

## NYC Medical Examiner's Office Gets Ready for the Next Emergency

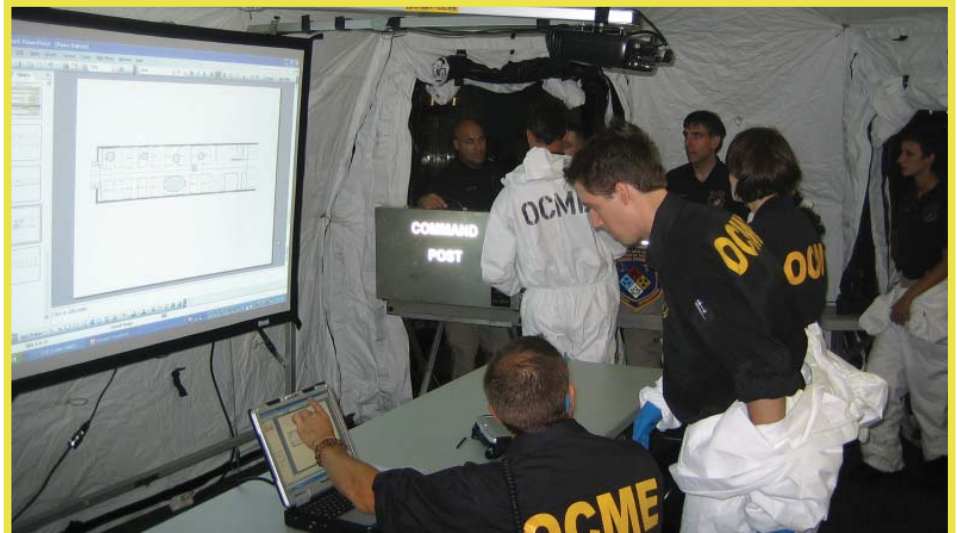
It is midnight on a Saturday and New York City Police, firefighters and emergency vehicles are responding to a possible explosion aboard a train at Penn Station. Injuries and casualties are heavy. Rescuers are desperately working to remove surviving passengers and identify those who did not.

Fictional scenario or nightmare come true?

For New Yorkers who ride the rails, the possibility of a terrorist attack on the City's train system is still a recurring bad dream, and unfortunately, in light of the attacks in London and Madrid, this scenario could be a reality. That is why between midnight and 4 pm, on Saturday, August 25th, the New York Office of Emergency Management held a multi-agency field exercise to assess how well the city would respond to a terrorist incident within New York City's train system.

One of the agencies involved, New York City's Medical Examiner's Office (OCME), supplied its mobile command post for the exercise, a rapidly deployable DRASH shelter providing 249 square feet of usable space that includes independently-operational DC2E communications equipment. The shelter and communications equipment, supplied by Reeves EMS, became fully operational within an hour of the "incident," providing an immediate environmentally controlled command area. The command post is one of several new improvements made by the Office to mitigate future man-made or natural disasters that could also involve radioactive or biologically contaminated casualties.

"The primary objective of the Medical Examiner's Office is to recover remains in a dignified and respectful manner while ensuring the integrity of the victim's identification," says Frank DePaolo, director of the agency's Special Operations Division. This means that, in the event of a major disaster, victims need to be recovered, identified and returned to their families as soon as possible. It also means that



OCME personnel respond inside the mobile command shelter during the August 25th exercise at Penn Station.

the related crime scene, including the medicolegal investigation needs to be done properly. In the past, the challenge has been how to safely and effectively conduct an investigation in a contaminated environment. To do this, the office has worked diligently since 9/11 with the NYPD Emergency Services Hazmat Unit to not only train its medical examiners, but also train members of the New York Police Department,

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—Frank DePaolo, Special Operations Director, OCME

the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies involved in this type of crime scene investigation.

"In New York City, the Medical Examiner's Office is the lead agency when it comes to fatality management," says DePaolo. "We'll step up as we have in the World Trade Center recovery operation. So far, we have trained about sixty people in our office to be fully competent to operate in a contaminated, crime scene environment. This includes pathologists, anthropologists, medicolegal investigators, mortuary technicians, autopsy technicians, DNA scientists, all who have been trained to work as a multi-disciplinary team in the field."

According to DePaolo, another major element to achieving complete readiness is getting the right tools to build a system. On the Thursday before the Penn Station exercise, the Office set up part of its entire arsenal of equipment at an undisclosed location in New York City.

