
11.0 CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL OR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES

QHSS is a critical part of the Government's preparedness for a chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) emergency. QHSS plays a key role in the identification of CBR substances for:

- Emergency services as first responders;
- Police with forensic investigations;
- QH to assist with the treatment of victims; and
- The community more generally in providing information on any CBR emergencies.

QHSS scientists have itemised a prioritised list of equipment, staffing, training and structural changes to enhance QHSS's CBR emergency response capability. This includes facilities and equipment to reduce workplace, health and safety exposures, which are major risks to QHSS scientists in the event of a CBR emergency. A separate 'triaging' facility is proposed to enable substances of unknown risks to be sampled and to undergo initial testing outside of the main building fabric.

This facility could be incorporated into the proposed sub-sampling facility for clan lab testing identified in Section 8.6 or separately established in an existing area of Block 1, Ground Level. In either case, specialised equipment would be necessary at an estimated cost of \$161,000.

Recommendation 37:

It is recommended that the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute:

- (i) *Establishes a triaging facility for a Chemical, Biological or Radiological emergency by 31 January 2006;*
- (ii) *Provides essential equipment for the triaging function by 31 January 2006; and*
(Estimated non-recurrent cost: \$161,000)