



20 Years of EPA Homeland Security Research – Looking Back and Moving Forward

September 16, 2021 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET



A certificate of attendance will be offered for this webinar

SPEAKERS

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On-Scene Coordinator

Tim Oppelt

Former Director,
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Director,
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The U.S. EPA played a key role in the nation's response to the events of September 11th and the Amerithrax incident shortly thereafter. This webinar will provide an account of EPA's emergency personnel responsibilities and expertise during the 2001 Amerithrax incident, where letters containing anthrax spores contaminated the Brentwood post office in Washington, DC as well as the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. It will discuss how this incident and the events of September 11th necessitated the establishment of a Homeland Security Research Program at the U.S. EPA. This program provides scientific and technical expertise to help the United States to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a potential or active chemical, biological, or radiological attack. Through the years, the Homeland Security Research Program has built up capability through a foundation of research to assist emergency responders and decision-makers on a number of incidents, such as ricin, water contamination, Fukushima, and Ebola. The Program continues to develop capability to respond to large-scale contamination incidents and improve the ability of water utilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to water contamination that threatens public health. As the Program fulfills its mission by responding to current events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, fentanyl contaminations, and cyberattacks on critical infrastructure, it also looks to the future to apply what we know now to what's potentially to come and ensure the United States is able to prepare for, respond to, and recover from those events.