Taking center stage was a 97 foot long soft-walled shelter, comprised of a DRASH M Shelter System with four additional center sections, which would act as a field-disaster portable mortuary in case of a disaster. Here, decedents would be processed logically and expeditiously, protecting the integrity of the crime scene by moving down a track to different partitioned rooms that include triage, evidence collection, examination, photography and identification. A metal detector at the entrance would ensure that all victims would be scanned first to ensure that nothing on the remains could be detonated.

Side by side, an isolation shelter acts as an autopsy suite for contaminated victims. The shelter uses a HEPA filtration system to generate negative pressure that keeps contaminants from getting into the surrounding environment.

Both shelters are carried on trailers that provide an independently operational generator and environmental control system.

"... these are the most durable, rugged structures out there," says DePaolo. "They have been used by the military for years in the field, and are perfect for this type of application."

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Inside the NY OCME field mortuary

# NEWS

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One of the office's newest acquisitions is the purchase of a flexible command and control system that can be operated at the scene of an incident or at different locations if there are multiple incidents. The three part command system is comprised of the DRASH command shelter, a mobile command trailer with camera, satellite, cellular and remote video capabilities, and a special trailer that is used as a mobile field communications unit. The DRASH system, which includes state-of-the-art communications equipment, has its own generator and environmental control capabilities, and can be deployed by itself or combined with the mobile command trailer, which can also be deployed independently. The mobile communications trailer is used in conjunction with the other equipment to support the Unified Victim Identification System (UVIS).

According to DePaolo, UVIS was developed as a result of lessons learned from the recent years' disasters, such as 9/11 and the response to hurricane Katrina.

"In 9/11, about 25,000 missing person's reports were generated," says DePaolo. "They were collected by different agencies. In a large-scale disaster situation, you can't have that. We need to be able to rapidly identify persons involved in the incident. This is only possible if we have a centralized system for the collection of missing persons' information."

According to DePaolo, UVIS has many features that allow for faster, more accurate victim identification. DePaolo says that the



NYC Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles Hirsch (left) and OCME Chief of Staff Barbara Butcher (center) discuss the finer points of the system with Frank DePaolo, director of the OCME's Special Operations division.

London subway bombing was a perfect example of efficient use of this type of system. The incident generated 131,000 calls in 24 hours. This resulted in about 4,000 missing person's reports, which in the end enabled law enforcement officials to find out who was actually missing and who might be involved.

The system seems to be much improved since recent years. In New York City, friends and family can now report a missing person during an emergency disaster incident by calling 311. The 311 call center has sufficient staff who can access the UVIS system immediately following an incident and send information in real time to OCME and law enforcement personnel on the scene so that they can begin

identifying bodies.

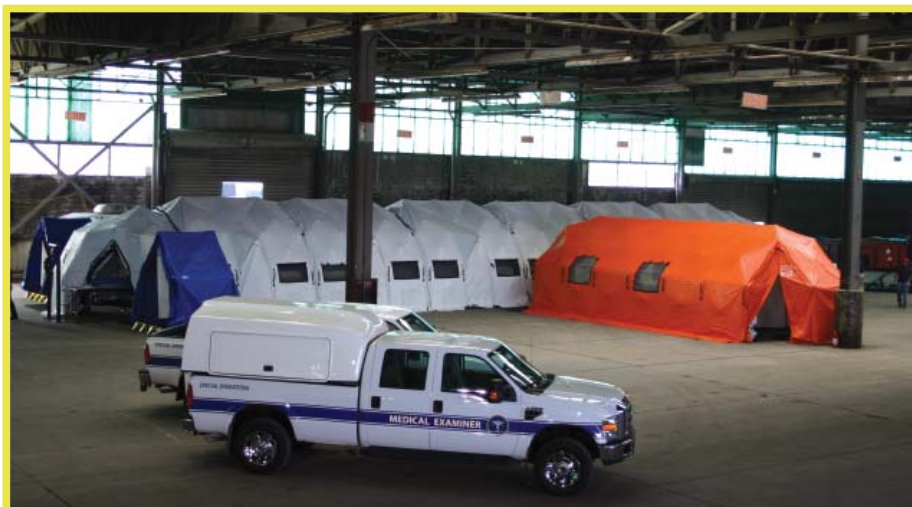
In addition to the deployable mortuary, decontamination, command and communications equipment, special photography equipment will be used on the scene to enter a victim's information directly into the UVIS system.

