



*WESTON's
Emergency Response
at Postal Facilities
Ensures Safety for
Federal Employees
and the Public*



• WESTON PROVIDES EMERGENCY-RESPONSE ANTHRAX SAMPLING AND TESTING AT VARIOUS USPS LOCATIONS

In the weeks following the anthrax letter attacks, the United States Postal Service (USPS) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Rapid Response Team, contracted WESTON to conduct sampling and testing to ensure the safety of postal employees and to ensure that mail processed at USPS facilities was free of anthrax contamination.



WESTON conducted sampling and testing at several USPS facilities

Following the attacks, several facilities were suspected to have become cross-contaminated with anthrax spores during the sorting and handling of contaminated mail. WESTON was selected to conduct sampling and testing for anthrax contamination at over 25 USPS facilities nationwide.

WESTON worked collaboratively with the USPS, USACE, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), United States Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies to develop schedules, and standardize sampling and testing plans, report formats, and data management procedures. Due to the critical nature of this work, WESTON mobilized eight experienced sampling and assessment teams to simultaneously sample multiple, geographically dispersed facilities. The standardized sampling and testing conducted to date have involved the collection of samples using HEPA vacuum filters, swabs, and wipes. Samples were tested by WESTON for field screening and sent to CDC-approved laboratories for confirmation culturing. WESTON provided factory-trained personnel to conduct on-site testing using the Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Device (RAPID), which is a portable, high-speed thermocycler with concurrent fluorescence monitoring that automatically analyzes samples for the presence of DNA sequence, including anthrax, in less than an hour.

WESTON was also placed on alert to conduct facility decontamination procedures at the USPS facilities as needed. WESTON maintains a network of in-house experts, experienced anthrax site personnel, strategic partners, key supply vendors, and subcontractors who are ready to respond to any request for aid in this area.

WESTON helped the USPS quickly and accurately identify sites free of anthrax contamination as well as those with anthrax contamination. This promoted the rapid recovery of critical federal facilities while ensuring the safety of federal employees and the public.

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