[PRACTICE]

D5.7 DECONTAMINATION TOOL: MASS PERSONNEL IN CIVIL PROTECTION AND DISASTER SCENARIOS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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1. Executive Summary

Terrorism, acts of warfare, and accidents may cause contamination of members of the population. There are many situations where decontamination of people will be required to save lives, reduce the extent of injury, prevent injury, reduce the possibility of long–term disability, and reduce the spread of contamination. The fundamental principles of personnel decontamination are analyzed and applied to civil protection. This study explores the spectrum of available decontamination technologies available to the European Union and assesses their applicability to personnel decontamination using 9 essential criteria. In addition, this study examines the FP7 PRACTICE reference scenarios and analyzes the decontamination component of each scenario. Based on this overall survey of available technology and the reference scenarios, the study reaches a number of conclusions. The four principal conclusions are:

1. The ideal decontamination substance or technology for use on people does not exist

2. Clothing removal combined with washing with soapy water is the best currently available approach for mass personnel decontamination.

3. Specialty decontaminants may be useful in some situations, but are not currently a sustainable general solution to the mass decontamination problem.

4. The issue of rescue, i.e. extracting victims from a contaminated area, is a current deficit in doctrine and planning and needs to be addressed

A number of secondary conclusions, which identify areas for further inquiry and improvement are also identified.