

**Miller, Diane M. (CDC/NIOSH/EID)**

---

**From:** Chase, Kenneth [KChase@WOHA.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 3:11 PM  
**To:** NIOSH Docket Office (CDC)  
**Subject:** NIOSH: Infectious Diseases; 42 U.S.C. 300ff-131

Dear Sirs,

Anthrax is a severely life threatening disease caused by the bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax is currently considered the number one bioterrorist threat by Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense and Health and Human Services, and for good reason. In 2001 anthrax became the agent in the first known intentional bioterrorism attack causing fatalities on American soil. Terrorists can easily cultivate Anthrax in basic college level science labs, and the ease at which the bacterial spores can be transported and deliver harmful effects further increases the threat from purposeful terrorism. Beyond the initial release anthrax is a major threat to emergency services on the scene. Spores may become airborne as aerosols off of building surfaces, clothes or bodies, and may lay dormant for months to years under the right conditions; once airborne they can become inhaled or ingested by responders for a deadly effect. For these reasons we highly recommend that NIOSH include Anthrax as "Potentially life-threatening infectious diseases routinely transmitted through aerosolized airborne means".

Kenneth H. Chase, MD, FACOEM  
President  
Washington Occupational Health Associates  
Washington, DC  
202-463-6698 tel  
202-223-6525 fax  
[kchase@woha.com](mailto:kchase@woha.com)  
[www.woha.com](http://www.woha.com)