

David B. Crabiel
Freeholder Director

Stephen J. Dalina
Deputy Director

Camille Fernicola
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Freeholders



Ronald G. Rios
Chairman

David A. Papi
Director

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**COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 5TH FLOOR
JOHN F. KENNEDY SQUARE
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901-3605**

**For immediate release by:
David A. Papi, Director-Health Officer
Middlesex County Public Health Department
June 17, 2008**

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**Middlesex County Health Department Hazmat Unit
Receives FirstDefender® Chemical Identification Instrument**

The Middlesex County Public Health Department is proud to announce that it has received a FirstDefender® handheld chemical detection instrument as part of the United States Department of Homeland Security Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP).

CEDAP assists state and local communities in the acquisition of equipment to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorist attacks. Ahura Scientific's FirstDefender enables rapid identification of unknown chemicals directly in the field – including explosives, narcotics, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals (TICs) and more.

Ronald Rios, Freeholder Chairman for the Public Health and Education Committee said, "The mission of the health department is to preserve and protect the health of our residents through planning, preparedness, education, and emergency response. This device is designed to provide first responders with increased performance, portability, and accuracy for the protection of our residents during day-to-day operations and emergency events".

-More-

David A. Papi, Director-Health Officer of the Middlesex County Public Health Department added, “This new instrument will enhance the Public Health Department’s capabilities to respond to and remediate chemical threats. Through the acquisition of this new equipment, we are better prepared to manage public health emergencies throughout the County”.

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