



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM
OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER,
CITY OF NEW YORK**

On September 16, 2003, the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Special Operations Team, was put to the test for the third time this year. The team participated in another challenging exercise hosted by the New York City Police Department, Emergency Services Hazardous Materials Unit. The exercise was designed to assess the team's ability to respond to a mass fatality incident and operate in a contaminated, crime scene environment. The joint agency fatality team included personnel from the NYPD Crime Scene Unit, the NYPD Emergency Services Hazmat Unit, the NYPD Missing Persons Unit, the OCME Special Operations Team, and the Department of Environmental Protection, Hazardous Materials Division.

The OCME Special Operations Team was able to deploy and test their mortuary decontamination and evidence processing system. The team also executed a search and recovery mission. In addition, a field deployable mass spectrometry system was tested to assess post-decontamination chemical levels as part of a headspace sampling protocol.

OCME Special Operations is a 60-member hazmat team consisting of medicolegal investigators, medical examiners, forensic scientists, photographers, and other personnel who are trained to operate in a radiological, biological or chemical contaminated environment. They are trained to respond to all types of mass fatality incidents.



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Special Operations