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# SOUTHEAST ADVISORY

**To: BENS Southeast Members**  
**Subject: Ready, Aim, React – Training for WMD Disasters**

On June 25, a group of BENS Southeast members and guests toured the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s only federally chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training center. This sophisticated facility trains more than 10,000 emergency responders annually from state and local governments as well as private entities.

A fast-paced tour illustrated hands-on exercises that instruct responders to handle real-world incidents involving chemical, biological, explosive, radiological and other hazardous materials. We saw the equipment and techniques used by trainees learning to handle authentic toxic nerve gas, several drops of which can kill thousands of people. Simulated emergencies take place in "movie-sets" that depict train stations, airports, meth labs, etc. to emulate real life surroundings.

The CDP includes the country's only hospital, the Noble Training Facility (formerly the Noble Army Hospital) for teaching healthcare workers to deal with major disasters – including natural, manmade or acts of terrorism. Exercises include training for mass casualty decontamination.

For those interested, "train-the-trainer" courses are available for employees of BENS members' organizations – either at the CDP or via mobile courses that travel to your location. If this is of interest, please contact Allison Cheatham at [acheatham@bens.org](mailto:acheatham@bens.org) for more information.

This very interesting field trip was expertly hosted by **Jeff McWey** and generously sponsored by **Fred Keith**, President and CEO of Atlanta Bonded Warehouse Corporation. Our sincere thanks goes out to them.

**Left:** Trip Sponsor, Fred Keith, and Trip Host, Jeff McWey, participate in hands-on first responder training at the WMD training center. **Middle:** The BENS group lines up with the CDP's Superintendent, Dr. Christopher Jones, in front of the CDP. **Right:** Our group gathers at the Noble Training Facility to see WMD training for healthcare workers.

