

## MEDIC COMPLETES HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING

Fort Myers, FL—Lieutenant Ben Abes is the first Lee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) employee to complete Homeland Security training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), a week-long course located in Anniston, AL. The CDP is operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction training facility in the nation.

Abes, of Fort Myers, is a paramedic field supervisor whose CDP training placed him in the middle of toxic gases.

“The training put us in our protective ensembles, conducting exercises in toxic environments, said Abes. “It gave me confidence that the suits actually will keep me safe while helping patients if I should ever have to do this at work.”

Besides the practical work, the training included incident management, triage, decontamination and treatment of victims. He intends to review the local training and work to revise it, if needed, to create consistency with the national training.

The CDP provides federally-funded, interdisciplinary training for emergency responders from across the United States and US Territories for 10 responder disciplines: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Service, Fire Service, Governmental Administrative, Hazardous Materials, Healthcare, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Safety Communications and Public Works.

Healthcare and Public Health training is conducted at the CDP's Noble Training Facility, the nation's only hospital facility dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

Many training courses culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility, the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true chemically toxic environment. The Advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

Emergency responders attending CDP training are applicants selected from the nation's 11 million emergency responders.