

Once this Standing Advisory Committee (Tier 1) has been made aware of an unusual event, an ad hoc Advisory Group (Tier 2) could be called upon. Members of this Group would be chosen not from an existing list, but on the basis of the expertise required for the specific problem at hand. This Group should number about six (6), but in any case no more than twelve (12). As the investigation unfolds, it may be necessary to replace some or all members of this Advisory Group. The ad hoc Advisory Group, together with the Standing Advisory Committee, would determine the specific expertise needed to solve the problem, and they would select experts for further (various) investigations to be conducted (Tier 3). It is likely that many of the specialists in this third body would be associated with laboratories with equipment necessary to conduct whatever laboratory investigations required.

Once the problem is solved, the specialists, called together for the Tier 2 and 3 activities, would discontinue their activities. However, their names should be kept on file for future reference.

There are various reasons for proposing such an approach. Firstly, with the exception of military personnel trained in known chemical (and biological) weapons, it is highly unlikely that scientists (in government, industry or university laboratories) would be available on short notice if an unusual event occurs. Secondly, substantial and precious time would be lost in getting together an Advisory Group from an existing but possibly outdated list of volunteers: such a list might not include the required experts for the specific study. Thirdly, the members of the Standing Advisory Committee (Tier 1) would know each other and each other's limitations very well, since they would likely have gone through simulations or models, as training exercises. Finally, the SAC's knowledge would allow for the selection of the most appropriate persons at that time for the ad hoc Advisory Group