



AAWU
Worley
2-22-05

Stand-up 1

February 22, 2005

Audience – Des Moines IA P&DC Employees

Des Moines IA P&DC to Install Biohazard Detection System

The Des Moines IA Processing and Distribution Center will soon begin the installation of a Biohazard Detection System (BDS).

BDS is designed to detect anthrax in the mail. It is part of the commitment we made to keep employees, customers and the mail safe. The BDS equipment will operate primarily on Tour 3, continuously collecting air samples on our Advanced Facer Cancellers. Air samples will be tested every hour.

[As a first step in the installation process, contractors will be here to conduct a site survey Mar 10, 2005. The system will then be installed May 28, 2005 on the Advanced Facer Cancellor Systems (AFCS).

We are also updating our Emergency Action Plan as part of the broader Integrated Emergency Management Plan deployment process. The plan will contain instructions about how we should respond should anthrax be detected. Plans will also identify which local emergency units will respond.

We want to emphasize that there is absolutely no reason to suspect there are any new anthrax-contaminated letters in the mail. Only four letters were found to contain anthrax, and that was more than two years ago. Again, the BDS is being installed to detect any future attack, not because there is any current danger.

Last year, BDS was tested in 15 sites across the country. The tests were thorough and successfully proved that the system can operate in any Postal environment. Most importantly, no anthrax was detected.

The BDS equipment that will be installed is a fully-contained, automated system that presents no risk to employees. The process will not involve the use of anthrax, simulated anthrax, or any other harmful biological agents.

We will provide you with more detailed information as we get closer to installation.