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AFCESA



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## TARGET AUDIENCE: All CE Flights

# Ricin: Background Info, References & Resources

### SYNOPSIS:

On February 2, 2004, at approximately 1500, a substance was found in the mailroom of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington DC. This substance has tested positive for ricin in preliminary and confirmatory testing.

### WHAT IS RICIN?

- Ricin is a highly toxic poison made from the castor bean.
- It can be made into a powder or a pellet, or mixed with water to form a liquid.
- Since it is a toxin, and not a bacteria or virus, it is stable at environmental temperatures.
- It can be inhaled, injected or ingested. Symptoms depend on the route of entry.
  - Inhalation results in breathing difficulties, and coughing followed by shock.
  - Ingestion produces vomiting, nausea and bloody diarrhea.
- There is no specific medical treatment such as an antidote, antibody or vaccine.
  - Medical treatment is based on treating the symptoms of the toxin.
- Ricin is **not** contagious from person-to-person.
- Decontamination can be performed with soap and water.

### REFERENCE MATERIAL:

The following list provides additional links to information, guidance and current policies on chemical and biological weapon emergency response and defense. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but rather intended to provide a general overview.

#### General Information –Fact Sheets:

Centers for Disease Control at [www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin/index.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/ricin/index.asp)

Jane's Information Group at [www.janes.com](http://www.janes.com) (perform Quick Search on ricin)

#### Emergency Response:

The following guidance is available at [www.e-publishing.af.mil](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil), or link directly by clicking on the document name:

- [AFMAN 10-2602](#), *Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, and Conventional (NBCC) Defense Operations Standards*
- [AFH 10-2502](#), *USAF Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Threat Planning and Response Handbook*

These publications are available at

<https://wwwmil.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/CEXR/FSTRPubs/FSTRPubs.html>,

or link directly by clicking on the document name:

- [AFI 10-2501](#), *Full Spectrum Threat Response (FSTR) Planning And Operations*
- [FSTR 10-2 Planning Template](#)
- [FSTR 10-2 Functional Checklist Templates](#)
- [NBC Detection Guide](#)

Other helpful information is available at HQ AFCESA's public and secure Web sites:

- <http://www.afcesa.af.mil/directorate/cex/fire/FireChem.htm>
- <https://wwwmil.afcesa.af.mil/Directorate/CEX/Fire/FireChem.html>

### SPECIFIC QUESTIONS?

24-7 support provided by AFCESA Readiness Operations Center at DSN 523-6229 or commercial 850-283-6229

Commercial Cell Phone (After Business Hours: 1630 to 0730 Central Time): 850-774-1514

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