



**Holding the Line on Biodefense:
Supporting First Response to Large-Scale Biological Events**

March 23, 2021

OBJECTIVE

Provide the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense with a better understanding the needs of first responders when addressing large scale biological incidents.

Opening Remarks

Panel One: Threat Awareness and Information Sharing

Participants will discuss requirements and challenges associated with the ability of first responders to obtain and utilize threat information to address emerging infectious diseases and bioterrorist attacks.

Jennifer Stone, MA

President, Partner Forces

Mike Sena

President, National Fusion Center Association; Executive Director, Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and Northern California Regional Intelligence Center

Shumeane L. Benford, MA

Chief of Emergency Management, City of Boston, Massachusetts

Panel Two: Resources and Support

Participants will discuss current and anticipated resource needs and shortfalls for responding to biological threats, and how first responders can better leverage current federal and other resources to address these threats.

William Jones

Fire Chief, East Liverpool Fire Department, East Liverpool, Ohio

Dia Gainor, MPA

Executive Director, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials

Panel Three: Operational Needs, Training, and Coordination

Participants will discuss federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial response coordination, requirements, and training criteria for responding to biological threat, and real-time needs assessment to address the biological threat.

Cherie Bartram, MA

Executive Director, South East Regional Emergency Services Authority

Rob Brown, MA

Interim Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, International Association of Fire Chiefs

Philip Francisco

Chief of Police, Navajo Police Department

Closing Remarks

Adjourn