

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

# State selects AeroClave to decontaminate Infectious Disease Transportation Network



A few short years ago, the Ebola crisis killed more than 11,000 people worldwide and brought to everyone's attention the real threat that high consequence infectious diseases pose to the security of the nation.

The State of Florida is preparing for the next possible outbreak by training local EMTs and paramedics to move patients with contagious diseases safely between facilities.



*All states are planning to coordinate a ground transportation network to transfer patients to one of 9 regional special pathogen treatment centers located in the US.*

### **National Outlook**

On a national scale, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is spearheading the development of inter-state and intra-state plans to enhance the ability of local healthcare facilities and State entities to be able to safely transfer patients with confirmed or suspected high consequence infectious diseases between facilities.

The national plan is to develop a ground transport network between facilities and from designated airports to the Regional Ebola Treatment Center and other special pathogen treatment centers throughout the states.

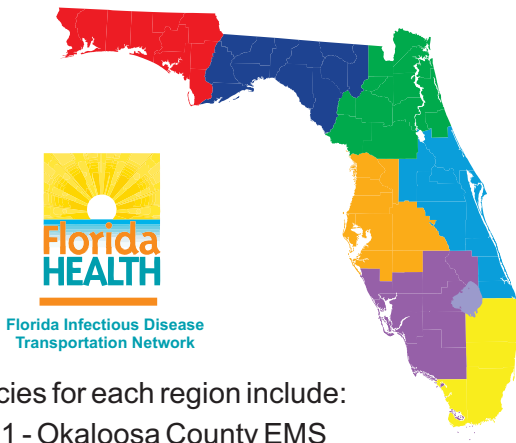
The plan entails coordination with public health, emergency management leaders and elected officials to ensure permissible movement of patients between states. This includes an understanding of how patients from all parts of the region will be transported to one of the nine designated special pathogen treatment centers in the United States.

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## Florida establishes an Infectious Disease Transportation Network

The Florida Department of Health, in partnership with public health, private healthcare providers, hospitals and emergency response teams throughout the entire state, have developed the Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network (FIDTN). The purpose of the FIDTN is to send specially trained Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units to conduct transport of highly infectious disease patients from a hospital to a local airport, a designated treatment hospital, a “change-out” location for patient transfer, or to the Regional Treatment Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Seven regions within the state have been identified, and a host agency has been designated for each as a Regional Transportation Response Team (RTRT).



Host agencies for each region include:

- Region 1 - Okaloosa County EMS
- Region 2 - Leon County EMS
- Region 3 - Alachua County Fire Rescue
- Region 4 - Hillsborough County Fire Rescue
- Region 5 - Orange County Fire Rescue
- Region 6 - Lee County EMS
- Region 7 - Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

## Decontamination is a key component

One of the key components of the FIDTN is the proper decontamination and disinfection of the transport units, “change-out” stations and EMS equipment after a highly infectious disease patient transport. The Florida Department of Health has equipped the RTRT host agencies with decontamination equipment to help ensure that transports are made without contaminating response personnel or others involved in the transport mission.

The specifications for decontamination equipment need to consider the broad site and environmental factors that the RTRT would encounter in the field. In

addition to the immediate decontamination of the ambulance patient compartment, the crews need to disinfect rooms, compartments, equipment and other surfaces to eliminate bacteria, viruses and mold. The decontamination equipment has to be mobile to allow for transport to remote locations as well as for room decontamination at “change-out” stations. It also must operate in outdoor or indoor environments under a variety of weather conditions normally encountered in Florida including high heat, high humidity, and breezy conditions.

The decision was made to purchase the AeroClave RDS 3110, a decontamination system that uses an aerosolized, EPA-approved, hospital-grade solution that eliminates such infectious agents as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Ebola, Norovirus, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and other such pathogens. This disinfectant solution is non-corrosive, not harmful to electronic or medical equipment on ambulance transport units, and safe for application by response personnel.

The RDS 3110 is already widely deployed in fire and police departments throughout the State of Florida, enhancing interoperability between state and local agencies. It is a man-portable, fully self-contained unit that combines the ability to decontaminate rooms, vehicles and equipment with equal effectiveness. The RDS 3110 provides hands-free, consistent and reliable delivery of disinfectant, not achievable through manual cleaning methods.

To safely decontaminate the transports themselves, each ambulance is outfitted with an apparatus to allow for the dispersal of the decontamination solution in a hands-free fogging or misting mode without the operator being in the ambulance patient compartment at the time of decontamination.



LEFT: The RDS 3110 unit connected to a rescue through the ADP-PT hands-free port. RIGHT: Nozzle inside patient compartment.

# All Disasters Are Local

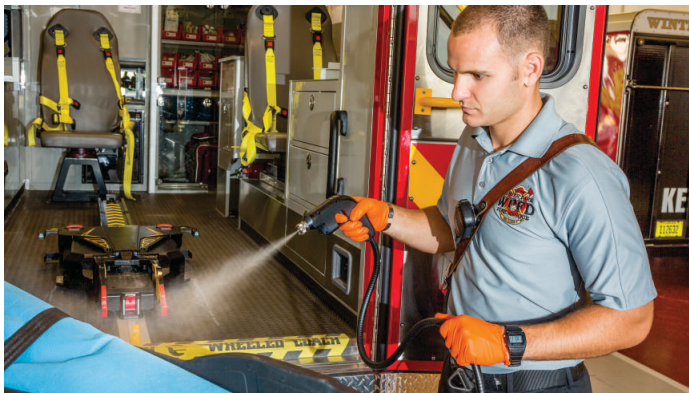
The requirement is to provide immediate decontamination of a standard ambulance patient compartment in 30 minutes or less in accordance with the decontamination cycle as defined in the Portable Ambulance Transport Decontamination Systems - Market Survey Report, produced by the Department of Homeland Security.

