



December 30, 2014

MESH DAILY SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BRIEF



Marion County
Medical Multi-Agency
Coordination Center

NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

No active alerts



74°

Mostly Sunny

Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. West southwest wind 11 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



45°

Partly Cloudy

Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.



ASTHMA INDEX

1



UV INDEX

5

THREAT ANALYSIS

Bed bugs create challenges for first responders, healthcare facilities

Bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*), which feed on human blood and are difficult to eradicate, can threaten healthcare facility and first responder continuity of operations. Although they are not known to transmit diseases, recent studies have shown that bed bugs may carry the pathogen that causes Chagas disease. The bugs prefer to live in dark spaces where people rest, like bedding and furniture, and can be spread when a person travels to a new environment. (Sources: [Infection Control Today](#), [Environmental Protection Agency](#))

Earlier this month, bed bugs forced the several-day closure of a Veterans Affairs clinic in Montrose, Colorado. During an exam, staff noticed bed bugs on a patient and transferred him to a nearby hospital with a decontamination unit and shut down the clinic while a local pest control company used heat and chemical treatments to rid the facility of the bugs. (Source: [KKCO 11 Grand Junction](#))

Bed bugs can also cause problems for emergency response agencies. In November, a New York fire department reported that its resources were being stretched by a bed bug infestation at an inn that provides shelter for the homeless. Each time crews were called to the inn they had to go through lengthy decontamination processes before their vehicles, equipment and personnel were operational again. In October, personnel at a 911 dispatch center in Portsmouth, Virginia, detected bed bugs in their facility and had to relocate to their backup site temporarily while the bugs were eradicated. All employees were asked to check for bed bugs in their homes and were offered home pest control treatments at a discounted price negotiated by the city. (Sources: [Daily Dispatch](#), [WTKR 3 Hampton Roads](#), [ABC 13](#))

ACTION STEPS

1

Train housekeeping and patient care staff to recognize bed bugs and signs of infestation, which include rust-colored stains on bed sheets or mattresses, dark spots in the same areas that indicate bug excrement, and the tiny eggs, eggshells and yellow-colored skins that the bugs shed. [Orkin](#) provides free online training videos for healthcare workers.

2

Make sure your facility has a policy in place for responding to bed bug infestations. Protocols should emphasize tactful management of patients with bed bugs and bug eradication measures. Check out sample policies from [Johns Hopkins Hospital](#) and Colorado's [Sky Ridge Medical Center](#).

3

If you are a first responder, encourage your agency to develop standard operating procedures related to bed bugs that include protocols for transporting affected patients, flagging addresses with known infestations and instructions for cleaning rigs after transports. (Source: [Journal of Emergency Medical Services](#))

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY

30

Indianapolis Auto Show 2015

*Indiana Convention Center &
Lucas Oil Stadium*

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