The recently acquired equipment is not only crucial to making sure that victims are properly identified, but also aids those personnel who sometimes spend months at a disaster scene.

"We got the funds for this system approved because our jobs are very unique," says DePaolo. "First responders have a role. To properly process this type of crime scene, we often have to be at a scene for six weeks or even six months."

Thursday's equipment demonstrations were conducted with New York City's Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles Hirsch and the OCME Chief of Staff Barbara Butcher in attendance, along with their supporting staff.

"We're really proud to have been able to put together the finest, largest Medical Examiner's Disaster Response capability in the country," says Butcher. "With this equipment and our highly trained team of specialists, we stand ready to assist wherever needed in the United States."



A "bird's eye" view of the NY OCME field mortuary and autopsy suite.

# The Reeves Mobile Mass Fatality Management System

*As designed for the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner*

## DRASH Fatality Management Center

*Provides response personnel with a rapidly-deployable, rugged, climate-controlled shelter system that serves as a temporary location in the field for identification, processing, storage and viewing of casualties following a disaster or emergency. Systems may include mortuary management equipment, a mobile HVAC system and a power package for completely independent operation.*

### As Designed for the NY OCME

The NY OCME worked with Reeves representatives to design a 97'10" long mobile field mortuary to use for evidence collection, DNA collection, identification, decontamination, quality assurance and release.

### NY OCME Field Mortuary Features:

- A rigid frame roller runs the length of the system for processing victims.
- Field Mortuary comprised of one DRASH M Shelter with four additional center sections.
- An HP-4DL UST Trailer provides 35kW of power and mobility.
- A 12 Ton HVAC ECU is included with the trailer for cooling.
- Two individual Reeves Decon systems provide an area for personnel to decontaminate after completing shifts.



Exterior of the 97 foot long NY OCME Field Mortuary

## Reeves Outdoor Patient Isolation System

*Combines DRASH military shelter technology with HEPA filtration to form a portable all-weather solution to biological outbreak isolation. Each system comes with a separate anteroom built in to allow for personnel to don or doff protective gear. Models are available in multiple sizes, ranging from 2-3 bed systems to 10-14 bed systems.*

### As Designed for the NY OCME

The Reeves Outdoor Isolation System is used by the NY OCME as an Autopsy Suite to process victims inside a biologically secure structure.

### NY OCME Autopsy Suite Features:

- Large enough to conduct two autopsies simultaneously.
- Cooled by a separate 5 Ton HVAC unit.
- Uses HEPA air filtration to generate negative pressure to keep contaminants from getting into surrounding environment.



NY OCME Autopsy Suite shown booted to the Field Mortuary

## DRASH Command and Control Center

*Provides response personnel with a rapidly-deployable, rugged, climate-controlled shelter system from which an incident commander can assign and direct rescue and relief efforts from the field during an emergency or crisis. Systems may include DC2E Command and Control equipment, a mobile HVAC system and power package for completely independent operation.*

### As Designed for the NY OCME

The DRASH Command and Control Center is used by the NY OCME as the Command and Control Suite, providing a place for briefings, meetings and viewing video feeds from the field.

### NY OCME Command and Control Suite Features:

- DRASH 3XB Shelter provides 249 square feet of usable space.
- DC2E Projector System is fed by laptops and video feed trailer.
- HP-2C UST Trailer provides 20kW of mobile power.
- An 8 Ton HVAC ECU is included with the trailer for cooling.



Inside the NY OCME Command and Control Suite

*All Fatality Management Systems can be custom designed to meet your agency's specific needs. For more information, contact Mark Wlazlak at [mwlazlak@reevesems.com](mailto:mwlazlak@reevesems.com) or 240.446.6986.*

## San Bernardino Holds County-Wide Pandemic Flu Exercise

The influenza pandemic of 1918 killed more than half a million people in the United States and as many as 100 million worldwide. Though nine decades have come and gone, that early 20th century disaster is a reminder of what could happen if another vicious virus swept through the population.

So on July 25, 2007, emergency response workers from more than a dozen agencies and ten different hospitals braved the 100 degree heat to gather at California State University San Bernardino to stage a county-wide disaster drill featuring DRASH 5XB mobile emergency treatment shelters provided by Reeves EMS.

