

TIEHH Nets U.S. Army Funding For Fibertect® R&D

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech University (TTU), Lubbock, Texas, has received a \$1.1 million research award from the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command to continue funding the Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. National Program for Countermeasures to Biological and Chemical Threats.



***Fibertect® mitts can be used to decontaminate personal protective equipment.
Photo courtesy of First Line Technology***

The funding includes \$90,000 for further improvements to Fibertect® nonwoven decontamination wipe technology, developed in 2005 by a research team led by Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar, manager of TIEHH's Nonwoven and Advanced Materials Laboratory, to meet the U.S. Department of Defense's need for a wipe that would absorb and neutralize gases and liquids used in chemical warfare. The U.S. military is using the technology to produce a low-cost decontamination wipe. Last year, the TIEHH team re-engineered the wipe — which is made from raw cotton and carbon — to absorb oil from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The continued support will help researchers develop more applications for Fibertect, including civilian and commercial applications.

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