

Q&A

- **National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health:** Did you get any spattering with the lithium nitride, with the chemical weapons agent being aerosolized?
 - **Patrick Burton:** It can be a vigorous reaction. It tends to sputter whenever it is added to a solution. Lithium nitride does not react instantly with the material; it needs water to activate it. Sometimes it helps to use a brine solution to overcome the density problem where it goes through the oily surrogate and begins the reaction.
- **U.S. EPA:** How would you use this if you wanted to decontaminate bulk soil?
 - **Patrick Burton:** That would be more of a proper decontamination process, where we would want to use some collection method for the soil and collect material first. However, this process is more like the system is the agent you are trying to dispose of. It would be more of a process where I have a container of material to neutralize in a fast and safe way. The simplest way would be to incinerate it, but this is another option.