“The scenario is that a student from the University visits his home in Vietnam, and comes back from vacation with the Avian Flu,” explains Jerry Nevarez, HRSA Coordinator for San Bernardino’s Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA). “A month and a half later, about sixty people are confirmed dead in the county and 1,200 are considered to be infectious. These shelters were activated to dispense vaccinations of Tamiflu in case of such an incident.”

According to Nevarez, the county estimates that during a real epidemic, at least 1,000 people would file through the shelters each operational day with approximately 700 of them receiving vaccinations.

“The big focus of this exercise was to make sure that we could open a shelter, process people through it, take it down and then figure out how long it would take to do that,” says Nevarez. “We learned all that, and now we know where to tweak our plan.”

Known more for its challenging natural environment—wildfires and earthquakes



Two of the DRASH 5XB Medical Treatment shelters set up during the San Bernardino pandemic exercise.

are commonly recurring events—San Bernardino County, which spans 20,161 square miles across mostly desert terrain, is not usually associated with biological or man-made

back to the State of Florida. People know that. It’s not a secret, and it’s kind of scary.”

Nevarez and the personnel at the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of

**“We are a hub for a tremendous amount of freight that passes through to the rest of the country. Additionally, the only facility in the United States that makes the rocket fuel to launch the space shuttle is located in our county. People know that. It’s not a secret, and it’s kind of scary.”**

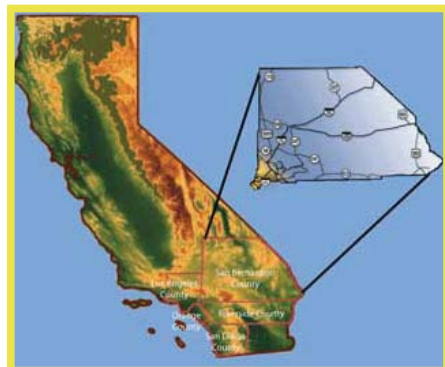
—Jerry Nevarez, HRSA Coordinator, ICEMA

Public Health are also concerned about the county’s close proximity to Los Angeles and the impact a catastrophe there could have on San Bernardino’s surge capabilities.

threats, such as pandemics or terrorist related attacks. However, its close proximity to Los Angeles (just east of the city), coupled with the fact that it is home to numerous manufacturing plants and criss-crossed with critical transportation routes, poses a specific terrorist risk to those living within the county and the surrounding areas.

“Since LA is one of the five major ports identified in the United States as at risk for a major terrorist attack, we know that any time

HRSA Coordinator Jerry Nevarez leads visitors on a walk through of the system.



“We are a hub for a tremendous amount of freight that passes through to the rest of the country,” commented Nevarez. “Additionally, the only facility in the United States that makes the rocket fuel to launch the space shuttle is located in our county. So every time there is a shuttle launch, that very volatile fuel is transported out of this county and

A cut out map of San Bernardino County, located just east of Los Angeles.



anything happens, it is more than likely going to come through LA International Airport. We know that those residing in LA are not going to stay in the city. They are going to go east, and they are going to go north, right into our county. That is a huge surge for us, so we have to be prepared.”

To get ready, the county would eventually like to build a full-scale mobile field hospital, but as a first level of defense is currently capable of deploying its four DRASH mobile treatment and stabilization facilities, either separately or together, depending on the emergency.

“Let’s say we have an earthquake and it damages one of our emergency rooms,” says Nevarez. “We could deploy the DRASH shelters and move any salvageable equipment from our ERs into those units, power them up, assign staff and consequently create mobile ERs. The great thing about these facilities is that we can use them anywhere in the county whenever we need them.”

During the exercise, about 30 people were trained to deploy the DRASH shelters.

“The more people that are trained on this the better. Because in an actual disaster, not everyone is going to be able to show up.”

Below: Volunteers get ready to deploy a DRASH 5XB



# WHAT ARE YOUR EMERGENCY SHELTER NEEDS?



## Emergency Treatment and Surge

Disaster has struck and your emergency rooms are filled to capacity or have been incapacitated. Reeves Emergency Treatment and Surge Facilities can help by providing a temporary climate-controlled area in which to administer treatment or triage before patients are transported to other primary treatment facilities.

*Available as 5, 10, 20 or 25 bed facilities.*



## Decontamination

A bomb goes off in a crowded public place, and toxic gasses are emitted in the surrounding area. You need to start decontaminating patients as quickly as possible. A Reeves Decontamination System can be set up and fully functional in as little as six minutes. Additionally, these systems are so durable that they can be set up anywhere. So you can provide help wherever you need to be.

