

NHS Scotland selects NBC Decontainer™ for 16 Scottish Hospitals

Objective

To reduce Business Continuity risks at 16 Scottish Hospitals by providing a full Decontamination capability with near-instant availability to decon Self-Presenters prior to entry into the A&E Department, thus avoiding potential contamination within the Hospital itself.



Problem

All Trusts are required under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to have a Major Incident Plan and cater for CBRN-type events.

Whilst audits confirmed that the Trust was already technically compliant using the Hospital's existing decontamination provision, certain risks remained.

Provision for Mass Decontamination at the scene of a Major Incident is already made via the Fire & Rescue Service, but the Trust recognised that the Hospital faces the risk of Self-Presenters arriving from the scene in the 1-2 hours it may take the Service to arrive and deploy its large-scale mobile decontamination setup.

In particular the deployment delays and limited capacity to deal with Self-Presenters posed both Business Continuity and operational issues that the Trust deemed should be addressed.

Solution

Through a tender process, each of the Health Boards was given a choice of whether to take a soft walled shelter or a turn key hard walled containerised solution. In all, 16 Scottish Hospitals commissioned a configured solution provided by NBC Group to ensure Self-Presenters could be decontaminated within 5 minutes of arrival at A&E rather than the 20-45 minutes that would be required to deploy the 1st Generation Inflatable Decontamination equipment held by Acute Trusts since 2000.

The Decontainer™ DC15 was designed and configured to deliver the capacity and flexibility required by the Health Boards.

In doing so, the Hospitals in question have been able to reduce the shelter deployment training costs and focus on training to deliver clinical care whilst wearing PPE.

Now there's a better way

