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Sommario/riassunto	The 9/11 attack on US soil has inadvertently heightened the need for preparation for other potential means of terrorist attack. In particular, both biological and chemical warfare have been at the top of the priority list for most governmental agencies as these reagents can be covertly prepared and disseminated to result in both widespread fear and casualty. Among many others, one primary preventive step in preparing for the above attacks is to establish a network for efficient surveillance and rapid detection such that an appropriate response to such attacks can be timely and effective. Over