

# Rapid Screening Point

## OVERVIEW

*Rapid Screening Points are:*

*“Field sites designated for the congregation and screening of individuals with non-acute symptoms who are potentially ill or exposed to a harmful substance.”*

In some emergencies people *may be exposed, or concerned that they may have been exposed*, to a harmful substance (chemical, biological, or radiation) in an amount less than that required to produce symptoms that would prompt immediate medical care. Smaller numbers of exposed people can be accommodated by the primary care system. However, hundreds or thousands of such individuals requiring timely screening may indicate a need for RSPs to attain one or more of the below objectives. RSP staffing, layout, and flow is a variation of the Mass Prophylaxis model detailed in Tab B of this Plan.

## OBJECTIVES

- Relieve pressure from a primary medical care system under severe strain from patients having more immediate needs;
- Reveal who should be referred for medical treatment based on subtle symptoms and better information about actual or potential exposure to the agent; and
- Relieve concerns of individuals by allowing prompt access to evaluation; and
- Gather population based information to better define the problem and better inform important response and recovery decisions including the need to continue RSP operations.

## ACTIVATION

In consideration of the harmful substance of concern and the situation reported by hospitals, public health officials, the media, and government leaders, the Incident Commander develops response objectives that might be achieved by activating Rapid Screening Points.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### For More Information:

Tab A, Epidemiology and Surveillance  
 Tab B, Mass Prophylaxis  
 Tab G, Risk Communication  
 Tab J, Personal Protective Equipment  
 Tab M, Mental Health  
 Tab N, Tactical Communications  
 Tab P, Pharmacy  
 Tab S, Strategic National Stockpile  
 Tab Q, Security  
 Tab T, Emergency Volunteers  
 Tab Z, Logistical Resources

### URLs:

### Additional References:

After anticipating or learning of the Incident Commander's objective to begin mass screening operations of a specific type, capacity, and time, the Operations Section Chief will lead or work with Planning, Logistics, and Technical Specialists (including prospective RSP Operations leadership) to develop and support the RSP concept. This is normally done as part of the ICS planning cycle preparing the Incident Action Plan for the operational period when RSP operations begin.

Adapt the Tab B mass prophylaxis operations guidance from Tab B of this Plan in a way that meets the Incident Commander's RSP objective and those RSP objectives from page 1 of this Tab that are suitable to the incident.

The reason for applying Tab B details is that the parameters for rapid screening and prophylaxis operations done on a large scale are very similar. Both require:

1. **similar size and type facilities;**
2. **large, well organized staff;**
3. **control of several processes** aimed at efficiency, effectiveness, and high production;
4. **information** from arriving clients that is evaluated and informs decisions on the next step or station of the RSP;
5. **support for contingencies** (counseling, first aid, security, etc.); and
6. **delivery of a medicine, vaccine or a screening service** (e.g. survey with radiation detection instrument, collection of a sample that might show exposure, or mental health questions that might show a state of mind);
7. **instructions or arrangements for follow-up** aimed at each client, and
8. **information to inform decisions** about individual clients as well processed and analyzed information on the whole screened population that will inform decisions about the state of that population and overall response and recovery operations.

The adaptation of Tab B details is most influenced by what is being screened for, and the amount and type of information needed from the screening process to inform decisions.

See <http://www.mchealth.org/emergprep/iap.shtml> for an example of a small screening operation designed to screen ~1000 Hurricane Katrina survivors from Operation Welcome Oregon, September 2005.