*Available in single, two-lane and three-lane configurations and multiple sizes.*



## Isolation

Whether caused by man or by natural causes, a pandemic can happen anytime, in any place in the world. Our job is to be ready. Reeves Isolation Systems provide a secure place for pandemic patients to recover, while using a positive/negative HEPA filtration system to keep unwanted pathogens from spreading to the surrounding areas.

*Available in 2-3 bed, 4-5 bed, 6-8 bed and 10-14 bed sizes.*



## Command & Control

When disaster strikes, it is crucial to know what is going on at all times. Reeves Command and Control Centers provide response personnel with a fully-functional rapidly-deployable, mobile platform from which an incident commander can assign and direct rescue and relief efforts from the field during an emergency or crisis.

*Available in multiple sizes ranging from 250 square feet to 514 square feet.*



## Fatality Management

In most disasters, there are unfortunately some casualties. Reeves Fatality Management Centers provide a temporary location to identify, store and view casualties of a disaster or emergency involving fatalities, providing a secure location for police and emergency personnel to collect evidence during the course of an investigation, and act as temporary Family Assistance Centers for identifying those deceased after an incident.

*Available in multiple sizes starting at 250 square feet.*

For more information about these shelter packages and other Reeves products, contact Reeves at 800.328.5563 or at [info@reevesems.com](mailto:info@reevesems.com).

# REEVES IN THE NEWS

## Soldiers Prepare Life-Saving Equipment

“All ready on the right side; left side ready. Everybody good? All right, one, two, three...” and up goes a simple-looking shelter that can mean the difference between life and death in a catastrophe.

The DRASH decontamination shelter, supplied by Reeves EMS, that Sgt. Thomas Horton, Santee, S.C., and fellow soldiers from the 414th Chemical Company raised is one step in the process that chemical units use to treat casualties after a man-made disaster such as an industrial spill or a terrorist attack.

The 414th, from Orangeburg, S.C., and other Army Reserve chemical units from around the country converged at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin for two weeks of preparation and training, culminating in “Red Dragon” on August 13, 2007, a joint military and civilian exercise to simulate, and evaluate, the Reserve’s readiness to handle, a catastrophe of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield (CBRNE) nature.

By working with civilian agencies the Army Reserve can assess the level of cooperation that exists between responders who have to deal with the ever increasing threat of a catastrophe, and improve future operations.

The setting up of equipment before Red Dragon provides an opportunity to train soldiers with the assets of their jobs, as well as providing a chance for the inspection of the

equipment that may save the lives of victims of a disaster.

“The intention... [of the DRASH shelters]... is to have a closed system where everything going in is dirty... or contaminated, and everything going out is clean and you do not have cross contamination,” says Sgt. Taylor Legget, Nashville, Tennessee, 414th Chemical Company.

The decontamination process is run like an assembly line through three DRASH shelters.

**“They’re a lot easier than putting up a GP Medium. All you have to do is push the tent up, strap the tent down and you’re good.”**

—Sgt. Taylor Legget, 414th Chemical Company

“In the first shelter the casualty removes clothing and gear that may be contaminated,” said Legget. “They then move to the second one where the person is washed and cleaned. The third, is the final wash station.”

There are many factors involved in running a decontamination operation that can make things more difficult and the chemical units have to be trained to deal with all of them.

For example, casualties may not be able to move on their own, and have to be moved through the steps on a litter on rollers.



“One, two, three and up!” Soldiers prepare DRASH decontamination shelter for Red Dragon CBRNE exercise.

The weather plays a big role as well, since an incident can break out in any part of the country. If the temperature is hot, more soldiers are needed to rotate in and out to get the job done, especially with soldiers wearing protective gear, in which temperatures quickly rise to almost unbearable levels.

The new shelters are a big improvement over the GP Medium, a large, heavy canvas tent that was used before the DRASH tent. “They’re a lot easier than putting up a GP medium. All you have to do is push the tent up, strap the tent down and you’re good,” says Legget.

Shelters used during the exercise included USAR Mass Casualty Decontamination Shelters, 5XBI DRASH Shelters for personnel decontamination, and 3XBI DRASH Shelters as undress and redress units. According to Reeves Business Development Representative Ken Hall, more than 100 Army Reserve and civilian personnel received training on proper shelter set up, take down, strut repair and replacement during the exercise.

