in government compensation to hunters whose kills have to be destroyed.

Germany's radioactive boar problem is not expected to go away any time soon. With the levels of contamination still showing in tests, experts predict it could be around for another 50 years.

Source http://hisz.rsoe.hu/alertmap/site/?pageid=event_desc&edis_id=ED-20140901-45105-DEU

All data as at 01/09/2014

France, Lyon

Suicide Bomb

Event - 2 Teenage Girls Arrested Over French Synagogue

Status - According to Europe 1, a French radio station, two girls aged 15 and 17 from the Lyon area were arrested after social media exchanges revealed a plot to carry out a suicide bombing against a synagogue in Lyon. Chloe Triomphe, the station's police and justice reporter said that the two girls had met only on social media. One of the girls had been under surveillance for some time, and had links to other young extremists, she added. French Jewish news website JSS News quoted a source from the French security agency the Central Directorate of Homeland Intelligence as saying that the exact target of the teenagers' attack was the Great Synagogue of Lyon. They were indicted on August 22nd for conspiracy to commit terrorism.

The teen girls are now among some 60 people being investigated in France for associating with a terrorist enterprise. They were "part of a network of young Islamists monitored by security services", the French security source told JSS.

Sources: <http://www.breakingisraelnews.com/20905/suicide-bombing-french-synagogue-averted/#piuHLoeDfDFkeUKo.97>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/teen-girls-plotted-bomb-french-synagogue-report-article-1.1925344>

All data as at 02/09/2014

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Center for Security Training and Education University of The Republic of San Marino

United Kingdom, London

Bomb Threat

Event - Luton airport bomb scare: disposal experts carry out controlled explosion.

Status - Thousands of passengers evacuated and all incoming flights suspended after suspect package was found in security area.

The airport said people were sent out of the terminal after the finding in the "security search area" at about 14:00 BST. Bedfordshire Police said the explosion took place at 17:15. The airport reopened shortly afterward. Officers said the item was destroyed and "although deemed suspicious, did not present a wider danger". All flights were suspended and the approach road to the airport was closed. The police said no-one had been arrested.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/08/london-luton-airport-evacuated-suspicious-item-found>

All data as at 08/09/2014

Russia, Moscow

Bomb Threat

Event - Moscow's Vnukovo Airport Evacuated.

Status - Around 350 people were evacuated promptly, although none of them were passengers. Moscow's Vnukovo Airport was evacuated following two anonymous calls warning of a possible bomb threat, Interfax news agency reported. Citing a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, Interfax said a "mass evacuation" was taking place and that police and sniffer dogs were on the scene. Interfax later reported no explosives were found at any of Vnukovo's terminals and the bomb call was a hoax.

Source: <http://rt.com/news/184932-vnukovo-bomb-threat-airport/>

All data as at 04/09/2014

Italy, Rome

Bomb threat

Event - A Lebanese company's A320 MEA (Middle East Airlines), flying from Geneva to Beirut, was escorted by two fighter jets of the Air Force and forced to land in Fiumicino airport.

Status - 2 Eurofighters escorted a civilian aircraft with suspicious luggage on board. The order to takeoff was given by the NATO Combined Air Operation Center in Torrejon, Spain. The operation was carried out by the Air Operations Command in Poggio Renatico (Ferrara) in coordination with the concerned radar control centers across the country.

After the emergency landing, the plane was parked in a remote area, far from the terminals, and after removal of passengers and crew members, the plane was checked by the Department of Border Police Antiterrorism. Fiumicino, together with the teams of the Fire Department, Police Forces and Dog Units determined that there was no bomb in the suspicious luggage.

Sources: <http://www.aeronautica.difesa.it/News/Pagine/AllarmebombaintervengonoicacciaAM.aspx>

http://www.repubblica.it/cronaca/2014/09/14/news/atterraggio_fiumicino-95731440/?ref=search

All data as at 09/09/2014



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OCEANIA

Australia, State of Queensland



Ammonium Nitrate

Event - At least eight people, including four firefighters and a police officer, were injured in a truck explosion in outback Queensland.

Status - Emergency Teams were occurring as a result of tipping a truck on the highway, about 30 km Mitchell South of Charleville in South-West Queensland, but the truck, which was carrying about 50 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded after the arrival of the First Responder, injuring eight people.

Source : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2745859/It-literally-destroyed-road-Firemen-eight-people-injured-horror-truck-explosion-outback-Queensland.html>

All data as at 06/09/ 2014

Australia, Sidney



Plastic Explosive

Event - **Police apologise for leaving plastic explosive in suitcase at Sydney airport**

Status- A suitcase containing plastic explosive was accidentally left at Sydney airport for three weeks by the Australian Federal Police.

The AFP released a statement apologising for mistakenly leaving a training device at the airport – containing 230g of plastic explosive – in an unclaimed suitcase during a dog training exercise on 14 August. The AFP said the device was not live.

The mistake was not discovered until 9 September, when a woman travelling through Sydney airport discovered the device.

The mistake is the second serious error the AFP have been involved with in a matter of weeks. Guardian Australia reported in August that the force had accidentally published sensitive information that may have jeopardised criminal investigation.

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/sep/11/afp-apologises-plastic-explosive-in-suitcase-sydney-airport>

All data as at 11/09/ 2014

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