

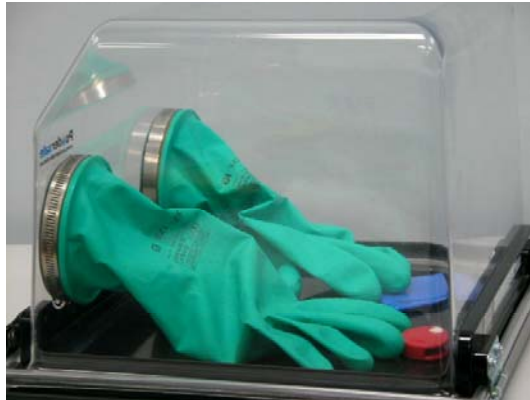
# NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES



## OPERATIONS BULLETIN 2003/3

### Biohazard Containment Systems

A number of companies have developed products for the safe opening of mail that is of a suspicious nature, for example mail containing white powder. An example of this is the model manufactured by “Powdersafe” shown in the photos below.



- The “Powdersafe” system consists of an inspection / isolation unit (above left) and a transport unit (above right).
- The inspection / isolation unit is designed to allow staff to safely open envelopes and small parcels they believe are of a suspicious nature.
- Staff at premises where these units are installed have been trained by the manufacturer to use the equipment. Suspicious items are opened in the inspection / isolation unit which is then placed into the transportation unit to be taken away for testing and analysis.

If on arrival at a white powder incident where the organisation’s staff have contained the suspect package in the containment system the actions of the NSWFB are to:

- Contact the Communications Centre to notify them the suspicious parcel is safely secured in a Biohazard Containment System.
- Contact Police to arrange for hand over.

This bulletin in no way negates our responsibility to follow existing Hazmat guidelines. The Containment System should not be released for transportation, unless the Incident Controller is satisfied that the substance is safely contained in the device. This information should be read in conjunction with SOG Special Incidents 8.8.

Contact Officer:	File Number:	Date:
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