Source: [www.mccoy.army.mil](http://www.mccoy.army.mil); By Sgt. Chris Carney, 67th MPAD, Fort McCoy



Fighting hot summer temperatures and toxic gases, hazardous material rescuers from the 366th Chemical Company in South Carolina “rescue” a mannequin casualty during a simulated terrorist attack at the Red Dragon exercise.

## New Orleans Wants Medical Tents to Mitigate Future Crises

New Orleans' plan for the next disaster includes going after a grant for a state of the art hospital tent.

In a demonstration held on July 30, 2007, Reeves technical experts showed New Orleans' EMS how to set up a 1,250 square foot DRASH tent as a place for patients to be treated in case of an emergency.

The demonstration included setting up the equivalent of a 25-bed hospital that had recently been purchased by the Connecticut Department of Public Health to mitigate any future disasters.

"We can't do actuaries and things of that nature," New Orleans EMS Logistics Director Carl Flores told WVUE-TV New Orleans, "but we can do that first response level of care."

The city is requesting a \$600,000 grant, which would include the purchase of the two hospital tents and a separate command tent with state of the art communications equipment.

The city believes that the tents will prove valuable in a variety of emergencies, especially during major events when hospitals could be overwhelmed.

"We could certainly use these if we have another Wright Field incident or a Mother's Day accident like we had in '96 and '97. We could definitely use these if we have a Katrina-type event or World Trade Center-type event." says Flores.

**Source: WVUE-TV; July 30, 2007.**

**See the complete broadcast at [www.reevesems.com/ITN.html](http://www.reevesems.com/ITN.html).**



An ambulance inside one of the 1,250 square foot shelters set up during the demonstration.

**"We could certainly use these if we have another Wright Field incident. We could definitely use these if we have a Katrina-type event."**

*—Carl Flores, New Orleans EMS*



Offloading the large J shelter from its trailer.



## LETTERS FROM THE FIELD...

Dear Reeves:

"Some Department members and myself had the occasion to stop at your booth during FDIC and praise your Reeves Sleeve product."

"Our fire department consists of 35 members, responding to about 400 EMS calls per year, with a portion of them being trauma and requiring spinal immobilization. Your Reeves Sleeve is by far the finest piece of immobilization/patient movement equipment around. We started out with one to try it; we now have four and they are the front line preferred immobilization equipment. They are easy to deploy, use and they totally restrict patient movement, all in one piece."

"Clean up and maintenance are quick and easy also. When we take these into the hospitals, the doctors and nurses are also quite impressed and ask about them. Heck, other firemen come in and ask about them too. They must still be using backboards!"

"We have found many other situations to use your product also. Moving immobile patients through tight spaces by securing them to the Sleeve then standing them up to maneuver them, or securing violent EDOs to the Sleeve instead of securing them with straps is more humane, and safer for them and for us."

Thank You.

Lt. Mark Relich  
Grosse Ile Fire  
Department, MI



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the Reeves EMS booth at these upcoming events or contact a Reeves representative at 800.328.5563.

**National Safety Council Congress and Expo 2007**

October 15 - 17, 2007, Chicago, Illinois

**Toronto Hazardous Materials Conference**

October 18 - 20, 2007, Toronto, Canada

**Hazmat Explo 2007**

November 4 - 8, 2007, Las Vegas, Nevada

**Texas EMS Conference**

November 18 - 21, 2007, Houston, Texas



## ABOUT REEVES EMS

For more than 100 years the Reeves name has been synonymous with quality emergency medical products and accessories. The company's current product line includes fully-operational rapidly deployable emergency treatment facilities; command and control shelters and trailers; decontamination shelters, suits and accessories; patient movement equipment, disaster consulting services; and gear bags. Reeves EMS mass casualty systems have been deployed as part of the U.S. Homeland Defense initiative to terrorist incident locations and in disaster recovery situations. Additionally, a large number of mobile medical decontamination systems have also been sent to emergency response organizations in the United States and around the world, including departments of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Reserve; state, county and local government entities; U.S. corporate entities; and international companies. The company's employees work primarily out of its two facilities in Frederick, Maryland, where Reeves manufactures its decontamination products and emergency medical equipment. To find out more about the company and its products, visit [www.reevesems.com](http://www.reevesems.com), send us an email at [info@reevesems.com](mailto:info@reevesems.com) or contact a customer representative at 800.328.5563.

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