The equipment is also used to disinfect the patient transfer “change-out” locations that the RTRT will use along their route. This is accomplished by dispersing the decontamination solution in a hands-free, room fogging mode that minimizes personnel exposure to the contaminated environment.



The AeroClave RDS 3110 unit decontaminating bunker gear in room fogging mode.

The final site requirement is that all EMS equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) must be disinfected. This may be done by directly applying the decontamination solution using a handheld spray applicator or one of the other methods as deemed applicable.



Disinfectant applied by APA hand sprayer from the AeroClave RDS 3110 to a stretcher after a transport.

The Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network and similar initiatives in other states are being established to ensure the safe transport of infected patients from airports and hospitals. These patients have already been diagnosed with a highly contagious disease.

The risk to you is greatest when these patients come undiagnosed from the community, exposing your staff and equipment. Your next step in preparing for another infectious disease outbreak or other biohazard event involves you, your department and your community.

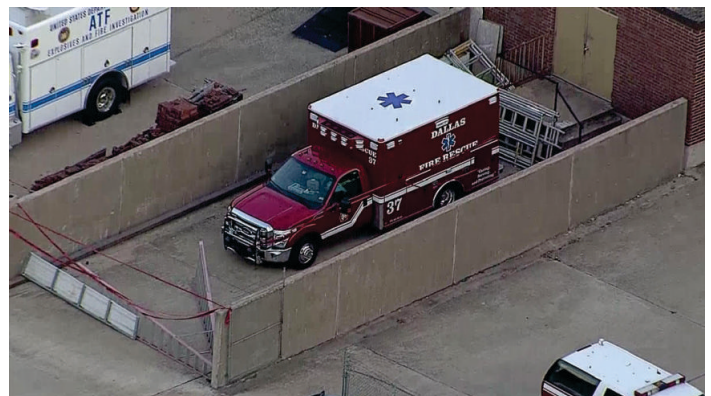
The following are key considerations when specifying decontamination technology:

## 1) Reduce staff and patient exposure

The Department of Homeland Security estimates that the workforce of the typical department will be reduced by 30-40% during the peak of each pandemic wave. Using a “no-touch” decontamination process reduces your staff’s exposure, keeping them out of harm’s way.

## 2) Fast vehicle turnaround

We all remember the pictures of the Ebola ambulance in Dallas, sitting idle and out of commission. Specify a technology that can quickly decontaminate your vehicle and assets to get them back in the field as soon as possible.



The Dallas Fire-Rescue ambulance that transported Ebola patient is pulled from service and isolated at the department’s training center in September 2014.

### 3) Decontaminate multiple sites

Doesn't it seem we are always planning for the last disaster? The ability to use your equipment in multiple scenarios, against multiple pathogens, allows you to combat the unknown.

### 4) Interoperability with other agencies

Choosing equipment that is widely deployed offers many advantages:

- Learning best practices from those already reporting great success.
- Familiarity of equipment in mutual aid situations.
- Reduced operational cost and complexity.

### 5) Find a decon system to use on a regular basis

Look for a decontamination process that you can use on a proactive basis, rather than just during a disaster scenario. This means that the process must be safe for your staff, your sensitive electronics and the environment.

The advantages of regular daily use:

- Allows your staff to gain valuable training and experience.
- Increases staff comfort level with the equipment in a less stressful environment.
- Increases the general cleanliness and health of the department.

The states and federal government are coordinating a regional response to the very real threat of another infectious disease outbreak. Only local departments can take the steps necessary to prepare to mitigate the risk of infections that will invariably occur to those first responders. Every department must assess the best methods to decontaminate their vehicles, facilities and equipment based on their own unique situation.

Please contact AeroClave to learn more.



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The following AeroClave products are utilized by the Florida Infectious Disease Transportation Network

## RDS 3110 Total Asset Decontamination

The RDS 3110 uses the proprietary AeroClave Process™ to disinfect rooms, vehicles, and equipment with an EPA-approved, hospital-grade disinfectant at the push of a button.



RDS-3110 Fully self-contained unit.

- Man-portable
- Treat up to 5,000 cu. ft.
- Operating in minutes
- Room fogging mode
- Hand-applied mode with optional APA
- Vehicle mode with optional ADP ports described below

## ADP-PT

Designed for Type I & III Ambulances



The ADP-PT is to be installed into an exterior compartment. The assembly includes a built-in 8 foot hose with plug-and-play fitting to easily connect to your RDS 3110. Hose is always on-board when needed.

ADP-PT Kit includes hose and nozzle assembly.

## ADP-Ex

Designed for Type II Ambulances



The ADP-Ex is designed for those vehicles without an exterior compartment or if you have the need for a flush-mounted solution.



### ADP-AS

This solution requires the use of one of our dual-headed hoses.

ADP-Ex Kit includes port, exterior cover and nozzle.

ADP-AS 8 foot dual-headed hose.