

As regards the composition of the team, it was concluded that a multi-disciplinary team would be most effective. It should probably include: a chemist with experience in handling and analysing highly toxic substances; a medical doctor, preferably with experience in epidemiological methods; a toxicologist; a medical technician/nurse; a member (could be one of the above) with knowledge of chemical and/or biological weapons (based on initial reports from the area), their means of dissemination and characteristics, and of personal protective measures; a person with interviewing experience, preferably with a knowledge of the local culture(s); and a liaison officer to deal with government and local officials and, therefore, conversant with the political situation. The team should probably have its own interpreter, even if only to liaise with other locally-provided interpreters. The minimum requirements for a sampling team would be: an analyst; a medical doctor/epidemiologist; medical technician/nurse; liaison officer; interpreter; driver; and an observer from the host government who would also liaise with local authorities. Any personnel assigned in situ to the team should be relieved of all other taskings.

The coolers and frozen ice packs were found to be perfectly adequate when specimens have to be chilled (not frozen). This proved to be the case for a period in excess