

9 January 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. ARMY CORPS PLANS UPDATE ON AZALEA PARK BOMB RANGE:** *"The former Orlando Airfield, Toxic Gas and Decontamination Yard covers about 2,100 acres north of Curry Ford Road and is bisected by South Goldenrod Road."*

**2. PREPARING FOR A CHLORINE GAS DISASTER:** *"On a January night in 2005, a freight train with three tanker cars -- each loaded with 90 tons of chlorine -- slammed into a parked locomotive in the center of Graniteville, S.C., a town of 7,000 people about 15 miles from Augusta, Ga."*

**3. NRC DEPLOYS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL TRACKING SYSTEM:** *"The commission would require industrial, scientific and medical firms to provide the new National Source Tracking System with the status of any nuclear substance emitting at least 10 times the amount of radiation necessary to inflict permanent harm, referred to by the International Atomic Energy Agency as Category 1 and 2 radioactive materials."*

**4. NOSE-SPRAY VACCINE AGAINST BOTULISM EFFECTIVE IN FIRST TESTS:** *"In this study, we found that our vaccine could provide complete protection in one dose against one of the seven BoNTs, which strongly suggests that the same platform could be applied to build a multi-component vaccine against the remaining six," said Mingtao Zeng, PhD, assistant professor within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, principal investigator and corresponding author of the study."*

**5. FRAMEWORK FOR THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF HIGH-LEVEL ISOLATION UNITS: CONSENSUS OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:** *"Participants took a consensus-based approach to develop a framework for the design and operation of HLIUs [high-level isolation unit] in Europe, covering clinical care provision, diagnostic services, transport, health and safety, and essential design and construction features, to support planning by health authorities for the safe and effective management of highly infectious diseases and preparedness for infectious disease emergencies in Europe."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **ARMY CORPS PLANS UPDATE ON AZALEA PARK BOMB RANGE**

By Rich McKay

The Orlando Sentinel

January 1, 2009

"The former Orlando Airfield, Toxic Gas and Decontamination Yard covers about 2,100 acres north of Curry Ford Road and is bisected by South Goldenrod Road. It was used in the late 1940s to train soldiers on how to detect and protect themselves from deadly war gases such

as mustard gas and Lewisite -- an arsenic-based compound."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/orange/orl-azalea-bomb-range-09jan01,0,6412427.story>

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## **PREPARING FOR A CHLORINE GAS DISASTER**

WashingtonPost.com

January 8, 2009

"On a January night in 2005, a freight train with three tanker cars -- each loaded with 90 tons of chlorine -- slammed into a parked locomotive in the center of Graniteville, S.C., a town of 7,000 people about 15 miles from Augusta, Ga.

One tank ruptured during the 2 a.m. collision, releasing between 42 tons and 60 tons of chlorine gas that seeped into a nearby textile mill, where 180 people were working the overnight shift.

Eight people died at the accident scene, at least 525 people were treated in emergency rooms, and 71 people were admitted to nine hospitals in South Carolina and Georgia.

A new study examining the lingering effects of the disaster should serve as a blueprint for larger metropolitan areas looking to prepare for an accidental or terrorist release of the potentially deadly gas, the researchers said.

"This is one of the largest community exposures to chlorine gas since World War I," study lead author David Van Sickle, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health & Society Scholar at the University of Wisconsin, said in a news release issued by The American Journal of Emergency Medicine, which published the report in its January issue."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/07/AR2009010703321.html>

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## **NRC DEPLOYS RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL TRACKING SYSTEM**

Global Security Newswire

January 8, 2009

"The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission unveiled an expanded system Monday for recording the siting, usage and final disposition of materials that could help fuel a radiological "dirty bomb."

"The commission would require industrial, scientific and medical firms to provide the new

National Source Tracking System with the status of any nuclear substance emitting at least 10 times the amount of radiation necessary to inflict permanent harm, referred to by the International Atomic Energy Agency as Category 1 and 2 radioactive materials."

The full article can be found at: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090107\\_2626.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090107_2626.php)

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## **NOSE-SPRAY VACCINE AGAINST BOTULISM EFFECTIVE IN FIRST TESTS**

Infection Control Today Magazine

January 8, 2009

"The goal of scientists is to offer troops better protection from potential bioweapons. A preclinical study found a new nasal spray vaccine to provide complete protection against a major botulism toxin, according to a study published today in the Nature journal Gene Therapy."

"In this study, we found that our vaccine could provide complete protection in one dose against one of the seven BoNTs, which strongly suggests that the same platform could be applied to build a multi-component vaccine against the remaining six," said Mingtao Zeng, PhD, assistant professor within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center, principal investigator and corresponding author of the study. "With these findings, we believe the design of a safe and inexpensive subunit vaccine can now proceed rapidly."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.infectioncontrolday.com/hotnews/nose-spray-vaccine-against-botulism.html>

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## **FRAMEWORK FOR THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF HIGH-LEVEL ISOLATION UNITS: CONSENSUS OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

By Barbara Bannister, Vincenzo Puro, Francesco Maria Fusco, Julia Heptonstall, Dr Giuseppe Ippolito

The Lancet Infectious Diseases

January 2009

"Patients with highly infectious diseases require safe, secure, high-quality medical care with high-level infection control, which may be most effectively delivered by specially trained staff in the setting of a high-level isolation unit (HLIU). The European Network of Infectious Diseases is a European Commission co-funded network of experts in the management of highly infectious diseases from national (or regional) centres designated for the care of this patient population. Participants took a consensus-based approach to develop a framework for the design and operation of HLIUs in Europe, covering clinical care provision, diagnostic services, transport, health and safety, and essential design and construction features, to

support planning by health authorities for the safe and effective management of highly infectious diseases and preparedness for infectious disease emergencies in Europe.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(08\)70304-9/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(08)70304-9/abstract)

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