

63. THE SWISS WAY TO COUNTER CHEMICAL TERRORISM

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After the sarin attempt in the Tokyo underground, the Swiss population started to ask about the possibility and consequences of such an event in our country. A working group was nominated by the national board for NC protection and was given the task to assess the situation. The conclusion was that the low probability would not justify keeping the population under continuous alert.

Therefore it was recommended, e.g.:

- integrate the problems of chemical terrorism into the concepts of protection against chemical risks,
- check the equipment of the emergency responders,
- check availability and suitability of military chemical protective equipment for emergency responders (respirators, suits, CW detection instruments, antidotes),
- nominate laboratories and coordination bodies for criminal investigation and information/documentation.

The army material is being readied for supply to the emergency organizations, as soon as the training in application has taken place. This is the most cost-effective way of upgrading the equipment of civilian emergency organizations.

Discussions with the cantonal authorities demonstrated a need for support by a national expert team from the AC-Center Spiez. It was organized in 1999 and equipped with the most modern protective outfit, detection devices, etc. Depending on transport means, it will arrive at the site within hours of the event. Part of the team will remain at the AC-Center to provide data and information and to prepare the analysis of samples, which are brought to Spiez as quickly as possible.

The poster gives information about the organization and the equipment of the expert team and the coordination of activities on site.

Keywords: CW detection, protection, chemical preparedness, civilian preparedness